

LITTLE GIRL SIDE ONE
(Little Girl speaks with a Latvian accent)

I-3

THERE WERE NO NEGROES
AND THERE WERE NO IMMIGRANTS.

(IMMIGRANTS are in a line to board a rag
ship bound for America.

TATEH and THE LITTLE GIRL join them.
They, too, are poorly clothed and
undernourished. THE LITTLE GIRL is the
same age as THE LITTLE BOY.)

START

TATEH

In Latvia, a man dreamed of a new life for his little girl. It
would be a long journey, a terrible one. He would not lose
her, as he had her mother. His name was Tateh. He never spoke
of his wife. The little girl was all he had now. Together,
they would escape.

END

(HARRY HOUDINI magically appears.)

LITTLE BOY

Houdini! Look it's Houdini!

CROWD

OOH...AAH!
OOH...AAH!

HOUDINI

Harry Houdini was one immigrant who made an art of escape. He
was a headliner in the top vaudeville circuits, and he made
his mother proud. But for all his achievements, he knew he was
only an illusionist. He wanted to believe there was more.

HOUDINI

Hello, sonny.

LITTLE BOY

Warn the Duke!

HOUDINI

What did you say?

(CROWD silently applauds. The moment is
broken as HOUDINI is enveloped by his
crowd of admirers.)

PEOPLE OF NEW ROCHELLE
AND THERE WAS DISTANT MUSIC
CHANGING THE TUNE, CHANGING THE TIME

PEOPLE OF HARLEM
GIVING THE NATION
A NEW SYNCOPATION:

LITTLE GIRL SIDE TWO
(Little Girl speaks with a Latvian accent)

I-10

WHO HASN' T A CHANCE.
JOURNEY ON.

(TATEH is combing THE LITTLE GIRL' s
hair.)

START

TATEH

If people ask, how old are you?

THE LITTLE GIRL

I don' t answer.

TATEH

Your name?

THE LITTLE GIRL

No name.

TATEH

Where your mother is?

THE LITTLE GIRL

Dead.

TATEH

This is my father. He speaks for both of us.

THE LITTLE GIRL

This is my father. He speaks for both of us. Is that other
ship going home?

TATEH

No! America is our home now. America is our shtetl.

TATEH and THE LITTLE GIRL

Amekhaye khlebn.

(A flare goes off, illuminating FATHER
and TATEH.)

THE LITTLE GIRL

Look. Someone is waving. Where is he going?

TATEH

He' s a fool on a fool' s journey.

END

(THE LITTLE GIRL lies down and goes to
sleep.)

TATEH

YOU DEPART ON A SHIP
FROM A COUNTRY LIKE THIS.
WHY ON EARTH WOULD YOU WANT TO
BE LEAVING?
WAS IT SOMETHING YOU LOST