



## Newcomers

### Sample lesson plan

The Dallas / Fort Worth International Airport is bigger than the island of Manhattan. More than 70 million people pass through DFW each year.

In *Newcomers*, 5 new people arrive at the airport to work. These young people emigrated from Bangladesh, China, Ghana, and Mexico. Some drive buses. Others sell coffee, books, and clothes. And some rub your aching neck and feet in day spas. Travelers pass by them without a second look. These employees become friends as they learn about a new culture and try to understand a confusing world of work.

You will encounter some [vocabulary](#) that you can discuss ahead of time:

<a href="#">apply online</a>	<a href="#">dusty</a>	<a href="#">old-fashioned</a>
<a href="#">apron</a>	<a href="#">educated</a>	<a href="#">organic</a>
<a href="#">barista</a>	<a href="#">engine</a>	<a href="#">out of a job</a>
<a href="#">bestseller</a>	<a href="#">fashion magazines</a>	<a href="#">physics</a>
<a href="#">blouse</a>	<a href="#">fiction</a>	<a href="#">program had dropped her</a>
<a href="#">bookshelves</a>	<a href="#">flight crews</a>	<a href="#">romance novel</a>
<a href="#">cheating</a>	<a href="#">handle</a>	<a href="#">rumbled</a>
<a href="#">checkpoint</a>	<a href="#">high-class</a>	<a href="#">security checkpoint</a>
<a href="#">communication style</a>	<a href="#">hijab</a>	<a href="#">shuttle bus</a>
<a href="#">community college</a>	<a href="#">immigration</a>	<a href="#">stubborn</a>
<a href="#">credit card slips</a>	<a href="#">MA program</a>	<a href="#">style</a>
<a href="#">cricket</a>	<a href="#">massage therapists</a>	<a href="#">terminal</a>
<a href="#">crowd</a>	<a href="#">master's degree</a>	<a href="#">top secret</a>
<a href="#">degree</a>	<a href="#">mechanic</a>	<a href="#">uniforms</a>
<a href="#">delay</a>	<a href="#">mother tongue</a>	<a href="#">US Department of Labor</a>
<a href="#">department</a>	<a href="#">nursing school</a>	<a href="#">velvet</a>

### **Read out loud!**

The teacher can model by reading the first paragraph of a chapter. Then, students can read one at a time or in groups, a chapter at a time. This can take several classes or sessions.

### **Here are a few videos (under 5 minutes each) to spark conversation:**

Career exploration: working as a barista in an airport. British English with closed captions available.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RsfTBgaznho>

Career exploration: working as a massage therapist.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgg5MwOTJjk>

Career exploration: work and benefits of a Transportation Security Officer.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9dDxuTjXqjl>

Career exploration: working as a bus transit driver.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oo0oskReDzI>

What is Dept. of Labor (Wage & Hour Division)? Recommend slowing speed of video and using captions.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isB4\\_f1lenU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isB4_f1lenU)

### **Discussion questions:**

1. Who are the main characters in the book? Can you tell me one thing about each main character?
2. What jobs do the characters have at the airport? Why are those jobs important?
3. How do the characters help each other? Give one example from the story.
4. Why do you think Ababio decides to play a trick on Vern Junior with the chicken feet? Was it a good idea?
5. How does Kaleda change from the beginning of the story to the end of the story? What helps her change?
6. Talk about a part of the book that makes you laugh or feel happy. Why did it make you feel this way?
7. If you could give advice to one character in the book, who would it be and what advice would you give?

### Comprehension Multiple Choice questions:

1. What happened to the money Wei Zhang and his co-workers were supposed to receive?

- A. The owner of AirSpa took it and escaped to China.**
- B. The money was given to the officers.
- C. Wei Zhang spent it all.
- D. The money was lost.

2. Why did Kaleda Zia feel sad and think a lot while sitting on the grass?

- A. She lost her bag.
- B. She couldn't find her way to the airport.
- C. She was considering if she really wanted to keep her job.**
- D. She was waiting for a friend.

