

Literature Circles Culminating Activity: Writing a Welcome Letter

You have gotten to know a character and his or her story as you read a novel with your group. Imagine that the character will soon be moving to your school.

Write a well-supported letter to your principal, parents, teachers, and fellow students on how you would welcome that character, as an immigrant student, to your community and school.

As you prepare your letter, consider what you learned from your reading, research, and discussion about

- People from the Middle East
- The effects and processes of immigration
- Issues related to growing up
- Adapting to a new place

Your ideas for welcoming this character should be based on what you have learned about the character's personality and circumstances, taking into account his or her life experiences, likes and dislikes, and reasons for coming to the United States.

adapted from Finkle, Sheryl L. and Tamara J. Lilly. *Middle Ground: Exploring Selected Literature from and about the Middle East*. Urbana, IL: NCTE, 2008.