

# Ellis Island Christmas



## Book Backdrop

Created by  
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July 2013



## Book Backdrops: Connecting Literature and Primary Sources

Created by: Rebecca Mohler  
Date: July 23, 2013

	<p><b>Title of Book:</b> <i>An Ellis Island Christmas</i></p> <p><b>Author:</b> Maxinne Rhea Leighton and Illustrated by Dennis Nolan</p> <p><b>Book Type/Genre:</b> Historical Fiction</p> <p><b>Setting and Time Period:</b> This is a book about a little girl, Krysia who traveled from Poland with her mother and brothers to meet her father in New York City. Her travels are difficult and she experiences more than a child should ever have to. This book will depict for the students that life was very hard for these travelers and they had to remain strong. It will be used to help students understand the hardships and the thoughts and feelings of the immigrants, especially of the children.</p>	<p><b>Recommended Grade Level(s):</b> 2<sup>nd</sup></p> <p><b>Major Topic/Theme(s):</b> Ellis Island, Diversity</p> <p><b>Curricular Connections/Subject(s):</b> United States History</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Primary Source Thumbnail</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Caption Publication Information Book Notes</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>URL</b></p>
	<p><b>Title:</b> <i>Emigrants in "pens" at Ellis Island, New York, probably on or near Christmas --note the decorations</i></p> <p><b>Creator(s):</b> Underwood &amp; Underwood - photographer</p> <p><b>Date Created/Published:</b> c1906</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> Students can see the harsh conditions that the book touches on and see how people were treated; this should help them think about how people may have felt.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2012646352/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2012646352/</a></p>



	<p><b>Title:</b> <i>Auswanderer-karte und wegweiser nach Nordamerika.</i> (Emigrant Map to North America) <b>Creator(s):</b> Stuttgart : J.B. Metzler'schen Buchh., <b>Date Created/Published:</b> 1853</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> This map will give students a point of reference about where from various immigrants came to North America. I will have to translate the German words, but it will be used as discussion of where students came from and where their families may have or would have landed.</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/item/98687132">http://www.loc.gov/item/98687132</a></p> <p><b>Other related resources:</b> <a href="http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/immigration/">http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/primarysourcesets/immigration/</a></p>
	<p><b>Title:</b> <i>Emigrants coming to the "Land of Promise"</i> <b>Creator(s):</b> Copyright by William H. Rau <b>Date Created/Published:</b> c1902</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> This will depict the different ethnicities that entered the United States by way of Ellis Island and help students see that many different groups came here for many different reasons. This will be used in our culminating activity (speech/thought bubbles) to get across how people may have felt or what they were thinking on their journey to the "Land of Promise"</p>	<p><a href="http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97501632/">http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/97501632/</a></p>
	<p><b>Title:</b> <i>Our Immigrants at Ellis Island</i> <b>Creator(s):</b> Mrs. Francis E. Clark <b>Date Created/Published:</b> 1912</p> <p><b>Book Notes:</b> This is "an Exercise Prepared for the Young People and Descriptive of the Reception, Inspection, and Experiences of our Immigrants in the Detention-Room and Railway Offices." Selections will be given to students to help them better understand what life for immigrants was like when they first arrived in America.</p>	<p><a href="http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=gdc3&amp;fileName=scd0001_20040315002oupage.db">http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=gdc3&amp;fileName=scd0001_20040315002oupage.db</a></p>





**Title:** [View of Ellis Island, N.Y., looking across water toward immigration station]

**Creator(s):** George Grantham Bain Collection

**Date Created:** 1913

**Book Notes:** This image will be used to show exactly what Krysia saw when her ship approached America and Ellis Island.

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001704443/>

