

“An Immigrant’s Journey” Artwork Summary

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My submission portrays the journey my great-grandmother took to migrate from her home country of Czechoslovakia. She, like the countless other migrants around her, laid her sights on American soil with the yearning for a better life. On July 14, 1907 with no money or belongings, she embarked on a Red Star Line steamship called the Friesland headed across the Atlantic Ocean to North America. Since she arrived through the immigration port on Ellis Island, her Czech and Hungarian influences and traditions have remained rooted in my family’s history. Although I have never met her, I can taste the quest for a fresh beginning in every bite of her goulash and other recipes recreated by my mother. It is her story and the story of millions of immigrants that have crossed into foreign soil that fuel the great diverse culture around me everywhere I go. I am constantly enriched by the melting pot of ethnicity that is the United States population. In school, in my home, and even in the food I eat there are the lasting experiences of someone else’s great-grandmother.