

Immigration, Industry, and the American Dream *(cont.)*

Directions

1. You will be the host of this mystery party. There are 12 characters for the party. In most classrooms, you will need to divide the class in half and have two different parties running at the same time. Make sure you have a physical barrier in the room (a row of desks) so that students only talk to the characters at their own party.
2. Distribute the *Guest List* and assign students to the characters they will be role-playing. If your class has more than 24 students, you will have to ask a few students to share characters. You can call them twins.
3. Distribute the *Character Sheets* and give students time to make themselves nametags. If you like, you can assign this for homework and ask students to come to class with costumes as well. You may also want to give your students a day to study their *Character Sheets* to prepare for the party.
4. At the beginning of your mystery day, greet characters, check for nametags, and then read the *Introduction Read-Aloud* (page 158) to the students.
5. Remind students that their primary goal is to ask characters questions as directed on their *Character Sheets*. They should record the characters' answers because these are the clues to the mystery. Only through talking to other characters will they be able to figure out the solution to the mystery.
6. Students may also gather additional clues, which they should write on the back of their *Character Sheets*. They might get additional information by overhearing other characters talking, trading clues, or blackmailing other characters. Students can also threaten to reveal other characters' secrets if the characters don't cough up information. Encourage students to improvise in making deals.
7. After previewing characters, have Inspector Jones read aloud the *Crime Scene Report*. When he is finished, post the report where students can reference it throughout the rest of the activity. Allow the remainder of the class period for students to mingle while gathering clues. This should be fun! Encourage students to role-play characters to the best of their ability, but monitor that students are acting appropriately. Also, encourage students to meet as many other characters as possible.
8. Students must also write answers to the four questions included on the *Crime Scene Report*. These questions can be collected and scored for completeness if you'd like.
9. After the party, have the students vote on the person they believe is the thief. Then, read the *Closure Read-Aloud* (page 159) to the students and finish with the *Habits of Mind Discussion* (page 174).
10. If you like, give students a character quiz, asking them to write short descriptions of at least eight characters they met.

Immigration, Industry, and the American Dream *(cont.)*

Things to Consider

1. Read the introduction and distribute *Character Sheets* the day before the actual mystery party. With some classes, you may have them do some research on additional facts about their characters, writing the facts on their *Character Sheets* as homework.
2. Margaret Carnegie is the culprit, though not a malicious one, as it turns out. Bela Lugosi is also involved in the crime. You will want strong students playing these roles, who will be able to keep the secret and avoid getting caught. You might even want to preview the roles with your chosen students before the mystery day.
3. The characters Thomas Bailey Aldrich and Inspector Jones will be asked to role-play prejudice against immigrants. Make sure you give these parts to students who can handle them appropriately.
4. Some of the *Character Sheets* are written at a fairly high reading level. With a younger class you may want to preview the characters and clues as a class discussion, or you can invite parents to join you for the day to help students as needed.

Introduction Read-Aloud

Welcome to the Party of the Century, held at the home of Mr. J.P. Morgan, one of the most successful businessmen of the Industrial Revolution! It's towards the end of 1900 and Andrew Carnegie has agreed to sell his company, Carnegie Steel, to J.P. Morgan for 480 million dollars. This deal would make J.P. Morgan's new company, U.S. Steel, the largest company in the world. It would be the first one worth more than one billion dollars.

It's at this party that Morgan will formally present Carnegie with the "Golden Key" that opens the bank vault where the \$480 million is stored. At the start of the party, Carnegie and Morgan locked the golden key in an upstairs safe where it will stay until the presentation ceremony. But there's foul play afoot.

Everybody at the party has their own agenda, their own reasons for attending, their own secrets, and others' secrets they are keeping. And it seems like anybody who is anybody is here. There's Thomas Bailey Aldrich, who wrote a famous poem condemning immigration; Levi Strauss who immigrated to the U.S. but has already built up a huge jeans business in San Francisco; the bodybuilder Charles Atlas, who was born in Italy; and that creepy Bela Lugosi, who plays monsters in silent films.

