

mary pipher the middle of everywhere

Mary Pipher and **The Middle of Everywhere**: A Deep Dive into Connection and Place

mary pipher the middle of everywhere is more than just the title of a compelling book; it's a window into understanding the complex relationships people have with place, community, and identity in an ever-changing world. Mary Pipher, a clinical psychologist and acclaimed author, explores themes of migration, belonging, and the subtle threads that tie people to the places they call home. Her work resonates deeply in today's globalized society, where the concept of "home" is both fluid and essential.

In this article, we'll explore the insights Mary Pipher offers in **The Middle of Everywhere**, understand the psychological and sociological dimensions of place attachment, and unpack why this book remains relevant for readers seeking to comprehend the human experience of migration and community.

Who is Mary Pipher?

Before diving into the heart of **The Middle of Everywhere**, it's important to understand the author behind the work. Mary Pipher is a clinical psychologist known for her empathetic approach to human struggles and resilience. She gained widespread recognition with her bestselling book **Reviving Ophelia**, which focused on the challenges faced by adolescent girls.

Pipher's background in psychology and her interest in cultural narratives shape her writing style, which combines personal stories, professional insight, and social commentary. Her work often addresses themes of trauma, identity, and healing, making her uniquely qualified to discuss the nuanced experiences of immigrants and displaced communities.

Understanding *The Middle of Everywhere*

The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community was published in 2002 and provides an intimate look at the lives of refugees resettling in Nebraska. Unlike many books that focus on the political or economic aspects of immigration, Pipher's narrative centers on the human side—the emotional and psychological journey of finding a “middle” place between old worlds and new beginnings.

Exploring Themes of Displacement and Belonging

One of the key themes in *The Middle of Everywhere* is displacement. Refugees often leave behind everything familiar—family, culture, language, traditions—and must navigate the daunting task of rebuilding in a foreign environment. Pipher's writing captures the tension between loss and hope, illustrating how people strive to maintain identity while adapting to new circumstances.

Belonging, or the need to feel accepted and connected, is another crucial theme. Pipher emphasizes that belonging is not just about physical presence in a place but about emotional attachment and social inclusion. The refugees she profiles grapple with isolation but also find strength through community support, friendships, and shared cultural practices.

The Psychological Impact of Migration

Mary Pipher draws on her clinical experience to shed light on the mental health challenges refugees face. Trauma from war, persecution, and the journey itself leaves deep psychological scars. Yet, Pipher also highlights remarkable resilience and the capacity for healing when communities provide support.

Her work underscores the importance of understanding migration as a psychological process, not just

a physical relocation. This perspective is essential for anyone working with immigrant populations—whether social workers, educators, or policymakers—because it calls for compassion and holistic care.

The Role of Community in *The Middle of Everywhere*

The book also presents a powerful argument about the role of community in successful resettlement. Pipher documents how neighborhoods, schools, religious institutions, and local organizations become lifelines for refugees. These networks help newcomers navigate systems, learn languages, and preserve cultural traditions.

Building Bridges: How Locals and Refugees Connect

One of the most inspiring aspects of *The Middle of Everywhere* is the depiction of cross-cultural friendships and collaborations. Pipher shows that communities thrive when they embrace diversity and foster inclusion. This often requires intentional efforts—community events, mentorship programs, and open dialogue—to break down barriers and build trust.

Lessons for Broader Society

Though the book focuses on Nebraska, its lessons apply universally. In a world where migration is a constant reality, Mary Pipher's insights remind us that welcoming newcomers enriches society culturally, economically, and socially. The “middle of everywhere” becomes a metaphor for interconnectedness, where different backgrounds converge to create vibrant, dynamic communities.

Why **The Middle of Everywhere** Still Matters Today

Given that **The Middle of Everywhere** was published over two decades ago, one might wonder about its current relevance. The truth is, the themes Mary Pipher explores are more pertinent than ever. Global conflicts, climate change, and economic disparities continue to drive migration, making the challenges of integration and belonging evergreen issues.

