



A Nation of Immigrants by John F. Kennedy

Handout #1: "The New Colossus"

Excerpt from Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus," 1883

Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand Glows world-wide welcome ...

"Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp," cries she With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Vocabulary Assistance:

pomp: (noun) cheap, boastful, or vain display
wretched: (adjective) (of a person) in a very unhappy or unfortunate state.
Refuse: (noun) something thrown aside, or left as worthless.
teeming: (verb) be full of or swarming with.
tempest-tost: (adjective) pounded or hit repeatedly by storms or adversities.