

Resource Materials for Cultural Navigators

poignant, eye opening look at immigration in America today.

BOOKS

Fadiman, Ann. **The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down.** Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.

Explores the clash between a small county hospital in California and a refugee family from Laos over the care of Lia Lee, a Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy.

Nguyen, Tram. **We Are All Suspects Now: Untold Stories from Immigrant Communities.** Beacon Press, 2005.

In an ironic reversal of the American dream, 20,000 members of the immigrant community of Midwood, Brooklyn (known as little Pakistan), voluntarily left the U.S. after 9/11. Nguyen reveals the human cost of the domestic war on terror.

Pipher, Mary. **The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community.** Harvest Books, 2003.

"I saw my father and grandfather shot in our living room," says Anton, a Bosnian teen who now lives in Nebraska. His teachers see him as a potential suicide, and he struggles to make sense of being an American high school student.

Roberts, Steven V. **From Every End of Earth.** Harper, 2009. The stories of Thirteen families are followed in this

Samovar, Porter, McDaniel. **Intercultural Communication, a Reader, 13th Edition.** Wadsworth Publishing, 2012.

Explores how communication, values and styles can vary across cultures and communities. Conveys the idea that successful intercultural communication is a matter of highest importance if humankind and society are to survive.

MOVIES

American Made (2003)

Chronicles the conflict between a father and son, assimilation versus identity, and faith versus compromise, when the Singh family's American made SUV breaks down on a trip to the Grand Canyon. *Winner of the Grand Prize Angeles Award.* (HPL)

Becoming American, The Chinese Experience (2003 / 360 min)

This saga traces the ongoing struggle of Chinese immigrants and their descendants to be fully accepted as Americans. (HPL)

Dying To Get In (2006 / 39 min)

Documentarian Brett Tolley pulls the viewer deep into the Arizona desert where so many have perished attempting to cross the border into the U.S. *Finalist 2006 Angeles Film Festival.* (HPL)

El Norte (1983 / 140 min)

Focuses on two young Mayan Indians whose lives are shattered by the Guatemalan civil war. They flee to Mexico and then into the U.S. with the dream of starting a new life. (HPL & Netflix)

Farmingville (2004 / 78 min)

A provocative and emotionally charged look into the ongoing nationwide controversy surrounding a suburban community, its ever expanding population of illegal immigrants and the shockingly hate-based attempted murders of two Mexican day laborers.

Winner Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival. (HPL & Netflix)

God Grew Tired of Us (2007 / 89 min)

Explores the indomitable spirit of three “Lost Boys” from Sudan who traveled together for five years against all odds and crossed into the UN’s refugee camp in Kenya. *Documentary Grand Jury Prize and Audience Award at Sundance.*

(HPL & Netflix)

Lost Boys of Sudan (2003 / 87 min)

Premiered on PBS’s P.O.V. series. A gripping documentary about young refugees from the Sudanese conflict, as well as a moving story of survival and acclimation in a strange and daunting land. (Netflix)

9500 Liberty (2010 / 80 min)

Documents the only two months in American history where an “Arizona Style” immigration law is actually implemented- and why it was so quickly repealed. Prince

William County, Virginia adopts a law requiring police to question people who appear to be undocumented immigrants. (HPL)

The New Americans (2004 / 410 min)

Follows four years in the lives of a diverse group of contemporary immigrants and refugees as they journey to start new lives in America. (HPL & Netflix)

The Other Side of Immigration (2010/ 55 min)

Based on over 700 interviews in a Mexican town where about half the population has left to work in the United states. Asks why so many Mexicans come to the U.S. and what happens to the families they leave behind. (HPL)

Rain in a Dry Land (83 min)

Chronicles a year in the lives of two Somali Bantu families as they leave behind a legacy of slavery in Africa to face new challenges as Muslim immigrants in post 9/11 America. (HPL)