

# Delve Deeper into *The Learning*

A Film by Ramona Diaz

This resource list, compiled by Susan Conlon and Martha Perry Liu of the Princeton Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film *The Learning*.

One hundred years ago, American teachers established the English-speaking public school system of the Philippines. Now, in a striking turnabout, American schools are recruiting Filipino teachers. ***The Learning*** is the story of four Filipino women who reluctantly leave their families and schools to teach in Baltimore. With their increased salaries, they hope to transform their families' lives back in their impoverished country. But the women also bring idealistic visions of the teacher's craft and of life in America, which soon collide with Baltimore's tough realities.

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## ADULT NONFICTION

### Immigration

**Ling, Huping. *Voices of the Heart: Asian American Women on Immigration, Work, and Family*. Kirksville, MO: Truman State University Press, 2007.**

This is a collection of stories of Chinese, Japanese, Filipina, Korean, and Asian Indian women's journeys to America, their aspirations, their strides in education and employment, their cultural heritage, and their family dynamics.

**Yen Le Espiritu. *Home Bound: Filipino American Lives Across Cultures, Communities, and Countries*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.** Filipino Americans who experience life in the United States as immigrants, colonized nationals, and racial minorities, have been little studied, though they are one of our largest immigrant groups. Based on her in-depth interviews with more than one hundred Filipinos in San Diego, California, Yen Le Espiritu investigates how Filipino women and men are transformed through the experience of migration, and how they in turn remake the world around them.

### Labor Migration

**Bulosan, Carlos. *America Is in the Heart*. UWP ed., 1946.**

First published in 1946, this autobiography of the well-known Filipino poet describes his boyhood in the Philippines, his voyage to America, and his years of hardship and despair as an itinerant laborer following the harvest trail in the rural West.

**Workers' Remittance Flows in Southeast Asia. Manila, Philippines: Asian Development Bank, 2006.** This report examines remittance fund flow from a regional perspective and identifies policies that can leverage remittances.

**Nazario, Sonia. *Enrique's Journey*. New York: Random House, 2006.** This novel recounts the story of a teen who decides to pursue his mother, who emigrated from Honduras to the U.S. to find work and send money home. *Enrique's Journey* sheds light on the risk immigrants take to find a better life.

### Education

**Goodnough, Abby. *Ms. Moffett's First Year: Becoming a Teacher in America*. New York: Public Affairs, 2004.** This story is a biographical account of Donna Moffett's first year as a first-grade teacher in an underperforming Brooklyn school. Moffett makes the professional transition from secretary to teacher through New York City Teaching Fellows program, designed in the spring of 2000 to recruit professionals from other careers to work in the city's most troubled schools.

**Meier, Deborah, and George Wood, eds. *Many Children Left Behind: How the No Child Left Behind Act is Damaging Our Children and Our Schools*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2004.** This citizens' guide addresses what's wrong with the nation's radical federal education legislation—and makes a passionate call for change.

**Orr, Marion. *Black Social Capital: The Politics of School Reform in Baltimore, 1986-1998*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 1999.**

Deindustrialization, white flight, and inner city poverty have spelled trouble for Baltimore schools. Marion Orr now examines why school reform has been difficult to achieve there, revealing the struggles of civic leaders and the limitations placed on Baltimore's African-American community as each has tried to rescue a failing school system.

**Ravitch, Diane. *The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice are Undermining Education*. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2010.** Award-winning author and former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch critiques a lifetime's worth of school reforms and reveals the simple, yet difficult, truth about how we can create actual change in public schools.

**Wilson, Steven F. *Learning on the Job: When Business Takes on Public Schools*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2006.** Can businesses in fact run public schools better than school districts? With remarkable honesty and fairness on an ideologically charged topic, Wilson describes the follies and wisdom, overreaching and real accomplishment, of the first education entrepreneurs.

### Filipino Culture

**Duldulao, Manuel D. *The Filipinos: Portrait of a People*. Oro Books, 1987.** This book is a comprehensive study of the diversity of the Filipino people and their country.

**Francia, Luis H., and Eric Gamalinda, eds. *Flippin': Filipinos on America*. Asian American Writers' Workshop, 1996.** Here for the first time are Filipino and Filipino American writers telling their lives in their own words. Here are stories of passion and betrayal, home and exile, the politics of the self and a nation in search of itself. Together, these works provide a deeper image of the Philippines and ultimately, a vivid perspective of America as well.



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**Karnow, Stanley. *In Our Image: America's Empire In The Philippines*. Random House, 1989.**

This book has been widely acclaimed as the most comprehensive study on U.S.-Philippine relations.

**San Juan, E. *Toward Filipino Self-Determination: Beyond Transnational Globalization*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2009.** San Juan examines the project of Filipino self-determination in the context of capitalist globalization.

