Threads of Migration script

Introduction

Migration is a word used to describe people moving from one place to live somewhere else, even another country. When children migrate, it's often with their families but sometimes on their own. People move to be nearer family, for new opportunities, or even to escape from war.

Emigration means leaving a place. Immigration means arriving to live in a place. When people talk about migration they are often talking about *im*migration – that is about people coming to live in England. But people have also *em*igrated from England to go and live in another country.

If we look at emigration and immigration together, can we learn something?

Story one – Anna's Story

Scene 1

My name is Anna. I live in a town in England. My mum loves me very much, but she found it difficult to look after me. I was sent to a children's home to live with other children who also can't live with their parents.

Scene 2

Dear Mum,

Yesterday a man came to visit us. He told us about Australia and asked if we would like to go to live there in the 'land of sunshine'. Children ride ponies to school and eat oranges every day! There are amazing animals. The Australian government wants English children to move there to get ready to work there when we grow up. You need to sign a letter to say I can go. Please mum will you sign? I would like to see a kangaroo hopping across the high street! I can always come back if it does not work out, can't I?

Scene 3

Dear Mum,

I am in Australia. We were on the ship for 6 weeks! Sometimes I was seasick because the big waves made the boat move from side to side. On the first day a little boy asked if we would be home to England in time for tea! He cried for 3 weeks! Miss Jones and Mr Colins looked after us. We played games, they read to us and Father Christmas even found us on Christmas Day. Australia really is a land of sunshine. When we first arrived, I felt so hot!

I miss you Mum.

Scene 5

Dear Mum,

Now that Britain is at war with Germany it is even harder to be far away from you. I hope you are safe.

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Here we live together in little cottages. OUR cottage mother, Miss Hart is kind and jolly. Nicer than some of the others! We wake up and eat breakfast together before doing our chores and lessons. The boys work on the farm more than us. It is tiring but at least they are outside. In the evening, we eat together. The food is alright. I like the fruit. Miss Hart reads to us before bedtime. When I leave here, I will go to work cooking and cleaning for a family, but I want to become a nurse. I will work long hours and with not a lot of money, but I hope I can find a way to become a nurse one day.

Story two – Ibrahim's Story

Scene 1

I am Ibrahim. I'm 15 years old and from a country called Sudan. I want to be a teacher. When I was in Sudan I enjoyed school, but I had to leave when we had to escape from the war. My family and I decided I should leave Sudan to make a better life and help my family. The journey took months and was dangerous.

Scene 2

Now I am in France waiting to cross over the sea to get to England. I miss my family. They are under the same sky as me, but I don't know what is happening to them. My family has friends living in England. I also speak some English which we learned in school in Sudan. This will make it easier for me to live in England than in other countries. I want to study again and get a job to help my family.

Scene 3

Dear Mum,

I'm in England. I crossed from France to England in a small boat. The sea was rough and everyone was scared. I thought of you and prayed. When we landed people in uniforms met us. They took our fingerprints and photographed us. They said I looked like a grown-up. If you are a grown-up, you don't get looked after in a family. I told them I'm 15. They believed me but they didn't believe all the children. That evening I was taken to stay with a family. I was tired and scared. I didn't know where I was going or who they were. When I got to the house the family had made a sign saying, 'Welcome Ibrahim'. We had dinner and I went to sleep in a comfortable bed.

Scene 4

Dear Mum,

The family who look after me are called my foster family. They are kind. We go to the market to find food I like and remember from Sudan. I wish I knew your recipes so I could cook it, but we are trying to learn together. Some people who don't want us here, but I have also made lots of friends. I was worried whether I would be allowed to stay here or sent away. We were all happy when I got a letter from the government saying they believe it is too dangerous for me to be in Sudan. The government will pay for me to live with my foster family until I'm 18 but then I will have to live on my own. I worry all the time about you and my brothers and sisters. I wish I could bring you here to be safe, but we are not allowed

Love,

Ibrahim

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