

Name: _____ Class: _____

The New Colossus

By Emma Lazarus
1883

Emma Lazarus (1849-1887) was a Jewish American poet, best known for her sonnet "The New Colossus." This poem is currently engraved on a bronze plaque and displayed on the Statue of Liberty's pedestal. The statue stands across from the historic Ellis Island, through which millions of immigrants came into the U.S. in the late 1800s and early 1900s. As you read, take notes on how the poem describes and portrays the Statue of Liberty.

- [1] Not like the brazen¹ giant of Greek fame,²
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,³ and her name
Mother of Exiles.⁴ 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!"⁵ cries
she
- [10] With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse⁶ of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost⁷ to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"



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1. **Brazen (adjective):** bold; without shame or humility
2. This is a reference to the Colossus of Rhodes: a statue of the Greek god Helios, god of the sun. This statue was built in Rhodes, Greece, in 280 BCE to celebrate victory in war. It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
3. a reference to electricity
4. **Exile (noun):** the state of being forced to leave one's native country; someone who leaves their native country
5. splendid display; an old term for great pride
6. **Refuse (noun):** something thrown away or rejected as worthless; trash
7. **Tempest (noun):** a violent, windy storm