

Emigrating to America: Comparing Now and Then

Concepts:

- Students will discuss the differences in culture from the year 1856 and today
- Students will look at the culture difference in the story
- Students will discover how much everything changed when the time passed.

Materials:

Miss Bridie Chose a Shovel By Leslie Connor Book, notebook
Language Arts Skills: Listening, speaking

Procedure:

- Show the students the cover of the book and ask them what they think the story is going to be about
- Show the students the back of the book and ask the students what else they think might happen in the story
- Read the story to the students asking questions throughout the textbook such as “Why do you think she is doing this? Why do you think this happened? What do you think she is going to do about it.”
- After reading the story the students are going to get into small groups and discuss the story
- The students will answer the questions of “Why did she bring a shovel? What did she do with the shovel? How did the shovel help her throughout her life?”
- The class will come back together and we will talk about the answers to these questions

The students will write in their notebooks the answers to the following questions:

1. Why did the people in the past want to come to America?
2. Why do people in the present want to come to America?
3. Why do you think people in the future will want to come to America?
4. What do you think the responsibilities were of a woman coming to America in the 1800s?
5. What do you think she would have chosen to bring with her to America if she came today?
6. What would you have brought with you if you came to America in the 1800's?
7. What would you bring to America if you came today?
8. In the future what do you think you would bring to America?

As a group we discuss possible answers to these questions in a large group.