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## NON-FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

### Filipino Culture

**Romulo, Liana. *Filipino Friends*. Tokyo; Rutland, VT: Tuttle Pub., 2007.** PreK-grade 2. Through the eyes of Sam, a Filipino-American boy visiting the Philippines for the very first time, children will learn about Philippine customs and language.

**Skog, Jason. *Teens in the Philippines*. Minneapolis, MN: Compass Point Books, 2009.** Grades 6-12. *Teens in the Philippines* looks at the contemporary culture of the Philippines from the perspective of young people.

**Mildenstein, Tammy and Samuel Cord Stier. *Philippines*. Philadelphia: Chelsea House Publishers, 2005.** *Philippines* discusses the geography, history, people, culture, politics, and economy of the Philippines, and considers the country's future.

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## FICTION FOR YOUNG READERS

### Filipino Culture

**Brainard, Cecilia Manguerra. *Growing Up Filipino: Stories for Young Adults*. Santa Monica, CA: PALH, 2003. Grade 9 and up.** Twenty-nine stories about what it means to be young and Filipino. See also, ***Growing Up Filipino II: More Stories for Young Adults*, 2010.**

**Gourlay, Candy. *Tall Story*. New York: David Fickling Books, 2011.** Grades 6-9. Sixteen-year-old Bernardo, who is eight feet tall and suffers from a condition called

Gigantism, leaves the Philippines to live with his mother's family in London, much to the delight of his thirteen-year-old half sister Andi, a passionate basketball player.

**Romulo, Liana. *Filipino Children's Favorite Stories*. [Hong Kong]: Periplus; North Clarendon, VT : Distributed by Tuttle Pub., 2000.** Grades 3-6. *Filipino Children's Favorite Stories* is a compilation of 13 short folktales, many of them classics of the Filipino culture.

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## FILMS/DOCUMENTARIES

### Baltimore

**"Boys of Baraka." A film by Heidi Rachel Grady. Loki Films, LLC, 2005 (84 min.)** This film follows a group of 12-year-old boys from the most violent ghettos of Baltimore to the Baraka School, an experimental boarding school in rural Kenya, where children live by strict guidelines, yet are given the freedom to grow.

### Education

**"The Hobart Shakespeareans." Produced by Mel Stuart. Distributed in the U.S. by New Video, 2006.** One year. One class. One play. The Latino-and Asian-American children crowding Los Angeles' sprawling Hobart Boulevard Elementary face daunting odds: low-income households, under-funded, overcrowded school, and a neighborhood known for crime, not opportunity. Teacher Rafe Esquith expects the best from these kids, leading his fifth-graders through a rigorous core curriculum of English, mathematics, geography, and literature. The pinnacle of each year is the performance of a full-length, unabridged play by Shakespeare. Esquith's motto is "Be nice, work hard. There are no shortcuts" and the Hobart Shakespeareans prove that any kid can succeed, and go on to live the American dream.

### Immigration

**"In America." Directed by Jim Sheridan. 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox Home Entertainment, 2004.** An Irish couple brings their two young daughters, Christy and Ariel, to America in search of a better life. The sisters find New York's Hell's Kitchen a place of magic where anything is possible. To their parents, it represents a place to begin anew. Carried by the girls' youthful hope and faith, the family

finds the heart to live and love again.

**"Sugar." Written and directed by Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck. Culver City, CA: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 2009.**

Miguel 'Sugar' Santos is a talented Dominican baseball player who longs to break into the American big league and earn the money needed to support his impoverished family. Advancing in baseball's minor league system at the tender age of 19, Miguel is warmly welcomed into the small-town Iowa home of his host family. He struggles with language and cultural barriers despite the kindness of strangers. However, the previously single-minded pitcher gradually begins to question both the world he lives in and the role he has chosen to play in it.

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## ARTICLES

**Abella, Danilo I. and Alburo, Forian A. *International Labour Migration from Developing Countries: Study on the Philippines*. International Migration Papers, International Migration Programme, International Labour Office, Geneva.**

<http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protect/migrant/download/imp/imp51e.pdf>

**Coates, Ta-Nehisi. "Education: Looking Abroad For A Few Good Teachers," *Time Magazine*. November, 21 2005.**

<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1132834,00.html#ixzz1U57SveFu>

***Migrant Remittances to Families Ease Poverty in Poor Countries. You Think! -World Bank. 7 April, 2009.***

<http://youthink.worldbank.org/issue/s/employment/migrant-remittances-families-ease-poverty-poor-countries>

**Onishi, Norimitsu. "Toiling Far From Home for Philippine Dreams." *The New York Times*. 18 September, 2010.**

<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/world/asia/19phils.html>

**"Urban and Inner City Schools." Brookings.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/topics/urban-and-inner-city-schools.aspx>

