

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

## “The New Colossus”

By Emma Lazarus

1883

*“The New Colossus” is a poem by Emma Lazarus that was published in 1883. It describes the millions of immigrants who came to America through the port of New York City at Ellis Island. As you read, consider how it must have felt to be one of the immigrants arriving at Ellis Island. Look for how Lazarus uses personification to convey the poem’s message.*



*On the way to Ellis Island, incoming boats sail past the Statue of Liberty. This poem is by engraved on a bronze plaque inside the lower level of the pedestal.*

- [1] Not like the brazen<sup>1</sup> giant of Greek fame<sup>2</sup>,  
 With conquering limbs astride from land to land;  
 Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand  
 A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
- [5] Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name  
 Mother of Exiles<sup>3</sup>. From her beacon-hand  
 Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command  
 The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.  
 “Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
- [10] With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,  
 Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,  
 The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.  
 Send these, the homeless, tempest<sup>4</sup>-tost to me,  
 I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

<sup>1</sup> **Brazen (adjective)**: bold; without shame or humility

<sup>2</sup> A reference to the Colossus of Rhodes, a statue of the Greek titan-god of the sun Helios, erected in the city of Rhodes in Greece in 280 BC. One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, it was constructed to celebrate a war victory.

<sup>3</sup> **Exile (noun)**: a person who has been forced to leave his or her native country for political or punitive reasons

<sup>4</sup> **Tempest (noun)**: a violent, windy storm



