

# A Note to Teachers

Canada is a country of Immigrants. According to Statistics Canada, more than one in five Canadians are foreign-born<sup>1</sup>. Most of the population in Canada has arrived here at some point of time. With such an influx of immigrants, we need literature in schools to address such concepts in a child-friendly way. This story can help spark discussions in classrooms to develop a better understanding of Canadian diversity.

## Connections to Classroom Teaching:

In Canada, every family has a story to share. A story of moving to a new country, making a home in new place. It is important for our children to acknowledge and appreciate Canada and its diverse population.

## Before Reading:

- Use the cover page and ask students to make predictions, and to question and wonder. What does it mean to arrive? Discuss their perceptions.

## During:

- Why does Matthew's mom say, "Life for us was difficult in India". What kind of difficulties do people face in day-to-day living in some countries?
- Why does Matthew's mom get emotional when she talks about leaving her family and friends behind and starting her life in Canada? Do you think she is not happy in Canada?
- Why do people immigrate to a new country?
- Encourage students to research the statistics about immigration in Canada.
- Who lived in Canada before any of the immigrants arrived?

## After Reading:

- Students can interview families and ask questions, such as the ones below:
  - When did your family arrive? Was it your parents, grandparents, great grandparents or someone else?
  - Who immigrated to Canada first? When? Why? How?

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<sup>1</sup> According to data collected from Canada's 2016 Census, 21.9% or 1 in 5 people reported that they were or had been an immigrant or permanent resident in Canada.

Citation:

"Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity: Key Results from the 2016 Census." Statistics Canada, [www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025b-eng.htm?indid=14428-1&indgeo=0](http://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/daily-quotidien/171025/dq171025b-eng.htm?indid=14428-1&indgeo=0). Accessed 28 Jan. 2021.