3. What does Wei Zhang not understand in the story?

- A. The letters L-A-B-O-R.
- B. The reason people are in front of AirSpa.
- C. The reason officers are in the shop.
- D. Both A and C.**

4. What change happened to Kaleda Zia at the end of the story?

- A. She started wearing different clothes.
- B. She became more confident and expressive.**
- C. She quit her job at Moon Lake Coffee.
- D. She moved to a different city.

5. What did Ababio and Rosa buy at the carniceria?

- A. Pork feet
- B. Beef
- C. Chicken feet**
- D. Fish

For each question, the correct answer is **highlighted in bold**.

## Geography extensions:

### **1. Understanding Geographical Terms:**

The story mentions various geographical terms like countries, cities, and state. Discuss with the students the differences between a country, a city, and a state. Have students list some examples of each.

### **2. Mapping the Story Locations:**

The some of the locations mentioned in the book are Wuhan, China, the United States, Ghana, Bangladesh, Puebla, Mexico, and Dallas, TX. Find and mark these locations on the world map. If there are immigrant students in the class, have them also mark countries they've lived in or originate from.

**Project Extension:** Assign students locations from the book. Have them research and write 3-5 sentences about these places. Share findings with the class.

## Math Extensions:

### **1. Understanding Tips and Earnings:**

Wei Zhang received \$8,000 after the Department of Labor found that his boss had been stealing tips. If Wei Zhang worked for five months, how much did he earn in tips per month?

### **2. Comparing Earnings:**

If another worker only received \$6,000 in tips for the same five months, how much less did they earn compared to Wei Zhang each month?

### **3. Calculating Expenses:**

Suppose Wei Zhang pays \$1,200 for rent, \$200 for food, and \$100 for other expenses each month. How much money does he have left after all these expenses if he earns \$1,600 from tips per month?

### **4. Budgeting for a Trip:**

Ababio plans to fly to Ghana for a visit. If a round-trip ticket costs \$1,200 and he plans to spend \$800 while in Ghana, how much money does he need to save for the entire trip?

## Project-Based Extension: Exploring Educational and Vocational Technical Programs

### **Objective:**

Students will research, explore, and present information on an educational or Vo-Tech program offered at community colleges or workforce development centers.

### **Instructions:**

Research: Each student selects an educational or Vo-Tech program that interests them from the book or otherwise. Programs could be in fields like healthcare, technology, business, automotive, culinary arts, etc.

**Guiding Questions:** As students conduct their research, have them answer the following questions:

1. What is the program about?
2. What skills can you learn from the program?
3. How long does the program take to complete?
4. What are the admission requirements?
5. What job opportunities are available after completing the program?
6. How much does it cost?

**Create a Brochure:** Students will create a brochure or flyer using paper, computer, or any online design tool. The brochure should include:

1. Program's name and brief description.
2. Highlighted skills that students will acquire.
3. Admission requirements.
4. Duration of the program.
5. Potential job opportunities.
6. Images related to the program (if applicable.)

### **Presentations:**

Each student will present their brochure to the class, explaining the details they've researched and why they find the program interesting or valuable.

## **Reflection:**

After all presentations, conduct a class discussion about the variety of programs available, their importance, and how these programs can help individuals in their careers.

## **Optional Extension:**

Students can interview someone who has already completed the selected program, asking about their experiences, challenges, and the impact the program had on their career. Another option would be to invite people from some popular career sectors to visit your book club. Help students write out questions they want to ask in advance.

## **What to read next:**

### ***Continuing reading about airports travel with us!***

- ***Airport*** (slightly higher reading level)
- ***A Girls' Guide to the Islands*** (about 1.5 reading levels higher)
- ***The Cell Phone Lot*** (about ½ reading level lower)

### ***Continue reading about living abroad with us!***

- ***Post Office on the Tokaido*** (about the same reading level)