



## AMERICA

### Glossary

America	to yearn	to breathe
to engrave	to write, wrote, written	to describe
to climb up	to pride itself	to fail
to show	to hunt	to think of itself
to act	to listen	to expose
to count it out	to reinvent oneself	to reinvigorate oneself
the following quotation	rags to riches stories	a melting pot
a multicultural society	the ladder of success	sympathy
winner-takes-all	rugged individual	the highest rates
violent crime	illiteracy	incarceration
drug use	hurricane	racial divide
inseparable nation	the face of the earth	policeman of the world
vulnerability	9/11	huddled masses
a poem	bronze	a pedestal
the new Colossus	today's topic	a land of opportunities
free enterprise	a giant with feet of clay	a few blows
a fool	perpetual ability	tired
free	countless	upwardly mobile
among	once more	the strongest
the richest	most capable	instead
arrogant		

And now a dialogue between Wentworth and Sarah...

Wentworth: Who can tell me who is the author of the following quotation, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Sarah: I couldn't say the author but I think this is a poem engraved in bronze on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in New York.

Wentworth: Very good, Sarah. The poem is called the New Colossus, and it was written by Emma Lazarus, and was, I thought, a good introduction to today's topic, I mean America. So what could describe America for you?

Sarah: Well, it's a land of opportunities and free enterprise. There are countless rags to riches stories in the States. It's a melting pot and a multicultural society where you have the chance to be upwardly mobile and climb up the ladder of success.

Wentworth: Very well, but how is it that a country that prides itself on its economic success could have so many very poor people?



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- Sarah: Well, I guess the people who fail to not get much sympathy in winner-take-it-all America. Not to forget that it is also the land of rugged individualism.
- Wentworth: Sure, America is among the developed countries with the highest rate of violent crime, illiteracy, incarceration and drug use. Moreover, Hurricane Katrina showed once more that a racial divide still haunts America.
- Sarah: America still likes to think of itself as the indispensable nation; the strongest, the richest, most capable country on the face of the earth. That's why it acts as the policemen of the world. But it is clear that America should listen to the rest of the world instead of being so arrogant. As a matter of fact, America's vulnerability was exposed during 9/11. It's a giant with feet of clay.
- Wentworth: Well, it's taken a few blows recently, but only a fool would count it out, as America has the perpetual ability to reinvent and reinvigorate.