Refugee Experiences and Modern Immigration Debates

Pipher's empathetic portrayal of refugees humanizes a topic often reduced to statistics or political rhetoric. In today's polarized climate, her work encourages readers to see migrants as individuals with hopes, fears, and stories—not just as “others.” This can foster more informed and compassionate conversations around immigration policies.

The Psychological Lens on Migration

Contemporary mental health professionals and community organizers still draw on Pipher's approach, recognizing that trauma-informed care is essential for immigrant populations. Understanding cultural sensitivity and the importance of identity preservation can improve outcomes for refugees and immigrants alike.

Tips for Applying Pipher's Insights in Everyday Life

If Mary Pipher's **The Middle of Everywhere** inspires you to engage more deeply with immigrant communities or simply to reflect on the concept of place and belonging, here are some practical ways to apply these insights:

- **Volunteer with local refugee resettlement programs:** Many communities have organizations that help newcomers adjust, offering language classes, mentorship, or cultural orientation.
- **Foster inclusive environments:** Whether at work, school, or social groups, actively promoting diversity and inclusion helps create spaces where everyone feels welcome.
- **Learn about different cultures:** Reading books, attending cultural events, or engaging in conversations can broaden your understanding and empathy.
- **Practice active listening:** When interacting with people from different backgrounds, truly listen to their stories without judgment or assumptions.
- **Support policies that aid integration:** Advocate for community resources that assist immigrants and refugees in accessing education, healthcare, and employment.

Connecting the Dots: Place, Identity, and the Human Experience

Mary Pipher's **The Middle of Everywhere** invites readers to reflect on how place shapes identity and how identity shapes our relationship with place. In an era marked by mobility and change, this relationship is dynamic and deeply personal.

Her narratives reveal that the “middle” is not just a physical location but also a psychological and emotional space where people negotiate their past and present. It's a place of transformation, resilience, and belonging—a reminder that no matter where we come from or where we go, the human need for connection remains central.

Through her compassionate lens, Pipher offers a blueprint for understanding our increasingly interconnected world, encouraging us to embrace the “middle of everywhere” as a shared human experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Mary Pipher, the author of 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

Mary Pipher is a clinical psychologist and author known for her work on cultural and psychological issues, including immigration and adolescent development.

What is the main theme of Mary Pipher's book 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

'The Middle of Everywhere' focuses on the experiences of immigrants in small-town America and explores themes of cultural integration, identity, and community.

When was 'The Middle of Everywhere' by Mary Pipher published?

'The Middle of Everywhere' was published in 2017.

What is the setting for the stories in 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

The book is set primarily in Lincoln, Nebraska, where Mary Pipher worked with immigrant populations and shares their stories.

What inspired Mary Pipher to write 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

Mary Pipher was inspired by her work as a psychologist with immigrant communities and wanted to share their challenges and resilience in adapting to life in the U.S.

What types of immigrants does Mary Pipher discuss in 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

The book discusses immigrants from various countries, including Latin America, Africa, and Asia, highlighting diverse experiences and backgrounds.

How does Mary Pipher portray the impact of immigration on small-town America in 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

She portrays immigration as both challenging and enriching for small-town America, emphasizing cultural exchange, economic contributions, and community transformation.

Does 'The Middle of Everywhere' include personal stories or case studies?

Yes, the book includes detailed personal stories and case studies of immigrants Mary Pipher worked with, providing a humanized perspective on immigration.

What is a key message Mary Pipher conveys in 'The Middle of Everywhere'?

A key message is the importance of empathy, understanding, and support for immigrants as they navigate the complexities of assimilation and identity.

How has 'The Middle of Everywhere' been received by critics and readers?

The book has been praised for its compassionate storytelling, insightful analysis, and contribution to discussions on immigration and community dynamics.

