

The Refugee Doll Project - Curriculum © 2019

Books and Lesson Plans (K-2)

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation

by Edwidge Danticat

Gist:

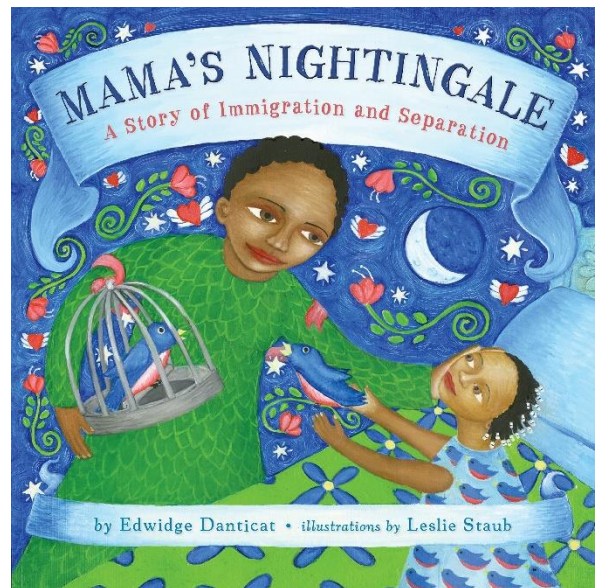
- ◆ Saya's mother, a Haitian, is sent to a U.S. detention center because she is undocumented. Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's greeting on the answering machine. Mama sends Saya bedtime stories on a cassette tape. Saya writes a story of her own and sends it to a newspaper. Public opinion frees Saya's mother.

Enduring Understanding:

- ◆ Words have impact.
- ◆ Words connect people.
- ◆ Family separation is painful.
- ◆ Publicity and advocacy promote causes.
- ◆ One must have valid government papers to live in the U.S.

Concepts:

- ◆ Undocumented alien
- ◆ Family separation: Coping with loss
- ◆ Incarceration
- ◆ Immigration Policy



Activities:

- ◆ Teach Lesson: *Teaching Tolerance: Who Is an Immigrant?* In this lesson, students examine themselves within various contexts—including family, culture and community—as a means to better understand who they are as individuals and who they are in relation to people around them. (Grades K-5)
www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/who-is-an-immigrant
- ◆ Teach lesson: *Teaching Tolerance: Recognizing the Undocumented.* This lesson features activities that will make students aware of the roles that undocumented immigrants play in the harvest and processing of food and other necessary products and help them understand the status of and choices that face undocumented workers in our country. (Grades 6-12)
www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/recognizing-the-undocumented

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- ◆ Teach Lesson: *Teaching Tolerance: Immigration Myths*. In this lesson, students will deconstruct common myths about immigrants and the process of immigration in the United States. They will also have an opportunity to share their knowledge with the greater community. (Grades 6-12)

www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/tolerance-lessons/immigration-myths

- ◆ Read: *A Loon Alone* by Pamela Love for comparison to *Mama's Nightingale*
- ◆ Access *I'm Your Neighbor Books*, an online listing of refugee books categorized by theme, setting, and student age. (Grades K-12). Use search terms "Haiti" and "undocumented" to find relevant books.

www.imyourneighborbooks.org