We will role-play the Party of the Century, and who knows what could happen!

Immigration, Industry, and the American Dream *(cont.)*

Closure Read-Aloud

Though it was a splendid party, Bela Lugosi didn't feel like he quite fit in. In fact, there didn't seem to be any other Hungarian immigrants at the entire party. The only person he really got along with was little Margaret Carnegie. Though most kids were scared of Bela, he was kind at heart and loved showing off for children. And tonight he had a special trick.

Bela Lugosi had been sneaking around upstairs, when his abnormally large ears picked up the sound of J.P. Morgan's parrot talking to itself in the study. What was the parrot saying? Lugosi listened closer: "Five, forty-two, thirteen . . . five, forty-two, thirteen . . . squawk! Five, forty-two, . . . squawk!" It was the combination to the safe!

Lugosi knew better than to tell the combination to anyone at the party. It seemed as if there were more than a few people here who had reasons to steal the golden key, but he couldn't resist opening the safe just once. He brought Margaret Carnegie into the study, made a magician's spooky face, and spun the dials. Click! The safe popped open and Margaret clapped her little hands!

For Lugosi, that was the end of the night's adventure. He closed the safe and went back to the party. But, had he remembered to lock the safe behind him?

Margaret wanted another look at the pretty golden key. She told everyone at the party that she was tired and then snuck into the study. But, she was too short to reach the safe. Margaret was a resourceful girl and was happy to see all the books stacked neatly on their shelves. When she had been too short to play the piano, she had sat on two books, and now she pulled all the books off one of the low shelves and stacked them below the safe. The stack teetered back and forth, but Margaret was just able to grab the handle of the safe. It swung open easily and she snatched the golden key!

Margaret jumped off the stack of books and bumped into the side table with a loud bang. Oh, no! She was sure everyone would be mad if they saw her holding the key. She shoved the key in her pocket and ran to the bedroom at the end of the hall.

Not so long after this, Pien Ma, the Chinese butler was cleaning upstairs. Dusting was a regular part of his job and he knew that Mr. Morgan would want the safe especially shiny for tonight. But when Pien Ma dusted the handle of the safe, the door swung open. The golden key was gone! Pien Ma knew that because he was an immigrant, if he told people about the open safe and the missing key, they would accuse him of the crime. He quietly closed and locked the safe, and didn't tell anyone. Later in the night, after Inspector Jones and Thomas Bailey Aldrich accused him of the crime anyway, Pien Ma wished he had told the truth from the beginning, but by that point it was too late.

Did anyone in our class solve the crime?

Crime Scene Report

Directions: To be read aloud by Inspector Jones at the beginning of the party.

The most important event at this party is the presentation of the Golden Key. When J.P. Morgan gives the key to Andrew Carnegie, they will seal the deal to sell Carnegie Steel to Mr. Morgan for 480 million dollars.

Unfortunately, when Mr. Morgan goes to get the key from his upstairs wall safe, the key is missing! Here are the facts:

1. The safe was locked at the beginning of the party and it was locked when Mr. Morgan went to get the key at the end of the party.
2. The key was in the safe at the beginning of the party, and it's not there now.
3. There are many books lying around on the floor of the study where the wall safe is kept.
4. As far as you know now, there were no witnesses to the crime other than Mr. Morgan's pet bird.

As investigators, it's our job to answer four questions:

- 1. How did the safe get unlocked?**
- 2. Who stole the key and how did he or she do it?**
- 3. Why did he or she steal the key?**
- 4. Why did he or she relock the safe?**

Guest List

Andrew Carnegie—The owner of Carnegie Steel, Mr. Carnegie is a very rich man and today will become richer when he accepts the Golden Key from J.P. Morgan and seals the deal to sell Carnegie Steel for 480 million dollars.

Samuel Gompers—President of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Gompers fights big business for the rights of workers.

Charles Atlas—Recently arrived from Italy, Mr. Atlas is a world-renowned body builder. He has difficulty carrying on a conversation without flexing.