Additional Resources

Mary Pipher's **The Middle of Everywhere**: A Thoughtful Exploration of Refugee Experiences and Cultural Integration

mary pipher the middle of everywhere is a phrase that resonates deeply with the themes explored in Mary Pipher's acclaimed book **The Middle of Everywhere: Helping Refugees Enter the American Community**. This work stands out as a compassionate, insightful examination of the challenges and triumphs faced by refugees as they navigate the complex process of resettlement in the United States. Pipher, a clinical psychologist and author renowned for her empathetic approach to social issues, uses this book to shed light on the human stories behind the headlines, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of integration and community building.

In the realm of refugee literature and social psychology, **The Middle of Everywhere** offers a compelling blend of personal narratives, clinical observations, and cultural analysis. This article delves into the key themes, strengths, and implications of Pipher's work, while situating it within broader discussions about immigration, refugee support systems, and multiculturalism.

Understanding **The Middle of Everywhere**: Context and Content

Mary Pipher's book is not merely a recounting of refugee experiences; it is an exploration of what it means to be caught "in the middle" — between old worlds and new, between trauma and hope, and between isolation and community. Published in 2002, the book draws from Pipher's direct involvement with refugee families in Lincoln, Nebraska, a microcosm of the global refugee crisis. The author's background as a clinical psychologist informs her deep understanding of trauma, culture shock, and resilience, which permeates the book's narrative style.

The Middle of Everywhere addresses both the practical and emotional aspects of refugee resettlement.

Pipher's approach combines detailed case studies with broader sociological insights, offering readers a nuanced perspective that goes beyond statistics or policy discussions. This makes the book relevant not only to psychologists and social workers but also to policymakers, educators, and community members interested in fostering inclusive environments.

Key Themes and Analytical Insights

One of the central themes in **The Middle of Everywhere** is the concept of cultural transition and acculturation stress. Refugees often arrive with profound losses and traumatic histories, only to face the daunting task of adapting to a new society with different norms, languages, and expectations. Pipher highlights how these transitions affect identity formation and family dynamics.

Another significant focus is the role of community support systems. The book discusses how local organizations, volunteers, churches, and social service agencies function as vital pillars in helping refugees build new lives. Pipher critically examines the strengths and limitations of these networks, illustrating how community engagement can promote healing and empowerment but also how systemic challenges persist.

Pipher also tackles the psychological impact of displacement. She elucidates the ways trauma manifests in refugees, such as PTSD, depression, and anxiety, while emphasizing the resilience many demonstrate. This dual focus on vulnerability and strength provides a balanced portrayal, counteracting stereotypes that often portray refugees solely as victims.

Comparative Perspectives: Pipher's Work Among Refugee Literature

When compared to other works on refugee experiences, **The Middle of Everywhere** stands out for its combination of clinical insight and narrative empathy. Unlike purely academic texts, Pipher's writing is accessible and engaging, making complex psychological concepts understandable to a broad audience.

For example, compared to Khaled Hosseini's fictional **The Kite Runner**, which also deals with displacement and trauma, Pipher's book is grounded in real-life interactions and social science. Where Hosseini's novel evokes emotional empathy through storytelling, Pipher's work encourages a more analytical understanding of the structural and interpersonal factors affecting refugees.

Similarly, in contrast to government reports or policy analyses that often reduce refugees to numbers or categories, Pipher humanizes these experiences. Her emphasis on the "middle" – the liminal space where refugees exist between worlds – provides a conceptual framework that enriches the discourse on migration and integration.

Impact and Relevance of Mary Pipher's **The Middle of Everywhere**

The book's relevance has only increased over time. With global refugee populations reaching record highs in recent years, Pipher's insights into the challenges of resettlement remain urgent. Her advocacy for community involvement and culturally sensitive support services continues to influence social work practices and public policy debates.

