

## First Stop, Ellis Island (play)

### Analysis Questions

1. The last line of Act 1, Scene 1 is “America! Everything will be fine now! Nothing bad will ever happen to us here!” What effect is created by making that line end the scene? Explain why that line’s being the final words creates that effect.
2. The story of Ivan and Nicolai is split up into two scenes and is interrupted by the story of Paulina. Why would the author choose to split the story of Ivan and Nicolai rather than move directly into the rest of it in the next scene? (What effect does it have on the story and/or play?) Be sure to explain how the split specifically helps to create that effect.
3. The play mixes both facts (spoken by the narrator(s)) and fictional dialogue. What does the dialogue do/add to the text? (In other words, why is it better to have both facts and dialogue rather than just facts?) Explain your reasoning behind your answer.
4. Read the narration for Act 1 Scene 3. Then reread the dialogue that follows it. How does what is said in the dialogue shape our thoughts/feelings about the facts that are in the narration? Explain your reasoning behind your answer.
5. Does the play seem to take a side on the topic of immigration? If so, which? (Does it seem pro-immigration or anti-immigration or is it neutral?) Explain your answer with evidence from the text.

Now read the adapted version of the play and answer the following questions. Refer to the two versions either by referring to their order of publication (original or adapted) or by their respective authors (Peros for the original play or Tanksi for the adapted play).

6. The adapted versions of the play changes the names and ethnicities/nationalities of some of the characters even though their stories don't change. Assuming that she was given permission to adapt the play and therefore was not worried about things like plagiarism, why do you think that Tanksi would have changed the names and ethnicities/nationalities of those characters? In other words, how would changing the names benefit the play?
  
7. Aside from name and ethnicity changes, there are several major additions from the original play to the adapted version.
  - a. What additional characters were created that didn't exist in any form (in other words, it's **not** simply a name change) in the original play?
  
  - b. What **three** pages have the most significant additions to narration?
  
8. How do the additions of characters and narration specifically affect the play? Obviously there is more information with the additions, but how does the additional information change the feel of the play? Be specific.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
9. Which version, Peros' original version or the Tanksi's adapted version, is better? Why? What makes the one version superior to the other? You must be specific in your reasoning; simply saying one makes more sense or has more information is not specific enough.