

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Writing Prompts

### Part 4: Factory Girls

#### MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

---

---

#### A NOTE TO THE EDUCATOR:

*You will need to decide how best to share these writing prompts with your students. You might share them all, and ask students to choose one to respond to. You may assign one or more to the entire group. You might make one or more of the topics the basis for in-class discussions. Where there are multiple questions in a single prompt, choose the question or questions that best suit your students. Make your decisions according to the needs of your group.*

*You may notice that many of the topics contain some version of the phrase, "Write about a time in your life..." The intention of these prompts is twofold: first, since students remember the content of their own lives, they can more easily respond to the questions, and are more likely to want to express themselves if they feel competent to do so; second, these questions can form a meaningful bridge between what happens in the lives of ordinary people today and the lives of people in history or in historical events. For these reasons, you might decide to use some of the prompts before students encounter the history, because thinking about them sets the students up to understand and relate to the material better.*

*Since students vary in their degree of comfort and writing skill, you should decide when and how much students should write. We suggest that since students need to share their writing with each other to make personal and historical connections, you should encourage them to focus on content rather than mechanical skills. Pieces can be revised and edited later if you decide they should be shared formally, such as on a bulletin board or in a newsletter.*

# TEACHER'S GUIDE

## Writing Prompts

### Part 4: Factory Girls

#### MISSION 4: "City of Immigrants"

---

---

Read through all the topics first, and then choose one of them to write about. Write the title of the piece at the top of your page. Write in complete sentences and proofread your work.

**HAIR STYLE.** When Rosa begins a new job, she changes her hair style to look like a girl in the magazine. Where do you get ideas about your own hair style? Describe some of your own styling inspirations. Have you ever changed your look based on something you saw in a magazine?

**TO WORK OR NOT TO WORK.** Lena must decide if she will be willing to break her tradition of not working on the Jewish Sabbath (Shabbos) in order to keep her job at the Triangle factory. Do you agree with her decision? Why or why not?

**FACTORY BLUES.** When Lena started her job at the factory she did not know how anything worked. She was unsure about how to act, when to talk, and even where the bathroom was located. Write about a time where you were in a new place and felt unsure about how things worked. Describe where you were, how you felt, and what helped you to become comfortable.

**REPORTING THE STORY.** When approached by a reporter, Lena must decide if she will share her experience as a garment worker for the expose. What are the pros and cons of Lena sharing her story? If you were going to write an expose about the garment industry that Lena works in, what would you include in your story? What questions would you want to ask Lena if you could interview her?

**PAY DAY.** At the end of Part 4, Lena decides how to spend her earnings. How did you to determine what Lena should spend her money on? Think about a time you earned money. What did you spend it on and what helped you make your decisions.

**LENA'S DIARY.** Through Lena's eyes, think about your circumstances from the beginning to the end of this part of "City of Immigrants." Share your emotions and feelings about each step of the journey. Think about the people with whom you interacted, and what you learned from them. Think about the choices you made and the consequences of those choices. Now write a diary entry from Lena's point-of-view summarizing what happened to you in Part 3. You may choose to illustrate one aspect of your entry.