Features That Distinguish the Book

- **Interdisciplinary Approach:** The blend of psychology, sociology, and ethnography provides a multi-layered understanding of refugee experiences.
- **Personal Narratives:** First-person stories from refugees give voice to individuals often marginalized in public discourse.
- **Practical Guidance:** The book offers actionable insights for those working with refugees,

including educators, counselors, and volunteers.

- **Balanced Tone:** Pipher avoids sensationalism, instead presenting a realistic yet hopeful view of refugee integration.

Pros and Cons of *The Middle of Everywhere*

1. Pros:

- Empathetic and respectful portrayal of refugees.
- Accessible to both professionals and general readers.
- In-depth exploration of psychological and social dimensions.
- Encourages community involvement and policy awareness.

2. Cons:

- Focuses primarily on the U.S. context, limiting global applicability.
- Some readers may desire more statistical data alongside narratives.
- Published in 2002, some content may feel dated given evolving refugee policies.

Mary Pipher's Legacy and Continued Influence

Mary Pipher's **The Middle of Everywhere** has secured a place as a foundational text in understanding refugee resettlement through a compassionate, psychological lens. Her work has inspired numerous programs aimed at improving refugee integration and has been cited extensively in academic and community-based research.

Moreover, the book's exploration of the "middle" — that complex, often overlooked space where refugees live between cultures — continues to shape contemporary conversations about identity, belonging, and multicultural coexistence.

In an era marked by growing debates over immigration policies and cultural diversity, Pipher's work reminds us of the humanity at the heart of these issues. It encourages readers to look beyond statistics and headlines, fostering a more informed and empathetic perspective on the refugee experience.

As communities worldwide grapple with the challenges of displacement and integration, **The Middle of Everywhere** remains a vital resource for anyone seeking to understand and support refugees in meaningful ways. Through its blend of narrative depth and professional insight, Mary Pipher's book stands as a testament to the power of empathy, resilience, and community in the face of upheaval.

[Mary Pipher The Middle Of Everywhere](#)

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: The Middle of Everywhere Mary Pipher, 2003 The New York Times's best-selling author of *Reviving Ophelia*, Mary Pipher connects us with our greater family--the human family. Over the past decade, Mary Pipher has been a great source of wisdom, helping us to better understand our family members. Now she connects us with the newest members of the American family--refugees. In cities all over the country, refugees arrive daily. Lost Boys from Sudan, survivors from Kosovo, families fleeing Afghanistan and Vietnam: they come with nothing but