J.P. Morgan—Mr. Morgan is a leader in the Industrial Revolution. He has been buying up many other companies and with this deal he will create U.S. Steel, the first company in the world worth more than one billion dollars.

Bela Lugosi—Most people think Mr. Lugosi should try harder to leave his famous monster characters in the movies. Mr. Lugosi frightens small children.

Levi Strauss—Though he has only been in the country a short while, Mr. Strauss has built quite a business selling jeans in San Francisco. He is very active in the Jewish immigrant community.

Lucy Parsons—A crusader for workers' rights, Ms. Parsons is a fiery union organizer and won't back down from a fight with big business.

Margaret Carnegie—Miss Carnegie is the six-year-old daughter of Andrew Carnegie. She's never been allowed to stay up this late before.

Inspector Jones—At such an important event, the inspector is there to ensure that everything goes smoothly, especially with all these suspicious immigrants around!

Father Edward Flanagan—Father Flanagan plans to emigrate from Ireland and started something called Boys Town, where struggling children and orphans can always find a home.

Pien Ma—Pien Ma is a butler in the Carnegie household. He originally came to this country from China as an indentured servant to work on the railroads out West.

Thomas Bailey Aldrich—He is the famous poet who wrote "Unguarded Gates," which many feel is unfair and mean to immigrants. Some people also agree with Mr. Aldrich.

Character Sheet: Andrew Carnegie

You were born in Scotland to a poor family, but after immigrating to the United States, you have achieved the American Dream! Through your own talents and hard work, you have become a very rich man. Your many factories manufacture steel, which you sell to railroads and to builders in the cities that seem to be springing up everywhere.

Though business is good, you are ready to sell your company to J.P. Morgan and spend the rest of your life giving your money away, mostly to libraries and universities. It is at this party that you will seal the deal. Once J.P. Morgan gives you the Golden Key, he will own your company (Carnegie Steel) and you will be 480 million dollars richer.

Though you have always tried to be fair to your workers, some people say you have made money at the expense of the “little person.” Stick up for yourself when Samuel Gompers and Lucy Parsons attack your business practices!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You think J.P. Morgan is arrogant and should give more of his money away to the poor. You are having second thoughts about selling your business to him. Don't let this information get out, or people might think you had something to do with the crime.

Secrets you know:

J.P. Morgan mumbles the safe combination out loud every time he opens it.

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Pien Ma: As a recent immigrant, do you ever feel discriminated against?

J.P. Morgan: What kind of bird is in the cage in your study?

Inspector Jones: How do you feel about the recent immigration wave?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Why are you selling your company to J.P. Morgan?

I want to spend the rest of my life giving money away. I think the rich have a responsibility to give away most of their wealth.

2. Why would somebody steal the Golden Key from the safe?

Either they wanted to steal the 480 million dollars, or they wanted to stop me from selling my company.

3. Who would want to stop the sale of your company?

Mr. Gompers and Ms. Parsons hate big business and would love to see this deal stopped. Also, I think that Charles Atlas may have something to hide.

Character Sheet: Samuel Gompers

Sometimes businesses make money for their presidents by paying workers less money. Company presidents also make money by spending less on factory conditions. If workers can still make your products, who cares if the factory is dangerous?

As President of the American Federation of Labor, you make sure this doesn't happen! Don't let the big business leaders (Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Morgan) get away with paying their workers poor wages. You are a forceful and pushy person, who doesn't back down from a fight.

You are also an emigrant from England. Your parents were poor Russian Jews. Stick up for immigrant rights especially with Thomas Bailey Aldrich and Inspector Jones. Talk to Levi Strauss about his heritage. You both speak the Jewish language, Yiddish. When you talk to Strauss, you can pretend to speak another language.

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You and Ms. Parsons planned to steal the Golden Key and hold it hostage until Mr. Carnegie and Mr. Morgan agreed to make better conditions for workers in their factories. Don't let this information get out, or people might think you are guilty!

Secrets you know:

When you went to use the restroom, you saw Bela Lugosi sneaking down the stairs. Use this information however you like!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

J.P. Morgan: Why do you think all those books were spread around your floor?

