Chapter Nine, Story One

The Statue¹ of Liberty

When a ship carrying immigrants arrives in New York Harbor, the first thing the passengers see is the Statue of Liberty. In 1886, when the statue is new, it is taller than any building in New York. From the bottom of

the pedestal, the support on which the statue stands, to the tip of Liberty's torch², it is three hundred and five feet high.

Today, more than a hundred years later, the two hundred thousand pounds of copper metal which cover the statue are green from the salty ocean air. But in the beginning, the Statue of Liberty shines as brightly as a new penny in the sun.

Most immigrants make the long voyage to the United States in the dark bottom of a ship where passengers without much money are crowded together. When they finally arrive and come up into the light and the fresh air, they see the Statue of Liberty waiting for them, holding her torch up high. For most, it is an experience they never forget. Liberty is hope, she is courage, she is the promise of America.

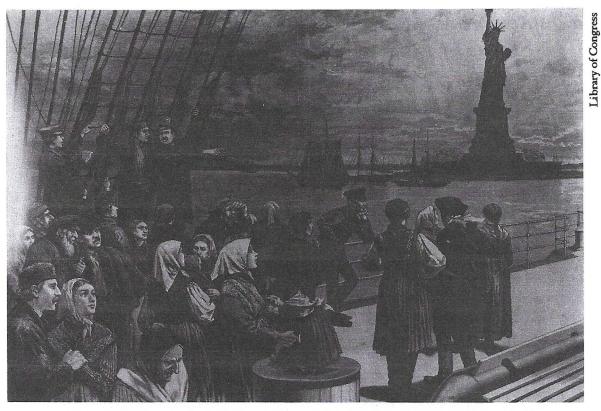
The statue is a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States to celebrate one hundred years of American independence. The famous French sculptor³, Frederic Bartholdi, has the idea of building something big and important for this special occasion. The great engineer, Alexandre Eiffel, builder of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, makes the strong steel structure which supports the statue. The whole project is so difficult and ambitious that it cannot possibly be ready in time for July 4, 1876, but the statue's great right arm, which is forty-two feet long, does arrive later that year.

France is paying for the statue, but expects the United States to pay for the pedestal on which the statue stands. At first the American people don't want to give money for this cause. Most newspapers are unfriendly to the project and wealthy people are not interested. But Joseph Pulitzer, who owns a newspaper and is an immigrant himself, finds a way to help.

He promises to print in his newspaper the name of any man, woman or child who sends in money to help pay for Liberty's pedestal. The money comes in, a dollar or two at a time, until finally there is enough.

On October 28, 1886, a million people waving American flags march down Fifth Avenue in New York to welcome the Statue of Liberty. Even now, in our time, Miss Liberty has two million visitors every year. When they enter the pedestal, they read the famous poem by Emma Lazarus that hangs on the wall. In her poem, the poet imagines that the statue is speaking to the countries of the Old World. "Give me your tired, your poor..." Liberty says. The daughter of immigrant parents, Emma Lazarus

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The Statue of Liberty. Scene from an immigrant ship entering New York harbor

understands very well what it means to be tired and poor and come at last to the land of opportunity.

Today, most visitors ride to the top of the Statue of Liberty in an elevator, but some still prefer to climb the 154 steps that lead into the statue's crown⁴. There they can stand and look down at the ships in the water. Perhaps some of them remember the nineteenth century immigrant boats and the passengers arriving from so many different countries with their children, their suitcases, and their dreams of a better life.

- statue a figure made by an artist, usually of wood, metal or clay
- 2 torch light
- 3 sculptor an artist who makes figures
- ⁴ crown anything worn on the head that decorates, and gives importance: usually worn by kings

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Exercises

A.	Reading Comprehension — Discussion and Writing. Choose three questions to discuss with a partner. Write the rest, looking back at the story, or using your own words.
1.	Describe the Statue of Liberty.
2.	Why does France want to give the Statue of Liberty to the United States on July 4, 1876?
3.	Who is Joseph Pulitzer, and how does he help raise money for Liberty's pedestal?
4.	In Emma Lazarus' poem, to whom is Liberty speaking, and what does she ask?

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5. What does the Statue of Liberty mean to arriving immigrants when they see her?

- **B.** Complete the Sentences. Draw a line between the words on the left and the words on the right to make a correct sentence.
 - 1. The tip of Liberty's torch is
 - 2. The Statue of Liberty is hope, and courage, and the promise of
 - 3. Men, women and children
 - 4. Joseph Pulitzer is an immigrant who
 - 5. Copper is the color of

- a. opportunity in America.
- b. send in money to pay for the pedestal.
- c. a shiny penny.
- d. three hundred and five feet from the bottom.
- e. owns a newspaper.