the hope and desire to experience the American dream. Their endurance in the face of tragedy and their ability to hold on to the virtues of family, love, and joy are a lesson for all Americans. Their stories will make you laugh and weep, and give you a deeper understanding of the wider world in which we live. *The Middle of Everywhere* moves beyond the headlines into the homes of refugees from around the world. Working as a cultural broker, teacher, and therapist, Mary Pipher has once again opened our eyes--and our hearts--to those with whom we share the future.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: *The Lost Boys of Sudan* Mark Bixler, 2013-05-01 In 2000 the United States began accepting 3,800 refugees from one of Africa's longest civil wars. They were just some of the thousands of young men, known as "Lost Boys," who had been orphaned or otherwise separated from their families in the chaos of a brutal conflict that has ravaged Sudan since 1983. *The Lost Boys of Sudan* focuses on four of these refugees. Theirs, however, is a typical story, one that repeated itself wherever the Lost Boys could be found across America. Jacob Magot, Peter Anyang, Daniel Khoch, and Marko Ayii were among 150 or so Lost Boys who were resettled in Atlanta. Like most of their fellow refugees, they had never before turned on a light switch, used a kitchen appliance, or ridden in a car or subway train—much less held a job or balanced a checkbook. We relive their early excitement and disorientation, their growing despondency over fruitless job searches, adjustments they faced upon finally entering the workforce, their experiences of post-9/11 xenophobia, and their undying dreams of acquiring an education. As we immerse ourselves in the Lost Boys' daily lives, we also get to know the social services professionals and volunteers, celebrities, community leaders, and others who guided them—with occasional detours—toward self-sufficiency. Along the way author Mark Bixler looks closely at the ins and outs of U.S. refugee policy, the politics of international aid, the history of Sudan, and the radical Islamist underpinnings of its government. America is home to more foreign-born residents than ever before; the Lost Boys have repaid that gift in full through their example of unflagging resolve, hope, and faith.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: *Coping with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* Cheryl A. Roberts, 2003-01-01 Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder is a medically recognized disorder that develops as a result of a traumatic event; as a result of PTSD, an individual may suffer nightmares and flashbacks and become hypervigilant, angry, or emotionally numb. This work describes PTSD: causes, symptoms, effects, and coping strategies. While there is no cure, individuals and their loved ones can find healthy ways to cope, and it is important to recognize the strengths that arise in both individuals and families as a result of living with the disorder. This handbook describes how the characteristics of PTSD manifest in daily life and details its effects on the emotional, mental, and physical aspects of an individual's life, including disorders and physical disabilities that may occur jointly or as a result. The work analyzes the affect of PTSD on the couple and the family, detailing possible reactions, and compares the characteristics of healthy and PTSD families. The work explains how and by whom the disorder is diagnosed, with discussion of cross-cultural perspectives on PTSD and the effects of cultural difference on its diagnosis and treatment. The study describes mental health approaches to treatment, such as individual, group, and substance abuse counseling. Techniques such as exposure therapy, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing, and Traumatic Incident Reduction are also discussed. The work describes drug treatments, including antianxiety and antidepressant medications. Newer approaches to treating PTSD such as biofeedback, relaxation techniques, and herbal medications are also explained. A conclusion suggests effective strategies for living with PTSD and indicates directions for future research. Appendices include the definitional criteria for PTSD, a list of resources for PTSD survivors, and information about veterans' benefits. A filmography and bibliography are also provided.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: *Exploring Christian Mission Beyond Christendom: United Methodist Perspectives* Michael G. Cartwright, 2010

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: *Don't Teach the Canaries Not to Sing* Robert D. Ramsey, 2008 There are other books on school culture, but the tell-it-like-it-is, no-holds-barred style of writing makes this a book I would recommend to others.--Frank Buck, Curriculum & Special

