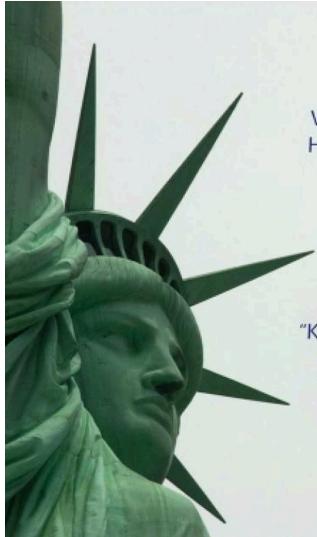




## Reading & Summary



**THE NEW COLOSSUS**

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,  
With conquering limbs astride from land to land,  
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  
Glowes world-wide welcome, her mild eyes  
command  
The air-bridged harbor that twin-cities frame.  
"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!"

-Emma Lazarus, 1883

### The New Colossus

"The New Colossus" is a poem that you might have heard of, even if you don't know its name. It's a sonnet, which is a type of poem with 14 lines, written by an American poet named Emma Lazarus. She wrote it way back in 1883.

So, why did she write it? Well, there was a big project going on: building a pedestal for the Statue of Liberty. The statue itself was a gift from France, but the United States had to pay for the base it would stand on. To raise money, people held auctions of art and literature. Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus" as her donation to one of these auctions.

At first, Lazarus wasn't sure about contributing. But a writer named Constance Cary Harrison convinced her that the Statue of Liberty would mean a lot to immigrants coming to America. Lazarus felt a connection to these immigrants because she was helping Jewish refugees who were fleeing persecution in Europe. She saw the statue as a way to show her feelings for these newcomers.

The poem was read at the opening of the fundraising exhibit in November 1883. It helped raise money for the pedestal, but after that, it was pretty much forgotten. It wasn't even part of the Statue of Liberty's opening ceremony in 1886. However, it was published in newspapers like the *New York World* and *The New York Times*.

Years later, in 1901, a friend of Lazarus named Georgina Schuyler decided to bring the poem back into the spotlight. She wanted to honor Lazarus, who had passed away. Her efforts paid off in 1903 when a bronze plaque with the poem on it was placed inside the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. Now, everyone who visits the statue can read Lazarus's words.

The poem itself is a comparison between the Statue of Liberty and the Colossus of Rhodes, which was a giant statue in ancient Greece. The Colossus of Rhodes was a symbol of power and empire, but Lazarus's poem presents the Statue of Liberty as something different: a "mighty woman with a torch" who is the "Mother of Exiles".

The poem describes the harbor where the Statue of Liberty stands as the "sea-washed, sunset gates" and the "air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame". The "twin cities" are New York City and Brooklyn, which were separate cities when the poem was written. The "imprisoned lightning" refers to the electric light in the torch, which was a new invention at the time.

But the most famous lines of the poem are probably these: "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!". These lines express the idea of America as a welcoming place for immigrants, a place where people can find freedom and opportunity.

Paul Auster, a writer, said that "The New Colossus" changed the meaning of the Statue of Liberty, turning it into "a welcoming mother, a symbol of hope to the outcasts and downtrodden of the world". So, the next time you see the Statue of Liberty, remember Emma Lazarus's poem and the message of hope and welcome it represents.

## Summary

- Emma Lazarus wrote "The New Colossus" to raise money for the Statue of Liberty's base, viewing it as a symbol of hope for immigrants.
- The poem compares the Statue of Liberty to the Colossus of Rhodes, portraying it as a welcoming "Mother of Exiles" rather than a symbol of power.
- Famous lines from the poem, like "Give me your tired, your poor," express America's welcoming attitude towards immigrants seeking freedom and opportunity.

 **Vocabulary**

Review key vocabulary words from the reading.

**sonnet**

noun

a poem of fourteen lines using any of a number of formal rhyme schemes, in English typically having ten syllables per line.

*The English teacher explained the structure of a Shakespearean sonnet to the class.*

**pedestal**

noun

the base or support on which a statue, obelisk, or column is mounted.

*The museum carefully placed the ancient vase on a marble pedestal.*

**auctions**

noun

a public sale in which goods or property are sold to the highest bidder.

*The rare painting was sold at an auction for a record-breaking price.*

**refugees**

noun

a person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

*The United Nations provides aid to refugees fleeing conflict zones.*

**plaque**

noun

an ornamental tablet, typically of metal, porcelain, or wood, that is fixed to a wall or other surface in commemoration of a person or event.

*A bronze plaque commemorated the soldiers who died in the war.*

**Colossus**

noun

a statue of gigantic size or proportions.

*The Colossus of Rhodes was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.*



## Vocabulary

### exiles

noun

a person who has been banished from their native country, typically for political reasons.

*The author wrote about the struggles of exiles longing for their homeland.*

 **Multiple Choice Questions**

Answer the following multiple choice questions about the reading.

- 1. What was the primary reason Emma Lazarus initially wrote "The New Colossus"?**
  - A. To raise money for the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty.
  - B. To be read at the Statue of Liberty's opening ceremony in 1886.
  - C. To protest against Jewish refugees fleeing persecution in Europe.
  - D. To gain fame as a poet.
  
- 2. According to the passage, what does the poem "The New Colossus" compare the Statue of Liberty to?**
  - A. A welcoming mother figure.
  - B. The twin cities of New York City and Brooklyn.
  - C. The New York World newspaper.
  - D. The Colossus of Rhodes.
  
- 3. What prompted Georgina Schuyler to bring "The New Colossus" back into the spotlight?**
  - A. To promote her own writing career.
  - B. To honor Emma Lazarus after her death.
  - C. To raise money for Jewish refugees.
  - D. To celebrate the opening of the Statue of Liberty.

 **Short Answer Questions**

Answer the following short answer questions about the reading.

- 1. Explain the historical context surrounding the creation of "The New Colossus," including the fundraising efforts and Lazarus's personal connection to the cause.**

- 2. Discuss the significance of the lines "Give me your tired, your poor..." in "The New Colossus," and how they have shaped the perception of the Statue of Liberty and America's role in welcoming immigrants.**

- 3. How did Paul Auster describe the impact of "The New Colossus" on the Statue of Liberty's meaning, and what does this suggest about the power of literature to shape cultural symbols?**

 **Think Pair Share**

**Instructions:** Read and answer the question independently. Compare your answer with your partners. Work together to prepare what you will share.

**Emma Lazarus connected with the idea of the Statue of Liberty representing hope for immigrants because of her work with Jewish refugees. Can you think of a time when your personal experiences or empathy for others influenced your understanding or perspective on a larger social issue or symbol?**

<b>I think...</b> Before talking to your partner, answer the question using what you learned from the reading and your own background knowledge.	
<b>My partner thinks...</b> Take notes on your partners response. How is it different from yours? How is it the same?	
<b>We will share...</b> Decide together what you will share aloud with others.	

 **Say, Mean, Matter**

After reading and marking the text, write down quotes that stood out to you. Explain what they mean in your own words. Then explain why they matter, are important, or are significant.



**Say:** Write a quote from the text.

**Mean:** Put the quote in your own words.

**Matter:** Why does this matter? Why is it important?

<b>Say</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Matter</b>
<b>Say</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Matter</b>
<b>Say</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Matter</b>