

Constantina's Immigration Story

By Ayla Cohen

My name is Ayla. I am 9 years old and I go to High Tech elementary school. My class and I are writing life stories about immigrants. I wrote this story about Constantina, my cleaning lady. She is an immigrant from Mexico. I wrote this so you could hear about her journey from Mexico to the United States.

Constantina lived in Mexico. It was sad there because she and her family didn't work, which made it hard for them to earn money. She decided to go to The United States for a better life and more opportunities.

Constantina had some problems with her journey. She couldn't speak English, which made it difficult for her to talk with anyone she met along the journey, and she was pregnant. She also didn't have a car, so she had to get in through the Border a different way.

Constantina was helped by a *coyote. He smuggled her in through the forest surrounding the Border. It was very dangerous and if Constantina was caught, she could have been arrested. But she risked her life, went, and luckily succeeded. *A coyote is a person paid to smuggle people in through the Border. They are illegal.

When Constantina crossed the Border, she didn't have a house, so she had to sleep in her brother's living room for six months. Then she got a job as a babysitter for a very kind and humorous lady.

*A few years later, Constantina became a citizen, bought a house, and got a business for cleaning houses (like mine!). She had two kids who now have a masters degree in college. She now lives a happy life in The United States. *Estimated guess.

What I learned about immigration from that story was that usually immigration has some obstacles, but everything always turns out to be okay, or even better. Sometimes the craziest things could happen, but you never should give up.