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: Why did you write the poem "Unguarded Gates"?

Charles Atlas: Why did you come to America?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. How do you know Lucy Parsons?

We both help workers fight against big business for better working conditions. Not that we would do anything to stop the sale of Mr. Carnegie's company to Mr. Morgan.

2. What is the language you keep speaking with Levi Strauss?

It's called Yiddish. We are both sons of Jewish immigrants. Why? Does it sound to you like we are planning something?

3. How do you feel about the deal between Carnegie and Morgan?

I think its big business getting bigger, and I don't like it. These two have made their fortunes at the expense of the workers and it's time they paid for it.

Character Sheet: Charles Atlas

You are a recent emigrant from Italy and a famous bodybuilder. You can barely have a conversation without stopping to flex your bulging muscles and twirl your long mustache. Many people like Thomas Bailey Aldrich and Inspector Jones think of Italians immigrants as trash. Stick up for immigrant rights!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You have saved enough money to return to Italy and plan to leave right after the party. Don't let this information get out, or it might look like you had already planned a quick escape!

Secrets you know:

You overheard Samuel Gompers and Lucy Parsons talking about stealing the Golden Key. Use this information however you like!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Andrew Carnegie: Why are you selling your company to J.P. Morgan?

Bela Lugosi: Are you really a monster?

Pien Ma: How did you pay for your boat ticket from China to the United States?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Why did you come to America?

I came to find the American Dream, but I never meant to stay. Like many Italian immigrants, I meant to earn money and return to Italy.

2. What is your job in the United States?

I am a famous bodybuilder. Do you want to see me bend an iron bar across my back?

3. What is it like being an Italian immigrant in the United States?

Most people think Italians are weak and stupid, but then I twist them into little pretzel shapes.

Character Sheet: J.P. Morgan

Though you started your career as an accountant, through your ambition and hard work you have achieved the American Dream! You are a very rich man. Once you give the Golden Key to Andrew Carnegie at this party, you will own his company (Carnegie Steel), and your own steel company (U.S. Steel) will be the world's first billion-dollar business.

You don't understand why Andrew Carnegie would decide to sell his business so that he could have more time to give his money away. While Carnegie gives money to build libraries, you would rather use your money to buy books for yourself. Your rare book collection is one of the finest in the world.

About the problem of immigration, you couldn't care less. Immigrants provide cheap labor. When Samuel Gompers and Lucy Parsons attack you about your business practices, stand up for yourself and tell them that at least your factories create jobs.

Secrets you are trying to keep:

Sometimes you say the combination to your safe out loud when you open it, though you're sure that no one has ever overheard you. You don't want this information to get out because it makes you look silly.

Secrets you know:

Inspector Jones and Thomas Bailey Aldrich are trying to frame your butler, Pien Ma, for the crime because he is a recent immigrant from China. Use this information however you like.

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Samuel Gompers: How do you know Lucy Parsons?

Inspector Jones: Who do you think committed the crime?

Lucy Parsons: Why don't you like me?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Who knew the combination to the safe?

No one but myself. I guess I sometimes say the combination out loud as I spin the dials, but no one is ever around.

2. What kind of bird is in the cage in your study?

It's a parrot. She repeats everything you say!

3. Why do you think all those books were spread around your floor?

I don't know, but they were all taken from the lowest shelf, where I keep my collection of books by living authors. In fact, some of those authors are here tonight!

Character Sheet: Bela Lugosi

You live in Hungary and work in the growing film industry. You play scary monsters in silent movies. How does it feel to always play the movie monster? While you like your job, you're fed up with the discrimination that keeps anyone with an accent from playing the good guy. Stick up for immigrants' rights!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

Though you look pretty scary, you have always liked kids. You overheard Mr. Morgan's parrot saying the combination to the safe and unlocked it to show off for little Margaret Carnegie. You closed the safe, but you're not sure that you remembered to lock it. You might want to make a deal with Margaret Carnegie to make sure she stays quiet!

