

# Classroom projects for Is It Night or Day?

Edith Westerfeld is a child immigrant, a young girl whose parents sent her to the United States in 1938 in order to avoid the terrible persecution against Jews in Nazi Germany. Immigration is never an easy thing to do. Create a poster or computer-generated project that shows some of the difficulties Edith experienced in America.

Imagine that the Department of State has asked you to design a poster or brochure that the United States will give to each child immigrant coming into the United States. This poster or brochure will show, in words and art, what it means to be an American. Your task is to design such a poster, brochure, or power-point presentation.

Create a “Then and Now” poster/brochure/chart/computer-generated project that shows what a child immigrant should “give up” or change in order to have a successful immigration into the United States.

Many child immigrants are terribly confused by the English language. Not only is English difficult to learn, but some of the slang, figurative expressions, and vocabulary used by young Americans are perplexing as well. Create a “dictionary” that includes important words and phrases a young immigrant must learn in order to have a successful immigration to America.

The “Pledge of Allegiance” caused Edith some painful difficulties. Design a poster, with the American flag as its focus, showing your feelings about the Pledge of Allegiance.

In the novel, Edith receives various “labels.” Create a “Label Project” around the theme of labels and labeling. Your project could include some of the labels Edith received and some of the labels that cause pain in your own school. Make sure that your project shows your own attitude about labels.

Make a “Top Ten” list that describes the ten things a young immigrant must know about the culture of the United States in order to become an American.

Create a brochure, poster, or power-point project about the importance of a person’s name to his or her identity. What happens to a person when he or she changes his or her name? (Some students use acrostic poems to compare a before and after name change.)

All of us, at some time in our lives, feel like an outsider (just as Edith felt upon arriving in the United States). Create a project that shows what it is like to not fit in. Your project could include “tips” as to how a person can learn to “fit in.” Another idea would be to create a project that shows a time in your own life where you didn’t “fit in.”

With photographs, drawings, poems, dialogue, or any other means of expression, create a project about the things you would like to change in yourself.

As you know, Edith had a difficult time adjusting to her new American family. Create a dialogue between Edith and her sister in which Edith confides her frustrations and upset.

Create your own poster or project of a family that has difficulty in communication. Use art and words to show the cause of the problem and how the problem “plays out” in the family.

Edith receives a great deal of pride and pleasure from following the career of Jewish baseball star Hank Greenberg. Design a project (poster, brochure, power-point) of a current sports star, actor/actress, artist, or musician/signer who may serve as an inspiration to a minority-group youngster today.

Create a project that answers the following question: “What is a hero? What makes a person a hero?”