A Content Analysis on Two Different Immigrants' Stories in California from Two Novels: A Step from Heaven: a Korean Girl and Esperanza Rising: a Mexican Farm Worker

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Abstract
This study intends to compare and analyze two stories of young immigrants coming to California from Korea and Mexico. The themes through thematic analysis on migration motives, ethnic customs, family interactions, and assimilation process are identified and analyzed. The two novels also pointed out the importance of using young adult narratives as a means that libraries, schools, and cultural centers could use to promote cultural understandings.

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In these two novels about immigrant experience, the United States is the land of opportunity, the place where potential success awaits these boys. The main characters are outsiders, actual or figurative orphans, who are searching to carve out a new identity. Just as Ragged Dick worked to recreate himself as a clerk, so these boys seek to make themselves into Americans.

Suggested Reading. Na, An. A Step from Heaven . Asheville, N.C.: Front Street, 2001. Chen, Da. A Step from Heaven is story of a Korean family who come to the States to better their lives but fail at it because they bring with them their own personal troubles (mostly in a form of an abusive good-for-nothing father) and their traditional and foreign ideas of pride, honor, and submission. And everyone else is just a cardboard cut-out. The writing style barely saved it. ...more. About Esperanza Rising Esperanza Rising Summary