Inspiring books to help young people understand immigrant experiences

**Calling the Water Drum**  
LaTisha Redding | Picture Book  
Henri and his parent set out in a small boat that could barely keep the waves away. Forced to continue his journey—and new life—alone, he finds comfort in memories from Haiti.  
“We left Haiti in the middle of the night so no one would see us. We had only enough money to buy a rickety boat from a fisherman…I told my parents I was pè, scared.”

**My name is Yoon**  
Helen Recorvits | Picture Book  
Yoon and her family came to the U.S. from Korea. Discouraged by the differences in her new home, including writing in English, it takes a little exploring for her to find her place.  

**The Keeping Quilt**  
Patricia Palacco | Picture Book  
With one quilt adorned with dozens of patches, a Russian family celebrates and shares their family history through several generations.  
“We will make a quilt,’ Anna’s mother said. ‘It will be like having the family in back home Russia dance around us at night.’”

**The Journey**  
Francesca Sanna | Picture Book  
An unexpected war takes a father from his family, and forces the mother and young children to search for a safer place to live.  
“We don’t want to leave, but our mother tells us it will be a great adventure. We put everything we have into suitcases and say goodbye to everyone we know.”

**Mama’s Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation**  
Edwidge Danticat | Picture Book  
Sara’s mom is being held in a detention center and cannot leave. Each week she sends Sara recordings of stories inspired by the Haitian folklore. Encouraged, Sara uses her own gifts to help her mom come home.  
“The next time we visit Mama, I do my best not to cry. I sit on her lap and kiss her whole face. I don’t ask when she is coming home, because she doesn’t know either.”

**Chee-Kee: A Panda in Bearland**  
Sujean Rim | Picture Book  
The Loo family has traveled very far to start a new life. For little Chee-Kee Loo, everything in his new home is strange—he looks and feels so different. But when some bears find themselves in a jam, Chee-Kee might be just the right panda to save the day.  
“Even though Bearland was very different and they would miss the Island of Coney, Mr. And Mrs. Loo felt so fortunate to be able to come and make a new home in Bearland.”
Did you know that your library can obtain a special credential from the Department of Justice that allows trained staff to provide immigration services, outreach, screenings and referrals in the library?

The Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. advocates for humane and just immigration policy. Our network of nonprofit immigration programs—300 organizations in 47 states and the District of Columbia—is the largest in the nation. We are here to help programs like yours get the training, resources and technical assistance you need for your legal services program to flourish.

Are you a librarian or educator who needs help getting information and services to immigrants in your community? Sign up at cliniclegal.org/email to receive occasional emails from us with resources and ideas you can use to engage your students and neighbors on various immigration issues. It’s completely free!