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# America And I Anzia Yezierska

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The Jewish Immigrant  
Experience in Anzia  
Yezierska's Bread  
Givers and Mary  
Antin's The Promised  
Land GRIN Verlag  
Antin emigrated from

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Polotzk (Polotsk), Belarus [Russia], to Boston, Massachusetts, at age 13. She tells of Jewish life in Russia and in the United States.

Arrogant Beggar Open Road Media

SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 36-page guide for "America and I" by Anzia Yezierska includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis, as well as several more

in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major characters, 15 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Immigration and Assimilation and Poverty.

Hungry Hearts Simon and Schuster

"Russian Jews in New York City." Cf. Hanna, A. Mirror for the nation A Study Guide for Anzia Yezierska's "America and I" University of Chicago Press Fanya, a young Polish Jew, living and working on the Lower East Side, attends a lecture by a famous educator,

Henry Scott, that seems meant specifically for her. Scott calls America "the meeting ground of all the nations of the world" and exhorts Americans to "blaze a trail to a future where people would be judged not by membership in a group . . . but as individuals on their own merits." On an impulse, Fanya goes to Scott's university office and boldly asks him to read the autobiography she has written. After a highly charged exchange, the rational, older, American professor is won over by the young, passionate, Jewish immigrant. She is his fascination; he is her

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“ symbol of all she could never be. ” Scott becomes her mentor, leading Fanya to success as an author. He also expresses romantic interest in her, but ultimately rebuffs her socially. Although she is crushed, instead of returning to the ghetto to live among “ her own people, ” as so many before her have done, Fanya chooses to advance further into America. She buys a house in a quiet New England village, where, eventually, another newcomer becomes an unexpected soul mate—and she prepares to make a home. This moving portrait of a vibrant

and talented immigrant woman is based on the author ’ s true relationship with John Dewey, the important and famous educator who was her most significant influence. It depicts the workings of American society during the 1930s, especially between the privileged class and immigrants who were striving for a better life. It is an early and optimistic story of Jewish assimilation, and grapples with issues still faced by immigrants today. The comprehensive introduction by Dr. Catherine Rottenberg, who rescued the novel from obscurity, describes the

novel ’ s significance, placing it in the context of Yeziarska ’ s work and life, as well as within the Jewish American literary tradition.

America and I Duke University Press

In evoking the joy and pain of the Jewish immigrant experience, Anzia Yeziarska has no peer. Her stories, written from the 1920s to the 1960s, immortalized the lives of the Jews of New York's Lower East Side. The Open Cage collects sixteen of her best stories and excerpts from her autobiography to illustrate her extraordinary storytelling gift as well as her personal

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experience as an immigrant woman. Along with her novel *Bread Givers*, the work gathered here constitutes her enduring achievement. Included are "The Fat of the Land," *Children of Loneliness*, "America and I," *The Lost 'Beautiffulness*," and other stories; vignettes from *Red Ribbon on a White Horse: My Story*; and four remarkable stories of old age. The introduction by Historian Alice Kessler-Harris and the afterword by Yeziarska's daughter and biographer, Louise Levitas Henriksen, place the writings in a rich and valuable context.

### America is Heaven Study

Guide: *America and I* by Anzia Yeziarska (SuperSummary) SuperSummary, a modern alternative to SparkNotes and CliffsNotes, offers high-quality study guides for challenging works of literature. This 36-page guide for "America and I" by Anzia Yeziarska includes detailed chapter summaries and analysis, as well as several more in-depth sections of expert-written literary analysis. Featured content includes commentary on major

characters, 15 important quotes, essay topics, and key themes like Immigration and Assimilation and Poverty. A Study Guide for Anzia Yeziarska's "America and I" Farraro (English, Duke U.) defends immigration narratives from their reputation of having stereotyped characters and plots. He argues that they are manifestations of a rebirth paradigm and draw on all the literary tools employed by other