Secrets you know:

Margaret Carnegie didn't go straight to bed, because you saw her wandering around upstairs. Use this information however you like!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Andrew Carnegie: Why would somebody steal the Golden Key from the safe?

Father Flanagan: Tell me about your plans for Boys Town.

Levi Strauss: What do you think about Inspector Jones?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Are you really a monster?

No, I just play a scary monster in the movies. I'm actually really nice. Sometimes I can't help showing off for kids.

2. If you're not really a monster, why do you have such big ears?

I can hear three times as well as most people. Right now I can even hear J.P. Morgan's bird talking!

3. Who do you suspect?

It can't have been Margaret Carnegie unless she found a way to reach the safe. Maybe it was Pien Ma. He was upstairs by himself for awhile.

Character Sheet: Levi Strauss

You are a Jewish immigrant, who through your own hard work has achieved the American Dream. While you have gotten rich selling jeans in San Francisco, you still feel the weight of discrimination. You think that if it weren't for your Jewish heritage, you could be as successful as Carnegie or Morgan. Stick up for immigrant's rights!

Talk to Samuel Gompers about his heritage. You both speak the Jewish language Yiddish. When you talk to Gompers, you can pretend to speak another language.

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You spoke privately with Pien Ma upstairs and offered him a job working in your jeans factory out West. On the night of a crime it doesn't look good to be caught trying to steal servants from your host. Don't let this information get out or it might look like you had something to do with the crime!

Secrets you know:

In speaking with Samuel Gompers you found out that he and Lucy Parsons had planned to steal the Golden Key. Use this information however you like!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Samuel Gompers: How do you feel about the deal between Carnegie and Morgan?

Bela Lugosi: If you're not really a monster, why do you have such big ears?

Father Flanagan: Did you know anyone at this party before tonight?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. What do you think about Inspector Jones?

I think he's prejudiced against immigrants and that he might be trying to frame someone without any real evidence just because he doesn't like him.

2. Why do you think your jeans company is so successful?

Unlike other nationalities, most Jewish immigrants such as myself have always planned to stay in the United States. We built businesses to last instead of just looking for ways to make quick money to take home to our mother country.

3. What do you know about the books that were thrown around J.P. Morgan's floor?

Many of the authors of those books are here tonight. Also, it looked like the books might not have been thrown. It looked like they might have been in a pile that tipped over.

Character Sheet: Lucy Parsons

Sometimes businesses make money for their presidents by paying workers less money. Company presidents (like J.P. Morgan) also make money by spending less on factory conditions. If workers still produce your products, who cares if the factory is dangerous? As an organizer for the workers unions, you don't let big business get away with this! If one worker speaks out against bad conditions, they get fired; but if all the workers get together in a union, the business can't fire them all without stopping production.

During a protest at Haymarket Square in support of an eight-hour workday, someone threw a bomb at police officers. Your husband was convicted for the crime and was hanged. You want to give J.P. Morgan and Andrew Carnegie a piece of your mind!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You planned with Samuel Gompers to steal the Golden Key and to hold it ransom until Carnegie and Morgan agreed to create better conditions in their factories. Don't let this information get out or it might look like you had something to do with the crime!

Secrets you know:

You know that the Golden Key was stolen before Pien Ma went upstairs to clean. However, you might choose to blackmail Pien Ma anyway, just because you know that he was upstairs alone.

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Charles Atlas: What is your job in the United States?

Levi Strauss: What do you know about the books that were thrown around J.P. Morgan's floor?

Margaret Carnegie: What were you doing upstairs at the beginning of the party?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Why don't you like J.P. Morgan?

My husband was hanged after throwing a bomb at policemen during a protest against big business. J.P. Morgan is just the kind of person we were protesting.

2. You are a union organizer, so what is a union?

In a union, a group of workers get together to demand better working conditions or more pay. Unions make sure that businesses are being fair to their workers.

3. Why did you come to this party?

Samuel Gompers and I came to the party to try to make J.P. Morgan treat the workers of U.S. Steel fairly.

