

PS 39 Diversity and Inclusion Book of the Month: May
Theme: Immigration and Migration

Book Title: Three Balls of Wool
By Henriqueta Cristina

Grade Level: 2nd / 3rd

Book Summary:

In search of a freer place where every child can go to school, a family moves from Fascist Portugal to Communist Czechoslovakia. Different as this new country is, however, it is far from ideal. In this new, gray world, the lack of freedom is felt in the simplest things, such as the colors one can and cannot wear.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did the family have to move?
- What did it feel like for the author to have to leave her home country and enter an unfamiliar place?
- What was this experience like for her parents?
- How does the author describe the buildings and environment of the new home? What is the mood of the city?
- Why do you think the children only wore three colors? How did it make the author's mother feel?
- What do think about the action the mother took with transforming the sweaters?
- How did it make the kids feel in their new sweaters?
- What did this small change mean for the people in the community?
- How can a refugee preserve their own culture in a new land?