



# EMMA'S POEM

AUTHOR: LINDA GLASER

ILLUSTRATOR: CLAIRE A. NOVALA

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Emma's Poem](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

This book details the story of Emma Lazarus, who, despite her life of privilege, became an advocate for the immigrants who arrived in New York City in the 1880s and she wrote a famous poem for the Statue of Liberty.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Linda Glaser had difficulty learning to read, but overcame her obstacles. Once she learned to read, she never stopped writing. She is the award-winning author of over 30 children's books, and teaches as well. In addition to teaching and writing, Glaser conducts writing workshops for schoolchildren and adults. She lives in Minnesota. (lindaglaseremail@gmail.com)

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in 1947 in New York City, Claire A. Nivola is the daughter of two artists. She illustrated a picture book in 1970, but stopped this work until her children were grown. In 1994 she began illustrating books and now she writes them as well.

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- Introduce the author and illustrator
- Do you recognize the statue the people are looking at
- I wonder why they are all wearing different types of clothing?
- I wonder what the author meant by, "The Voice of the Statue of Liberty"? Do you think a statue can talk?
- What do you see on the back cover? What is the child carrying?
- Artists use different media like pen, pencil, crayon, paint. Which do you think the illustrator used?
- I notice that the dedication page is to "To the immigrants then and now" What do you think this means?

### DURING THE STORY

## EMMA'S POEM

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- History
- America
- Immigration
- Poetry

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

Use these while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content.

- The author shows us a beautifully written poem before the story begins. I wonder why.
- (p. 2) What is meant by “ they had plenty of everything”?
- (p. 4) Can you figure out what an immigrant is?
- (p. 7) What important skill did Emma teach the immigrants?
- (p. 9) How did Emma use her writing skills to tell about the problems the immigrants had?
- (p. 11) What is a pedestal?
- (p. 13) How did Emma Lazarus plan her poem?
- (p. 15) The French sent the statue over in pieces. I wonder why they didn’t send a pedestal also.
- (p. 21) What is meant by “the mother of immigrants”?

## AFTER READING

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Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Why did immigrants come to America?
- I wonder why Emma Lazarus’s voice is still heard today?
- Is there a reason that Emma Lazarus is remembered?

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- Why was writing a poem a good idea?
- If you wanted to write a poem that would be remembered forever, what subject would you choose?

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- (p. 17) Close your eyes and visualize a room of people singing the words to the poem. How would you feel?

## SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

### 1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

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- Read *The New Colossus* on page 22
- Let’s work together to write words that we would like to put on the bottom of the Statue of Liberty. I will write them down as you each say a line. Then, I will read them to you. Somehow, I think they will sound like a poem.
- Were you or someone you know born in a different country? People who come from one country, to live in a different country are called immigrants.
- Emma’s heart hurt to see the poor immigrants. Have you ever seen or met someone who made your heart break?
- I wonder if there is something you can do to help someone in need.
- Do you think this book had a message to tell the reader?
- Emma Lazarus spoke up for people who were treated unfairly. Have you ever seen someone treated unfairly? What could you do?
- Why do you think the author chose Emma Lazarus as the subject of her book?
- Why was Emma Lazarus the voice of the Statue of Liberty

### Suggested Optional Activity:

- If you were going to move to a new country and were only allowed to pack a small suitcase of 12 things, what would you pack? Why would you pack these items? Draw these things and your suitcase.

### 2. WRITING ACTIVITY

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- Imagine you are an immigrant. Write a letter to Emma Lazarus telling her why you appreciate her words and what they mean to you. You can thank her in any way you want. You can write a thank you note, a letter or a poem. Illustrate it if you have time.

### 3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Working with 2 partners, think of a holiday or historical event that you think is important. Discuss the event, then, by yourself, design a statue or monument that expresses your idea. Draw the monument, and then write your thoughts on its pedestal or base.

#### COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy. RL 3.1,3.2,3.3,3.4,3.7