Character Sheet: Margaret Carnegie

You are six years old and it's way past your bedtime. Your father, Andrew Carnegie, is a very rich man and tonight will become richer by selling his company (Carnegie Steel) to J.P. Morgan for 480 million dollars, but you don't see what is the big deal. This is the first big party you have been to, and the adults seem too busy to notice what you're up to most of the time.

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You are the thief! Don't tell anybody or the game will be ruined! Toward the beginning of the party, Bela Lugosi used the combination he heard from the parrot to open the safe (just showing off for you) but he left the safe door unlocked. You told everyone you were going to bed early and then stacked books under the safe until you could reach it. You wanted a closer look at the fabulous Golden Key and brought it back to your bedroom. You had planned to return the key, but then everyone went crazy about it being gone, and you didn't want to get in trouble! You might want to help Inspector Jones and Thomas Bailey Aldrich frame Pien Ma for the crime.

Secrets you know:

You were with Bela Lugosi when he used the combination he had heard from the parrot to open the safe. He closed the safe behind him, but he might have forgotten to lock it. Use this information however you want!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Samuel Gompers: How do you know Lucy Parsons?

Charles Atlas: What is it like being an Italian immigrant in the United States?

Levi Strauss: Why do you think your jeans company is so successful?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. What were you doing upstairs at the beginning of the party?

Bela Lugosi invited me upstairs to show me a magic trick he had learned. He seems scary, but really he just loves to show off for children.

2. How can we be sure you aren't the thief?

I didn't know the combination and even if I did, I'm too short to reach the safe.

3. Where have you been for most of the party?

I got tired, so I went upstairs to take a nap in the guest bedroom.

Character Sheet: Inspector Jones

You are at the party to make sure that everything goes smoothly and it's a good thing you're here, with all these suspicious immigrants around. You don't like the look of Bela Lugosi, Levi Strauss, Charles Atlas, and Father Flannagan. You are especially suspicious of Pien Ma, who looks like he could steal something at any moment.

In your opinion, there are already few enough jobs in the United States without having to find work for the foreigners that keep showing up every day. You are outspoken about your beliefs and are not afraid to give these immigrants a piece of your mind! Stick up for the rights of the real Americans!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You are working with Thomas Bailey Aldrich to frame Pien Ma for the crime because he is a recent Chinese immigrant. Your goal is to get people to vote for Pien Ma as the thief. Gather evidence and then convince people! You can even make up evidence, but don't get caught!

Secrets you know:

You know that Pien Ma found the safe unlocked while he was dusting upstairs and that the Golden Key had already been stolen. Use this information however you like!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Andrew Carnegie: Who would want to stop the sale of your company?

Lucy Parsons: You are a union organizer, so what is a union?

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: Why do you think Pien Ma is the thief?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Who do you think committed the crime?

It had to be an immigrant. Who else could be so dishonest, and who else here needed the money? I'll bet it was Pien Ma, the butler.

2. How do you feel about the recent immigration wave?

I think that immigrants steal jobs that should go to real Americans.

Character Sheet: Father Edward Flanagan

You plan to immigrate to America in the next couple of years. Like many, you want to emigrate from Ireland to chase the American Dream. After reaching America you plan to start Boys Town, a home for orphans and troubled youths. You are a kindly old man, but through working with young hooligans you have learned not to take guff from anybody. Stick up for immigrant rights especially with Thomas Bailey Aldrich and Inspector Jones!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

Andrew Carnegie plans to donate money to help you start Boys Town, but you don't like J.P. Morgan. If it were up to you, Mr. Carnegie wouldn't sell his business to a man like Morgan. Don't let this information get out or people might think you had something to do with the crime!

Secrets you know:

A year ago Andrew Carnegie caught his daughter Margaret stealing and asked if you could help her. You don't think Margaret had anything to do with the crime, but you could use this information to blackmail her anyway!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Bela Lugosi: Who do you suspect?

Margaret Carnegie: How can we be sure you aren't the thief?