Education Supervisor Talladega City Schools, AL The clear, concise themes for each chapter are backed by research and provide an understanding of what needs to be done to improve school climate. This book could be used by a building or district team study to measure the cultural temperature, by teacher teams to start a grassroots movement to improve school climate, or by reflective leaders who want to continuously improve their organizations.--Edward J. Drugo, Principal Latrobe Elementary School, PA Improve school culture and relationships to ensure peak performance by students and staff! This practical how-to handbook clearly defines what school culture is, where it comes from, how it works, and why it is critically important. The author provides a total package with all the tools necessary for developing a school culture that maximizes student performance, empowers staff members, welcomes and engages parents, and energizes community support. Readers will find: A profile of a healthy school culture Tips for assessing how your school measures up Ways to spot warning signs and avoid pitfalls Frequently asked questions and common concerns about creating a positive school culture Through concrete, real-world examples, authoritative insights, and useful explorations, this compact volume for principals and administrators demystifies the concept of school culture and points the way toward building a strong, collaborative school community.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Citizen Akoy Steve Marantz, 2019-02-01 2019 Foreword INDIES Award, Honorable Mention for Adventure, Sports & Rec 2020 Nebraska Book Award Akoy Agau led Omaha Central High School to four straight high school basketball state championships (2010-13) and was a three-time All-State player. One of the most successful high school athletes in Nebraska's history, he's also a South Sudanese refugee. At age four, Akoy and his family fled Sudan during the Second Sudanese Civil War, and after three years in Cairo, they came to Maryland as refugees. They arrived in Omaha in 2003 in search of a better future. In Omaha the Agaus joined the largest South Sudanese resettlement population in the United States. While federal resources and local organizations help refugees with housing, health care, and job placement, the challenge to assimilate culturally was particularly steep. For Akoy basketball provided a sense of belonging and an avenue to realize his potential. He landed a Division 1 basketball scholarship to Louisville for a year and a half, then played at Georgetown for two injury-plagued seasons before he graduated in the spring of 2017. With remaining eligibility, he played for Southern Methodist University while pursuing a graduate degree. In a fluid, intimate, and joyful narrative, Steve Marantz relates Akoy's refugee journey of basketball, family, romance, social media, and coming of age at Nebraska's oldest and most diverse high school. Set against a backdrop of the South Sudanese refugee community in Omaha, Marantz provides a compelling account of the power of sports to blend cultures in the unlikelyst of places.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Leading Through Conflict Mark Gerzon, 2006 Argues that organisations need mediators, rather than divisive dictators, and outlines the 8 powerful skills required for cross-border leadership.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Christian Counseling 3rd Edition Gary R. Collins, 1988-10-06 This proven guide in pastoral counseling has been extensively expanded and revised by the author to include recent developments and research, new resources, and attention to newly urgent needs such as AIDS, eating disorders, homosexuality, and violence. Written with clarity and sensitivity, this volume builds on biblical foundations and the best resources of professional psychology. It reflects the insights the author has gained from many years of Christian counseling. New Sections include: The Legal, Ethical and Moral Issues in Counseling The Multicultural, Multiracial Issues in Counseling Conflict and Relationships Dealing with Death and Grief Alcoholism and Other Substance Abuse Crises and Trauma Counseling and Terrorism

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: *Hearing Her: Six Lives Far From Home* Marlee Brown, 2014-03-31 This book looks at Brown's experience meeting with refugee and former refugee women in the greater Burlington, Vermont area. Narratives are shared from women from Bhutan, Somalia and Sudan to determine how satisfied they are with resettled life and to what degree they have gained cultural membership.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Open Conversations David Carr, 2011-09-19 Cultural institutions must reimagine their roles as education facilities for their communities and address the public need for conversations in safe and fair places, thereby renewing their essential place in democratic society. This book explains how. Open Conversations: Public Learning in Libraries and Museums is a provocative book, one that is designed to offer courage to cultural institution administrators and staff even as it opens their eyes to the possibility that their facilities can offer more than they are. Rather than offering prescriptive answers, the author invites readers to consider museums and libraries in fresh ways. Author David Carr believes professionals in libraries and museums need to think more broadly. He challenges them to address communities, national social change, psychology, and learning, and to think about ways to frame their institutions, not as repositories or research chambers, but as instruments for human thinking. Now is the time for these institutions to recover their integrity and purpose as fundamental, informing structures in a struggling democracy. Based on lectures and previously published writings by the author, and drawing on new scholarship and research, the essays here will inspire professionals to understand their collections and institutions as instruments of personal, social, and cultural change.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: The Effective School Leader's Guide to Management Jane L. Sigford, 2005-10-07 Discover how to be a successful school leader and manager! Exploring 15 vital topics, as well as offering strategies and examples, Jane L. Sigford demonstrates how effective schools are a marriage of management and leadership. Organized into three sections—management and leadership theories, managing the school, and managing yourself—this resource helps administrators understand the complexity of leadership and addresses the application of effective management skills to create successful learning communities. Written for new and veteran school leaders, this essential guide: Acts as a handbook, which contains an overview of individual components of school leadership normally scattered among many textbooks and resources Provides suggested resources for more in-depth study Offers individual reflective practice questions throughout for personal use Suggests questions to help facilitate professional development group discussions, especially among peers The Effective School Leader's Guide to Management illustrates how school administrators can run a school efficiently, balancing their roles as instructional leaders and effective school managers, while still having time to improve professional development, foster parent and community relationships, make data-driven decisions, and nurture personal growth and leadership.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting Holly W. Whitcomb, Emphasizes the importance of being patient--a concept that presents an enormous challenge in America's society--while providing rich, spiritual insights that deepen faith. Original.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Summer Engagements Jane Hellman, 2008-04 Four generations: multiple love stories: love and affection as the bond that holds the family together interspersed with betrayal, violence, death, marriage, business growth, and the rhapsodic pontification of capitalism as the truest religion benefiting its faithful with business success and cash. Since cash is the only pursuit of capitalism, its practice as a religion elevates its faithful to the upper levels of the food chain. The belief in capitalism wipes out the perception of racial inequalities and other social ills as consequences befalling hypocrites who pursue cash and a place at the top of the food chain while denigrating the practice of capitalism. This is story telling at its best with commentary on the American social structure and its capitalistic mechanism that binds the rest of the world. A bind that captivates the main character from a humble third world background to the highest echelon of corporate America. His success up the corporate ladder serves as proof that capitalism is color blind. It only requires strict adherence to its principles. This is the kind of story that is captivating, positive, and motivational. It is social commentary serves sunny side up. Its characters run the gamut of innocence to corrupt government officials. Its sceneries are beautiful and surreal with depictions clear enough for perceptual imaginations of being at the exact location with the characters. The kind of story that calls for repeat reading because of its beauty and positive setting.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Immigration Narratives in Young Adult

