

Small Truths: The Immigration Experience Through the Eyes of Children

These video excerpts are from the short documentary film *Small Truths*, directed and produced by Sarah Yuster and released in December 2014. For more information, visit www.smalltruthsproject.com.

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Tier 3 terms

Mexico, Nigeria, ICE

Web Version:

<https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/texts/small-truths-the-immigration-experience-through-the-eyes-of-children>



This article contains a multimedia feature that is available at the web address above.

GABRIELA

This is a story about Mexico. I'm writing about my mom's life, because her life is important to me. She said when you're small, you've got to always do some work in the house. In Mexico you wash your clothes by hand in a pond. You get soap and you wash it in the pond. My mom said you put all your clothes up on a string. There's this little rope across a house to house. You put all your clothes in there, and when the people walk by, they see all your clothes—even your underwears!

DAVID

When I visit Nigeria, there are only two rooms, no trees and no flowers, and it's hot and it never rains. There are a lot of peanuts and ice cream there, too. I like strawberry-flavored

ice cream. Big Mommy brought the ice cream for us. Sometimes when it's hot, we go to the beach. That's why I love Nigeria.

JESUS

"My Life": I was born in U.S.A. I speak Spanish, but I speak English because my sister, brother, dad and mom speak in English. I spoke Spanish first. I speak English to sister and brother. I listen to the music on the video, like Michael Jackson.

GABRIELA

From moving to United States, you're going to have to pass a little bridge. There's grass on it, and you have to go under and then lay, and then the cops see you, or the ICE, they send you back in Mexico.

KAELLY

I had to leave my mom and dad. This is my sister, my dad and my mother. I live with my grandmas and my four uncles. And this is me with the lady in the airport. My parents couldn't come because they were born in Mexico. And my sister came with me, but then they had to take her back. I felt sad because I had to leave my mom, dad, sister, cousin, classmates and my teacher. I really miss them. We used to have fun. The best thing about living in the U.S.A. is the school. I love PS20. I also get to see my grandma, cousins and friends.

STEPHANIE

My mom came from Mexico. I wish I can see my grandparents. My grandparents' house is small and they live in Mexico, and I love them so much, and I wish I could see them, and

I've never met them. I talk with my grandmother on my dad's phone because I like to talk with my grandmother.

Source

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**After you have watched the video and read the text.
Please describe what you learned about how some
children feel about their immigration experience.**