Title of book: *The Memory Coat*

Author’s name: Elvira Woodruff

Publisher: Reed Business Information, Inc.          Copyright year: 1999

Reading level: 3rd grade                              Genre: Historical fiction

**SYNOPSIS OF STORY:**
This story is about a family immigrating to the United States from Russia. When Russian soldiers come to round up the Jews, Rachel’s family is forced to flee to America. Grisha, Rachel’s cousin, is nearly turned away by immigration authorities at Ellis Island because of a cut on his eye. Rachel saves the situation when she turns his shabby coat inside out to hide the doctor’s chalk mark. Grisha’s mother had made the coat for him just before she died, and it still holds the powerful memory of her love.

**THEME:** Importance of family.

**ACTIVITY ONE:**
Origination of idea: Original
Objective: Trace Rachel’s journey to America.
Description of activity: Using a world map, students will trace Rachel and her families journey from Russia to America. Then students will write a paragraph explaining the hardships the family faced during their long journey.

**ACTIVITY TWO:**
Origination of idea: Original
Objective: Interview someone who has experienced immigration.
Description of activity: Students will make interview questions, and have an interview session with someone who has immigrated to the community. Students will write a paragraph about the interesting things they learned from the interview. Students will share the main points of their interview with the class.