Literature Joanne Brown, 2010-12-02 Although the United States prides itself as a nation of diversity, the country that boasts of its immigrant past also wrestles with much of its immigrant present. While conflicting attitudes about immigration are debated, newcomers—both legal and otherwise—continue to arrive on American soil. And books about the immigrant experience—aimed at both adults and youth—are published with a fair amount of frequency. In *Immigration Narrative in Young Adult Literature: Crossing Borders*, Joanne Brown explores the experiences of adolescents as portrayed in young adult novels. Her study features protagonists from a wide variety of religious and ethnic backgrounds in order to provide a complete discussion of the immigration experience of young adults. In this volume, Brown analyzes young adult novels that portray various aspects of the immigrant experience—journeys to the shores of the United States, the difficulties of adjustment, and the tensions that develop within family units as a result of immigration. Brown also examines how ethnicity, religion, and country of origin affect the adolescent characters' adjustment to their new country, as well as the process of moving from social outsiders to accepted citizens. This thoroughly researched book includes theories of adolescent development and perspectives on immigration itself applied to the literary analyses. It also offers a framework for anticipating the success of young immigrants and relates this analysis to the novels Brown discusses. With an appendix of additional novels for further reading, this book will be a useful resource for librarians and teachers of adolescent literature, as well as for students, both those born in the United States and those who are immigrants themselves.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: The Nebraska Adventure Jean A. Lukesh, 2021

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: The Mayans Among Us Ann L. Sittig, Martha Florinda González, 2016 *The Mayans Among Us* conveys the unique experiences of Central American indigenous immigrants to the Great Plains, many of whom are political refugees from repressive, war-torn countries. Ann L. Sittig, a Spanish instructor, and Martha Florinda González, a Mayan community leader living in Nebraska, have gathered the oral histories of contemporary Mayan women living in the state and working in meatpacking plants. Sittig and González initiated group dialogues with Mayan women about the psychological, sociological, and economic wounds left by war, poverty, immigration, and residence in a new country. Distinct from Latin America's economic immigrants and often overlooked in media coverage of Latino and Latina migration to the plains, the Mayans share their concerns and hopes as they negotiate their new home, culture, language, and life in Nebraska. Longtime Nebraskans share their perspectives on the immigrants as well. *The Mayans Among Us* poignantly explores how Mayan women in rural Nebraska meatpacking plants weave together their three distinct identities: Mayan, Central American, and American.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Outcasts United Warren St. John, 2009-04-21

