

Study Guide for Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus"

Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus" is a powerful and moving poem that has become an enduring symbol of America's commitment to welcoming immigrants. Written in 1883, the poem was originally intended to raise funds for the construction of a pedestal for the Statue of Liberty. However, it has since taken on a much broader significance, becoming a timeless expression of the hopes and dreams of those who come to America seeking a new life.

This study guide provides a comprehensive analysis of "The New Colossus," exploring its themes, symbols, and historical context.

"The New Colossus" explores a number of important themes, including:



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by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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- **Immigration:** The poem celebrates the arrival of immigrants to America, and it expresses the hope that they will find a new home in this country.

- **Liberty:** The poem also celebrates the Statue of Liberty, which is a symbol of freedom and opportunity for all.
- **Hope:** The poem expresses the hope that America will continue to be a welcoming place for immigrants, and that they will be able to achieve their dreams in this country.

Lazarus uses a number of symbols in "The New Colossus" to convey her themes. These symbols include:

- **The Statue of Liberty:** The Statue of Liberty is the central symbol of the poem. It represents freedom, opportunity, and hope for all.
- **The "huddled masses":** This phrase refers to the immigrants who are arriving in America. They are described as being tired, poor, and huddled together for warmth.
- **The "golden door":** This phrase refers to America. It is a symbol of opportunity and hope for the immigrants who are arriving in the country.

"The New Colossus" was written in 1883, at a time when America was experiencing a wave of immigration. Many of the immigrants who were arriving in the country were fleeing poverty and persecution in their home countries. Lazarus's poem was a response to this wave of immigration, and it expressed the hope that America would continue to be a welcoming place for those who sought refuge here.

The poem is written in iambic tetrameter, which gives it a stately and dignified tone. The poem is also divided into three stanzas, each of which has a different focus.

The first stanza introduces the Statue of Liberty and describes the immigrants who are arriving in America. The second stanza focuses on the Statue of Liberty's role as a symbol of freedom and hope. The third stanza expresses the hope that America will continue to be a welcoming place for immigrants.

"The New Colossus" is a powerful and moving poem that celebrates the arrival of immigrants to America. The poem expresses the hope that America will continue to be a welcoming place for those who seek refuge here.

1. What are the main themes of "The New Colossus"?
 2. What symbols does Lazarus use in the poem?
 3. What is the historical context of the poem?
 4. How does the poem's structure contribute to its meaning?
 5. What is your overall impression of the poem?
- [The Poetry Foundation: "The New Colossus"](#)
 - [The Library of Congress: "The New Colossus"](#)
 - [The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation: "The New Colossus"](#)



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