Thomas Bailey Aldrich: Do you think your poem "Unguarded Gates" is fair to immigrants?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. Tell me about your plans for Boys Town.

I plan to start Boys Town as a place where troubled youths can always find a home. As an Irish immigrant, I will especially try to take care of wayward Irish youths.

2. Did you know anyone at this party before tonight?

I had spoken with Andrew Carnegie about starting a girl's version of my Boys Town. I think maybe he has had some problems with his daughter.

Character Sheet: Pien Ma

You are a butler in the Carnegie household. Originally you came to the United States from China as an indentured servant, which means that someone paid for your ticket in exchange for you working as a slave for six years. Does this sound fair? Unlike the famous immigrants Charles Atlas, Bela Lugosi, Father Flanagan, and Levi Strauss, you can't speak out against people who display prejudice. You don't want to lose your job. You know that Inspector Jones is watching to see if you steal anything, and Thomas Bailey Aldrich keeps giving you dirty looks!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You were upstairs dusting during the party and when you dusted the handle of the safe, the door swung open and the key had already been stolen! You locked the safe and didn't tell anybody because you knew they would never believe that you, a poor immigrant, had nothing to do with the theft.

Secrets you know:

When you were upstairs dusting, the books were stacked neatly below the safe. When you accidentally tipped over the stack, you panicked and ran from the room. What could those books have been doing there?

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

J.P. Morgan: Who knew the combination to the safe?

Margaret Carnegie: Where have you been for most of the party?

Answers to other characters' questions:

1. How did you pay for your boat ticket from China to the United States?

I came as an indentured servant, which means that someone paid for my ticket and in exchange, I worked without pay for this person for six years.

2. As a recent immigrant, do you ever feel discriminated against?

Yes. I think most people don't trust immigrants. If I had important information, I might not tell anyone because they wouldn't believe me.

3. What were you doing upstairs toward the end of the party?

I was dusting near the safe. But I swear I didn't steal the Golden Key!

Character Sheet: Thomas Bailey Aldrich

After being robbed, you wrote the poem “Unguarded Gates” about all the immigrants who keep showing up in the United States and making it unsafe for everyone who already lives here. In your poem you said, “My Americanism goes clean beyond yours. I believe in America for Americans.” You don’t like Charles Atlas, Bela Lugosi, Levi Strauss, and you especially don’t like the butler, Pien Ma. All these immigrants are taking jobs that should go to real Americans!

Secrets you are trying to keep:

You are working with Inspector Jones to frame Pien Ma for the crime because he is a recent Chinese immigrant. Your goal is to get people to vote for Pien Ma as the thief. Gather evidence and then convince people! You can even make up evidence, but don’t get caught!

Secrets you know:

Pien Ma didn’t steal the Golden Key, but he did accidentally bump open the safe while he was upstairs dusting. The Golden Key was already gone!

Questions to ask other characters: (Write their answers on the back of this page.)

Samuel Gompers: What is the language you keep speaking with Levi Strauss?

Lucy Parsons: Why did you come to this party?

Pien Ma: What were you doing upstairs toward the end of the party?

Answers to other characters’ questions:

1. Why did you write the poem “Unguarded Gates”?

I had just been robbed. With all these immigrants coming to America, there’s sure to be more crime and I wanted people to know about the dangers of immigration.

2. Do you think your poem “Unguarded Gates” is fair to immigrants?

It may not be fair, but it’s true. Immigrants like Pien Ma are to blame for most crime in this country.

3. Why do you think Pien Ma is the thief?

Of all the immigrants at this party, the Chinese are the worst. That’s why we need to stop all emigration from Asia.

Habits of Mind Discussion

1. Do you think this game was unfair to any of the characters?
2. Who in this game represented “industry”? What did your characters do?
3. Who represented “immigration”? Why did your characters come to this country and what was it like for them?
4. What is the American Dream? Who in this game had achieved the American Dream?
5. Do you think people still believe in the American Dream and do you think this dream is still possible?
6. Do people still immigrate to the United States, and do today’s immigrants face any of the same challenges faced by immigrants in the early 1900s?