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genres. Annotation  
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Inc., Portland, OR  
*My Own People*  
Createspace Independent  
Publishing Platform  
Hungry Hearts is a  
collection of short stories  
by Jewish/American writer  
Anzia Yezierska first  
published in 1920. The  
short stories deal with the  
European Jewish  
immigrant experience  
from the perspective of  
fictional female Jews,  
each story depicting a  
different aspect of their

trials and tribulations in  
poverty in New York City  
at the turn of the 20th  
century. The stories were  
adapted into a film of the  
same name.  
Red Ribbon on a White  
Horse Simon and Schuster  
A Study Guide for Anzia  
Yezierska's "America and I,"  
excerpted from Gale's  
acclaimed Short Stories for  
Students. This concise  
study guide includes plot  
summary; character  
analysis; author biography;  
study questions; historical  
context; suggestions for  
further reading; and much

more. For any literature  
project, trust Short Stories  
for Students for all of your  
research needs.  
*Love in the Promised Land*  
University of Chicago Press  
This is the first full-scale  
biography of Jewish-American  
author Anzia Yezierska. Based  
on extensive research into her  
letters and writings, it tells the  
real story of America's  
"Sweatshop Cinderella."  
**The Tenement Writer**  
Heinemann/Raintree  
A mother goes from poverty  
to wealth, expecting  
happiness but only finding a  
cruel Catch-22. Anzia  
Yezierska wrote about the

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struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

**America and I** Beacon Press (MA)

Until now, the East European canon in American literature has been dominated by male dissident figures such as Brodsky, Milosz, and Kundera. Magdalena Zaborowska challenges that canon by

demonstrating the contributions of lesser-known immigrant and expat

**Arrogant Beggar** National Geographic Books

A sequel to 'Wings', Peshah gets a job at a shirtwaist factory where one of the workers falls in love with her. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

How We Found America

Simon and Schuster  
Poverty separates a happy couple forever, marking their lives as lifestyles separate them. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.  
*All I Could Never Be*

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Indiana University Press  
Hungry Hearts is a  
collection of short stories  
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Anzia Yeziarska first  
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from the perspective of  
fictional female Jews,  
each story depicting a  
different aspect of their  
trials and tribulations in  
poverty in New York City  
at the turn of the 20th  
century. The stories were  
adapted into a film of the

same name. Wings  
Shenah Peshah a young  
lonely janitress living a  
painfully secluded life in  
poverty. She is given hope  
when she meets a young  
sociologist who moves into  
her building to study the  
people he writes about  
and falls in love with him.  
Hunger A sequel to  
'Wings', Peshah gets a job  
at a shirtwaist factory  
where one of the workers  
falls in love with her. The  
Lost "Beautifulness A  
mother dances on the  
edge of self-destruction

when she paints her  
kitchen white for her son  
returning home from the  
military but has her rent  
raised by her cruel  
landlord as a response.  
The Free Vacation House  
A woman being crushed  
by motherhood is offered a  
stay at a free vacation  
house but finds the strict  
humiliating living  
conditions worse than her  
life in poverty. The Miracle  
A Jewish girl travels to  
America to find love but  
finds hardship and  
loneliness. Where Lovers

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Dream Poverty separates a happy couple forever, marking their lives as lifestyles separate them. Soap and Water A student is denied her diploma because of her unsightly appearance due to her grueling life going to school and supporting herself in grinding poverty, making her rebel against the divisions of class. "The Fat of the Land" A mother goes from poverty to wealth, expecting happiness but only finding a cruel Catch 22. My Own

People A young writer finds inspiration and purpose in the suffering of her brethren. How I Found America

**Bread Givers** Bettina Berch Anzia Yeziarska tells of her odyssey from the sweatshops of New York's Lower East Side to success in Hollywood and then a return to poverty in New York

**The Promised Land** UNC Press Books Anzia Yeziarska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East

Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women. *Anzia Yeziarska* Gale, Cengage Learning The target of intense critical comment when it was first published in 1927, Arrogant Beggar's scathing attack on charity-run boardinghouses remains one of Anzia Yeziarska's most