BONUS: This edition contains a reader's guide. The extraordinary tale of a refugee youth soccer team and the transformation of a small American town Clarkston, Georgia, was a typical Southern town until it was designated a refugee settlement center in the 1990s, becoming the first American home for scores of families in flight from the world's war zones—from Liberia and Sudan to Iraq and Afghanistan. Suddenly Clarkston's streets were filled with women wearing the hijab, the smells of cumin and curry, and kids of all colors playing soccer in any open space they could find. The town also became home to Luma Mufleh, an American-educated Jordanian woman who founded a youth soccer team to unify Clarkston's refugee children and keep them off the streets. These kids named themselves the Fugees. Set against the backdrop of an American town that without its consent had become a vast social experiment, *Outcasts United* follows a pivotal season in the life of the Fugees and their charismatic coach. Warren St. John documents the lives of a diverse group of young people as they miraculously coalesce into a band of brothers, while also drawing a fascinating portrait of a fading American town struggling to accommodate its new arrivals. At the center of the story is fiery Coach Luma, who relentlessly drives her players to success on the soccer field while holding together their lives—and the lives of their families—in the face of a series of daunting challenges. This fast-paced chronicle of a single season is a complex and inspiring tale of a small town becoming

a global community—and an account of the ingenious and complicated ways we create a home in a changing world.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Teaching and Learning in the New Latino Diaspora Edmund T. Hamann, Socorro G. Herrera, Enrique G. Murillo, Stanton Wortham, 2024-11-22 This volume does more than document an educational dynamic that impacts Latino populations across the United States; it also connects educational challenges to concrete plans for how those problems can be resolved. Both experienced and new scholars describe strategies and outline policies to support academic success, affirm identity and belonging, and show how educational institutions can be transformed to better serve Latino constituencies in a post-pandemic world, where insistent efforts at right of belonging and affirmation counter Trumpian xenophobia and hostility. Examples from elementary education to higher education supply familiar points of entry, but also challenge readers to explore scenarios and strategies that they have not previously considered. Each chapter begins with empirical documentation of an educational problem involving Latino populations where their presence is relatively new (mainly post-IRCA) and goes on to outline how that problem can be resolved. The text includes depictions of how youth participatory action research can diversify teacher education recruitment, what authentically welcoming college campuses might look like, how high school literature classes could include more Latino authors, and much more. Book Features: Includes detailed examples of practice to assist teachers and school leaders in restructuring their classrooms and programs to better serve Latino students. Describes settings and scenarios from across the United States that will be familiar to those teaching, leading, or preparing to do so. Focuses on the new diaspora as distinct from states with traditionally large Latino populations. Argues that lagging educational outcomes are far from inevitable and that inclusion, engagement, and success are possible and worth striving for.

mary pipher the middle of everywhere: Once Upon a Quinceanera Julia Alvarez, 2007-08-02 Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award, a “phenomenal, indispensable” (USA Today) exploration of the Latina “sweet fifteen” celebration, by the bestselling author of *How the García Girls Lost Their Accents* and *In the Time of Butterflies* The quinceañera, a celebration of a Latina girl’s fifteenth birthday, has become a uniquely American trend. This lavish party with ball gowns, multi-tiered cakes, limousines, and extravagant meals is often as costly as a prom or a wedding. But many Latina girls feel entitled to this rite of passage, marking a girl’s entrance into womanhood, and expect no expense to be spared, even in working-class families. Acclaimed author Julia Alvarez explores the history and cultural significance of the “quince” in the United States, and the consequences of treating teens like princesses. Through her observations of a quince in Queens, interviews with other quince girls, and the memories of her own experience as a young immigrant, Alvarez presents a thoughtful and entertaining portrait of a rapidly growing multicultural phenomenon, and passionately emphasizes the importance of celebrating Latina womanhood.

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