

# 1c Bloodlines

## Reading

1 Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.

- Why do you think people emigrate to other countries?
- What difficulties do immigrants face when they settle in a new country?

2 Read the article about immigrants in New York. Then cover the text and try to remember these details from Richard and Tanja's stories.

- 1 where their ancestors originally came from
- 2 what Richard and Tanja's jobs are now
- 3 how coming from immigrant families has influenced them

3 Read the article again. According to the writer, are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 1 Many immigrants in Queens feel attached to their new country.                          | T | F |
| 2 Tomas had a good relationship with his stepmother.                                     | T | F |
| 3 Tomas met his brother in New York one day by accident.                                 | T | F |
| 4 Tanja's mother was able to balance her job with being involved with Tanja's education. | T | F |
| 5 Tanja has chosen a similar career to her parents.                                      | T | F |

4 Find these phrases in the article. Work with a partner to discuss what you think they mean.

- 1 a **melting pot** (paragraph 1)
- 2 **their ancestral roots** (paragraph 2)
- 3 **seek his fortune** (paragraph 3)
- 4 a **strong work ethic** (paragraph 4)

## Critical thinking evaluating conclusions

5 What conclusions do you think the author wanted you to draw after reading the article? Check (✓) your answers.

- Immigration has benefited America.
- Immigrants have a stronger connection to their original country than their new home.
- It is important for descendants of immigrants to be aware of their family history.
- Immigrant families have a strong motivation to work hard and make a good life for themselves.
- Many immigrants struggle to adapt to their new home because of cultural differences.

6 Work in pairs. Where in the text did you find evidence to draw the conclusions in Exercise 5? Which do you think is the author's main conclusion? Why?

## Word focus sense

7 Look at the expression in **bold** from the article. Then circle the best options to complete the sentences (1–5).

... all of us have a strong **sense of belonging** to ...

- 1 It doesn't *have / make* any sense to emigrate if you are happy where you are.
- 2 Most people want a secure job. It's *common / usual* sense.
- 3 She's got a great sense of *humor / comedy*.
- 4 My parents did a lot for me, so I feel a sense of *necessity / duty* to take care of them now.
- 5 I always get lost in big cities. I have a terrible *sense of direction / location*.

## Speaking **myLife**

8 Work in pairs. Look at the questionnaire below. Take turns asking and answering the questions with your partner. Does family have a strong influence in your lives?

### HOW DOES FAMILY SHAPE YOU?

- 1 Do you think you have a close family?
- 2 How much time do you spend with family:
  - out of a sense of duty?
  - because you want to?
- 3 Is family a consideration for you in choosing where to live?
- 4 How aware are you of your family's history?
- 5 Is there a "head" of the family? How important is it to have this person's approval?
- 6 Who in your family do you particularly admire? Why?
- 7 Has your family influenced your academic choices or your chosen career path?
- 8 When seeking advice, do you usually ask your friends or your family?



# BLOOD LINES

▶ 5

- 1** The USA, as a whole, is well-known for being a melting pot of different ethnic groups and cultures. This diversity is particularly evident in Queens, New York. Here, second-generation Puerto Ricans live alongside third-generation Greeks and first-generation Koreans, all united by a feeling of pride in their American identity.
- 2** <sup>10</sup> However, they are also proud of something that fascinates us all: their ancestral roots. These days, tracing back your family tree as far as you can is a popular hobby, but what <sup>15</sup> really interests these families is their recent history: how their grandparents and great-grandparents arrived in America, why they emigrated, and how they—their descendants—can <sup>20</sup> best honor their memory. Here are two Queens residents' stories.

**Richard, 38**

**3** My great-grandfather Tomas was a builder by trade—like me. He came to America from Poland when he was fifteen. His mother had become ill and died, and his father decided to remarry. Tomas didn't like his new stepmother, so he ran away to Belgium, where he boarded a ship to America. Arriving in America with nothing, he got a job on the railroads in California. Then one day, by chance, he saw an announcement in a newspaper. It was from his brother in New York who had also come to America to seek his fortune and was now looking for Tomas. Tomas got in touch, and the two had an emotional reunion in New York. Tomas settled in the city, and the two brothers worked in construction. This is the story that my grandmother has passed down to us, to my parents, and all my aunts and uncles. She is an amazing woman—the one who holds us all together. <sup>35</sup> This has meant that all of us have a strong sense of belonging to a group that has struggled and fought together to succeed.

**Tanja, 29**

**4** I'm a first-generation American. Both my parents came here from Jamaica. My dad was a nurse in Jamaica, but he had an ambition to be a doctor in the <sup>40</sup> US. When he first came here, he studied during the day and worked at night. Both my parents have a strong work ethic. My mom has always worked as a nurse, but at the same time has always been very involved in my life, helping with my studies and following my career with interest. I've followed my parents into the medical profession, and now I'm working as a doctor at the Mount Sinai Hospital in Queens. I don't know if that kind of dedication is genetic or just something that you learn from your parents, but that desire <sup>45</sup> to get ahead ... I've certainly inherited it. The great thing about America is that it gives you the opportunity to live out your dreams, too.”