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devastating works of social criticism. The novel follows the fortunes of its young Jewish narrator, Adele Lindner, as she leaves the impoverished conditions of New York's Lower East Side and tries to rise in the world. Portraying Adele's experiences at the Hellman Home for Working Girls, the first half of the novel exposes the "sickening farce" of institutionalized charity while portraying the class tensions that divided affluent German American	Jews. The second half of the novel takes Adele back to her ghetto origins as she explores an alternative model of philanthropy by opening a restaurant that combines the communitarian ideals of Old World shtetl tradition with the contingencies of New World capitalism. Within the context of this radical message, Yeziarska revisits the themes that have made her work	famous, confronting complex questions of ethnic identity, assimilation, and female self-realization. Katherine Stubbs's introduction provides a comprehensive and compelling historical, social, and literary context for this extraordinary novel and discusses the critical reaction to its publication in light of Yeziarska's biography and the once much-publicized and mythologized version of her life story. Unavailable for over sixty years,
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Arrogant Beggar will be enjoyed by general readers of fiction and be of crucial importance for feminist critics, students of ethnic literature. It will also prove an exciting and richly rewarding text for students and scholars of Jewish studies, immigrant literature, women's writing, American history, and working-class fiction.

### **Where Lovers Dream**

Courier Corporation

A young writer finds inspiration and purpose in the suffering of her

brethren.-22. Anzia Yezierska wrote about the struggles of female Jewish immigrants in New York's Lower East Side. She confronted the cost of acculturation and assimilation among immigrants. Her stories provide insight into the meaning of liberation for immigrants—particularly Jewish immigrant women.

### **"The Fat of the Land"**

Simon and Schuster

How Jews think about and work with objects is the subject of this fascinating

study of the interplay between material culture and Jewish thought. Ken Koltun-Fromm draws from philosophy, cultural studies, literature, psychology, film, and photography to portray the vibrancy and richness of Jewish practice in America. His analyses of Mordecai Kaplan's obsession with journal writing, Joseph Soloveitchik's urban religion, Abraham Joshua Heschel's fascination with objects in The Sabbath,

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and material identity in the works of Anzia Yezierska, Cynthia Ozick, Bernard Malamud, and Philip Roth, as well as Jewish images on the covers of Lilith magazine and in the Jazz Singer films, offer a groundbreaking approach to an understanding of modern Jewish thought and its relation to American culture.

*Reconstructing the 'self' in America* Persea Books

Thesis (M.A.) from the year 2006 in the subject American Studies -

Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Hannover (American Studies), 124 entries in the bibliography, language: English, abstract: I was born, I have lived, and I have been made over. Is it not time to write my life's story? [...] It is because I understand my history, in its larger outlines, to be typical of many, that I consider it worth recording. My life is a concrete illustration of a multitude of statistical facts. [...] I am only one of many whose fate it has been to live a page of modern history. We are the strands

of the cable that binds the Old World to the New (Antin,PL13-5)2. I suddenly realized that I had come back to where I had started twenty years ago when I began my fight for freedom. [...] And now I realized that the shadow of the burden was always following me, and here I stood face to face with it again. [...] But I felt the shadow still there, over me. It wasn't just my father, but the generations who made my father whose weight was still upon me (Yezierska,BG295-7)3. These are two quotations by

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two immigrant women - both experiencing an incisive and complete change in their young lives through the immigration from Eastern Europe to the United States of America at the end of the nineteenth century. This thesis investigates their individual immigrant experience that they claim to be representative of the lives of many. Immigration has always exerted a great influence on American life. Towards the turn to the 20th century, the United States was confronted with the largest stage of immigration in the nation's history. From 1890 on, a total of twenty million people entered the country until the 1920s (cf. Di Pietro, Ifkovic 6). Immigrants at the time were mainly from Southern and Eastern Europe; the largest groups were formed by Italians, Hebrews, Polish, Germans and English (cf. Gabbacia 140). On the one hand, the rapidly developing "economic expansion" (139) in the US required human labor; on the other hand, life in Europe was determined by famine and epidemics as well as political and religious persecution, to outline briefly the most important reasons for this big wave of migration. The conflict between the immigrants' expectations of a better life in the New World and the actual living conditions as well as the political climate the immigrants had to face in the United States has been treated in literature in many ways. The examination of cultural or ethnic identity and the process of assimilation, in this case Americanization, and its effects are very important issues in immigration literature as

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well.