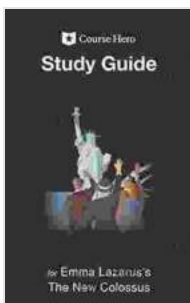


A Comprehensive Guide to Understanding Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus"

Emma Lazarus's iconic poem "The New Colossus" is a powerful and moving ode to immigration and the ideals of the United States. It has been hailed as a masterpiece of American literature and has inspired countless people for generations. This study guide will provide you with a comprehensive understanding of the poem, from its historical context to its literary devices.

"The New Colossus" was written in 1883, a time of great immigration to the United States. Millions of people from Europe, Asia, and other parts of the world were fleeing poverty, persecution, and war. The United States was seen as a land of opportunity, and immigrants flocked to its shores in search of a better life.

Lazarus was herself an immigrant, having come to the United States from Russia as a child. She was deeply concerned about the plight of the immigrants, and she saw their arrival in the United States as a symbol of hope and renewal.



Study Guide for Emma Lazarus's The New Colossus

by Course Hero

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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"The New Colossus" is a sonnet, a 14-line poem with a specific rhyme scheme and meter. The poem is written in the voice of the Statue of Liberty, which was dedicated in 1886. The statue is depicted as a woman with a torch in her hand, welcoming immigrants to the United States.

The poem begins with the famous lines:

> Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame, > With conquering limbs astride
from land to land; > Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand > A
mighty woman with a torch, whose flame > Is the imprisoned lightning, and
her name > Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand > Glows world-wide
welcome; her mild eyes command > The air-bridged harbor that twin cities
frame.

These lines introduce the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of freedom and opportunity. The statue is not a warrior or a conqueror, but a welcoming mother who offers hope to those who have been exiled from their homes.

The poem continues with a description of the immigrants who come to the United States. They are "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," and they come from all walks of life. They are poor, tired, and oppressed, but they are also brave and hopeful.

The poem ends with a powerful affirmation of the United States as a beacon of hope for the world. The Statue of Liberty stands as a symbol of the country's ideals of freedom and democracy, and she welcomes all who come to her shores in search of a better life.

Lazarus uses a variety of literary devices in "The New Colossus" to create a powerful and moving effect. These devices include:

- **Metaphor:** The Statue of Liberty is compared to a "mighty woman" and a "Mother of Exiles." These metaphors help to humanize the statue and to emphasize her role as a symbol of hope and welcome.
- **Symbolism:** The torch in the Statue of Liberty's hand is a symbol of freedom and enlightenment. The harbor that the statue overlooks is a symbol of the United States as a safe haven for immigrants.
- **Personification:** The Statue of Liberty is given human qualities, such as a "beacon-hand" and "mild eyes." This personification helps to make the statue more relatable and to emphasize her role as a symbol of hope and welcome.
- **Imagery:** Lazarus uses vivid imagery to create a powerful sense of place. She describes the "sea-washed, sunset gates" and the "air-bridged harbor." These images help to evoke the atmosphere of the poem and to create a sense of wonder and awe.

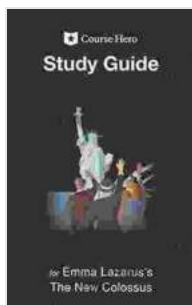
"The New Colossus" is a complex and multilayered poem that can be interpreted in many different ways. One possible interpretation is that the poem is a celebration of the United States as a land of opportunity. The poem depicts the United States as a place where immigrants can come to find a better life, and it emphasizes the country's ideals of freedom and democracy.

Another possible interpretation is that the poem is a call for compassion and understanding towards immigrants. The poem depicts the immigrants

as poor, tired, and oppressed, and it asks the reader to show them compassion and welcome.

The poem can also be interpreted as a critique of the United States' immigration policies. The poem depicts the immigrants as being "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," and it implies that the United States should be ng more to welcome them.

Emma Lazarus's "The New Colossus" is a powerful and moving poem that has inspired countless people for generations. The poem is a celebration of the United States as a land of opportunity, a call for compassion and understanding towards immigrants, and a critique of the United States' immigration policies. The poem is a complex and multilayered work of art that can be interpreted in many different ways, and it continues to be relevant and important today.



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