



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## ***I AM AN AMERICAN IMMIGRANT***

By Heather Cagle

### **Activity Description**

Students read stories of the experiences of different immigrants to America. They create an “I Am” poem about that person, then decorate the poem to represent aspects of that person’s culture.

### **Suggested Grade Level**

Upper elementary and middle school

### **Estimated Time to Complete**

One 45-minute class period

### **Objectives**

Students will be able to

- describe reasons why people immigrate;
- identify other cultures embedded in America.

### **Materials Needed**

- Stories from Kids *Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience* by Judith M. Blohm and Terri Lapinsky
- Copies of poem template (follows)
- Colored pencils, markers, etc.

### **Activity Procedures**

1. Explain to students why America has been called the “melting pot.”
2. Give each student a story from *Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience*.
3. Students will read the story of their immigrant, then will create an “I Am” poem.
4. After completing the text, students will decorate the poem to display the immigrant’s culture.

## **Common Core State Standards**

English Language Arts, History/Social Studies, Grades 6–8

### **Key Ideas and Details**

1. Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources.
2. Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

### **Craft and Structure**

4. Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies.

*“I Am” Immigrant Poem*

**First  
Stanza—  
Before  
Immigration**

*I am (immigrant name)*

*I wonder*

*I hear*

*I see*

*I am (nationality)*

*I pretend*

*I feel*

*I touch*

*I worry*

*I cry*

*I am an American immigrant*

*I understand*

*I say*

*I dream*

*I try*

*I hope*

*I am (immigrant name)*