

# Honor Memory

Grades 4–12

## Objective

Students will build critical thinking, empathy, and writing skills by listening to a first-person narrative, discussing its main events, and making connections between the past and present.

## Materials — [Worksheets available on Google Slides](#)

- [“Reva’s Story” audio recording](#) (running time: 15:25)
- “Reva’s Story” vocabulary, transcript, and worksheet
- “Connecting the Past to the Present” worksheet
- Jewish Immigration Map (optional)

## Class Activity

1. If you haven’t already, review the [“Welcome to the Skirball”](#) introduction, which features collection items that relate to this lesson, as well as information about the Skirball and its permanent exhibition, *Visions and Values: Jewish Life from Antiquity to America*.
2. Engage the class in a discussion about storytelling. What are some of your favorite stories? Why do people tell or write stories? What can stories teach us about the past? How might stories deepen our understanding of the world and help us create better futures?
3. Listen to the audio recording “Reva’s Story.” Encourage students to just listen the first time they hear the story. Check for comprehension with the following question: What do you remember about the story?
4. Review the questions on the “Reva’s Story” worksheet and then listen a second time to the audio recording. Encourage students to take notes while they listen, capturing key words or phrases, or even sketching images that stand out.
5. If needed, listen to the audio story one more time and ask students to answer the questions on the “Reva’s Story” worksheet in writing, individually or in pairs.

**Optional:** Use the Jewish Immigration Map to provide historical context and data for Jewish immigration to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. You might ask students to conduct additional research on waves of Jewish migration throughout history.

## Student Instructions

Meet Reva! Listen to the true story of one family's journey from Eastern Europe to the United States more than one hundred years ago. Learn about this period in history, then make connections to your own life.

## Share Out

Initiate a class discussion about students' main takeaways from "Reva's Story." In pairs or as a class, complete the activity on the "Connecting the Past to the Present" worksheet.

## Visual Arts Activity

Using materials developed by Los Angeles artist Stephanie Mercado, invite students to create a collage inspired by Reva's story and the question "What do you carry with you?" [Download the lesson extension.](#)

## Curriculum Connections

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA: SL.1, 2, 3; W.2, 3

## Resources

Explore Ellis Island and its history using the interactive resource "[Immigration Stories of Yesterday and Today](#)" by **Scholastic**.

Learn more about immigration to the United States at the turn of the twentieth century by reading the article "[Immigration to the United States, 1851-1900](#)" from the **Library of Congress**.

Connect the past to the present through objects and family stories in "[Your Story, Our Story](#)" created by the **Tenement Museum** in New York City.

For more stories of immigration, resiliency, and to honor memory, visit the [Shoah Foundation](#).

## Connect with Us

Our educators are here to help! If you have questions about this curriculum or would like to share your students' writing or artwork with us, please email [teacherprograms@skirball.org](mailto:teacherprograms@skirball.org).