

## **BOOKS TO SPARK DIALOGUE ON IMMIGRATION**

### **Zeitoun, Dave Eggers**

The fascinating non-fiction tale of a Muslim immigrant living in New Orleans who is wrongly imprisoned in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. It chronicles a catastrophic breakdown of the U.S. justice system, something most of us don't imagine could happen in this country.

### **What is the What, Dave Eggers**

This novel based on a true story tells the tale of one of the Lost Boys of Sudan and their harrowing journey out of their war-torn country, into a refugee camp and finally to the United States. A readable and eye-opening story.

### **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand, Helen Simonson**

The Major leads a quiet life valuing the proper things that Englishmen have lived by for generations: honor, duty, decorum, and a properly brewed cup of tea. But then his brother's death sparks an unexpected friendship with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, the Pakistani shopkeeper from the village. Drawn together by their shared love of literature and the loss of their respective spouses, the Major and Mrs. Ali soon find their friendship blossoming into something more. But village society insists on embracing him as the quintessential local and her as the permanent foreigner.

### **We Are Americans, William Perez**

About 2.4 million children and young adults in the U.S. are undocumented. Brought by their parents to the U.S. as minors, they account for about one-sixth of the total undocumented population. Some 65,000 undocumented students graduate from the nation's high schools each year, unable to get legal jobs and facing enormous barriers to entering college. Through the stories of 16 students, from seniors in high school to graduate students, William Perez gives voice to these young people.

### **A Home on the Field, Paul Cuadros**

Author and journalist Paul Cuadros moves to Chatham County, N.C., and finds a Latino community that is isolated and excluded. He helps found a soccer team at the increasingly Hispanic public school. The book chronicles the team's struggle to win acceptance among the Anglo establishment and its transforming effect on the lives of its players and its coach. A compelling true story.

### **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents, Julia Alvarez**

The story of four sisters who must adjust to life in America after fleeing the Dominican Republic. Told through a series of episodes beginning in adulthood, as established U.S. residents, and moving backwards to their wealthy childhood on the island. They encounter embarrassment, bullying and identity confusion as they adapt to American life.

### **Digging to America, Ann Tyler**

This readable novel tells the story of two families who meet at the airport when they are adopting Korean infants. The Donaldson family is as all-American as they come. The Yazdans are Iranian immigrants. Digging to America uses the story of the families' growing friendship to explore what it means to be American.

### **Woman Warrior: A Memoir of a Girlhood Among Ghosts, Maxine Hong Kingston**

Maxine Hong Kingston grew up in two worlds. There was "solid America," the place her parents emigrated to, and the China of her mother's "talk-stories." In talk-stories women were warriors and her mother was still a doctor in China who could cure the sick and scare away ghosts, not a harried and frustrated woman running a stifling laundromat in California. In an attempt to figure out her world, Maxine Hong Kingston finds herself creating stories of her own, filling in the blanks her mother has not told her

because her daughter is, after all, not true Chinese and thus cannot be completely trusted. Powerful, experimental writing.

### **Just Like Us, Helen Thorpe**

Tells the story of four high school girls in Colorado who are the children of poor Mexican immigrants. All four finish high school with distinction and go on to college. But there's a profound dividing line: two have papers and two do not. As the years go by, the consequences of being undocumented multiply. Thorpe puts a human face on a frequently obtuse conversation, and takes us beyond political rhetoric.

### **The Latino Migration Experience in North Carolina: New Roots in the Old North State, Hannah Gill**

UNC professor Hannah Gill offers North Carolinians from all walks of life a better understanding of their Latino neighbors, bringing light instead of heat to local and national debates on immigration. Gill shows how North Carolina communities are facing the challenges and opportunities presented by the fast growth of the Hispanic population, as well as how migrants experience the economic and social realities of their new lives.

### **Let Them In: The Case for Open Borders, Jason L. Riley**

A conservative columnist makes a case for why immigration improves the lives of Americans and is important for the future of the country. Separating fact from myth in today's heated immigration debate, a member of The Wall Street Journal editorial board contends that foreign workers play a vital role in keeping America prosperous, that maintaining an open-border policy is consistent with free-market economic principals, and that the arguments put forward by opponents of immigration ultimately don't hold up to scrutiny.

### **The Maya of Morganton: Work and Community in the Nuevo New South, Leon Fink**

The arrival of several hundred Guatemalan-born workers in a Morganton, North Carolina, poultry plant sets the stage for this story of human struggle in an age of globalization. When laborers' concerns about safety and fairness spark a strike and, ultimately, a unionizing campaign at Case Farms, the resulting decade-long standoff pits a New South employer against an unlikely coalition of antagonists. Using scores of interviews, Leon Fink gives voice to a remarkably resilient people.