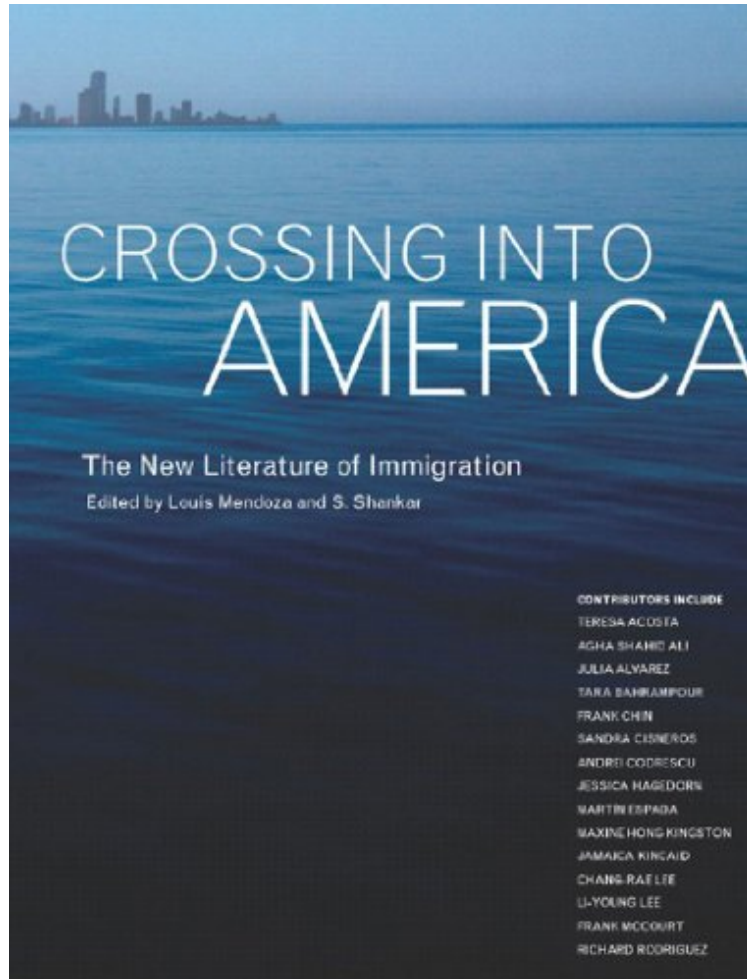


(Read now) Crossing Into America: The New Literature Of Immigration

## Crossing Into America: The New Literature Of Immigration

*From The New Press*  
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**From The New Press : Crossing Into America: The New Literature Of Immigration** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Crossing Into America: The New Literature Of Immigration:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Captures the experiences of new immigrants through fiction, memoir, poetry, and personal essays By Teach Immigration This excellent anthology captures the experiences of new immigrants (those who have come since the legislative reforms of 1965) through fiction, memoir, poetry, and personal essays. The selections, by immigrants or children of immigrants, are organized to illustrate a chronicle of immigration. Part I portrays preparations and "the crossing;" Part II presents reflections on "the crossing" and on the place of arrival; Part III presents background and analysis. Noted authors such as Julia Alvarez, Sandra Cisneros, Jamaica Kincaid, Maxine Hong Kingston, Chang-Rae Lee, Frank McCourt, and Richard Rodriguez, as well as new voices, are

represented in this stirring and poignant collection. The reading level and subject matter make this book appropriate for high school students. The book may also succeed with some high level TESOL students. It would work well as reading for social studies and English classes in studies of culture, immigration, point of view, genre, and style.

This outstanding collection captures the diverse voices of the new literature of American immigration. Bringing together beautiful writing from celebrated authors such as Sandra Cisneros, Jamaica Kincaid, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Chang-Rae Lee, *Crossing into America* fills the literary void in public discussion about immigration. Since the immigration reforms of 1965 removed many of the racial barriers in American immigration laws, a new wave of immigrants has visibly transformed a society that has long prided itself on being a nation of immigrants. *Crossing into America* includes stories and memoirs of writers born in Mexico, Kashmir, the Philippines, South Africa, and Romania, as well as poignant reflections on the immigrant experience by the children of immigrants. This book follows these newest arrivals from their home countries through their engagement with America and also includes an accessible history of immigration policy, cartoons, and newspaper stories, and a section of conversations with activists, journalists, and scholars working in the front lines of our immigration battles.

From School Library Journal Adult/High School—This anthology includes a few poems and some fictional works, but most of the selections are memoirs. The political oppression and economic desperation that prompted immigration to the United States as well as the prejudice and discrimination that people often face once they arrive here are addressed in many of the pieces. Ramon "Tianguis" Perez recounts how illegal immigration from Mexico became a trend in the 1940s. Frank McCourt humorously narrates his last days in Ireland and long-anticipated arrival in the U.S. Nola Kambanda, a young woman born in Burundi to Rwandan parents, writes about her initial shock at the disdainful ignorance that many Americans display toward Africa. The touching short story "Hae Soon's Song" describes how the tragic experiences of a Korean woman caused her to flee to Hawaii, where she faced sexist humiliation in her job at a bar. The narrative poem "Thanksgiving" reads like a short story, and the poem "AmeRican" is about being Puerto Rican in the U.S. This is an excellent source for supplemental or independent reading in social studies classes. It can also serve to sensitize teens to the rich cultural diversity of their own schools and communities. Students will find much to entertain and enlighten them in this lively collection. Joyce Fay Fletcher, Rippon Middle School, Prince William County, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist "Leaving home is not what it used to be." With fiction, memoir, poetry, and personal essays, as well as scholarly analysis, this fine anthology captures how the 1965 change in U.S. immigration law has affected who the new immigrants are and how they see themselves in America. Most now are from Asia and Latin America, and they are much more concerned with issues of race than were the earlier, mainly European arrivals. Of course, assimilation is still an option (as Richard Rodriguez's eloquent essay makes clear), but many of these writers are more conflicted about "becoming American." As the editors point out, national boundaries are not the concern they once were, and the break with the Old Country is not as final. A beautiful piece by Cuban American Achy Obejas captures the intergenerational conflict without heroics, and there are electrifying selections from Sandra Cisneros, Jamaica Kincaid, and other famous writers as well as some exciting new voices. The book ends with academic discussion on "debates and contexts," but the personal writing says it best. Hazel Rochman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "Every migration is an opportunity and a kind of death. But it's not just our final passage that demands a crossing fee. Every migrant knows the sensation of arriving in some kind of afterlife . . . your solid self lies buried in the place that you've abandoned." ROB NIXON "A strong and diverse literary story of multicultural America. . . likely the most original and best introduction to the new immigration available today for its balanced, informative, moving, and comprehensive offerings." SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS NEWS