

Pointed Toward the Sun: Summary of Content

by Kelsey Maki and Donna Pope

Bold Beliefs: Personal Essays

- “What Would I Do?” by Ashley Zampogna-Krug (History Professor): An American mother contemplates the plight of immigrants and refugees
- “The Reverse of Life” by Garingchar Compas (Student): A student recounts the way in which the earthquake in Haiti affected his future
- “Sati and Sampajanna” by Bulan Thassanid (Student): An examination of how the teachings of Buddhism helped one student persevere through hard times and find happiness

Historical Research and Ancestry Studies

- “The Message is in the Bell” by Nathalie Darden (Math Professor): An educator researches her family history, detailing the challenges of immigration, interracial marriage, civil rights, and how her mother’s singular focus kept her going.
- “Excerpt from Bridget’s Hanging” by Sheila Duane (English Professor): An accomplished writer weaves a beautiful, yet tragic tale of Irish immigrants on a boat headed for the United States. Based on a true story.
- “My Immigrants” by Caroline Calogero (Sociology Professor): The story of a hardworking family from Italy, whose cultural connections persist through generations
- “An Ancestry of Assimilation: Russian Ashkenazi Immigration to the US” by Adam Hostetter (student): An essay that blends research and family history to shed light on the plight of Russian Jews
- “A Hungarian Immigration Story of 1978” by Hope Kubinak (student): A research essay depicting a Hungarian family’s escape from communist Romania

Dreamers: Personal Stories and Research Writing

- “Carrying Our Dreams” by Veronica Vasquez Mendez (student): A mother shares her hopes for her children in the United States
- “Nine Numbers” by Noelia Jimenez-Rojas (Student): An education major recalls her path to be the first associate degree holder in her family
- “Dreaming in a Foreign Land” by Jesus Mamani (Student): A research essay that argues for citizenship for DACA recipients

Personal Stories: Crossing Borders and Striving for Something Better

- “The Power of Change” by Rania Targali (Student): A mother leaves Jordan to join her husband in the US and unify her family
- “Was I Right?” by Cristiane da Silva (Student): A young woman leaves home to pursue her education and better the lives of her family members

- “Together Once Again” by Yaet Martinez (Student): An emotional story detailing a mother’s separation and eventual unification with her children—as they make a home in the US
- “Saying Goodbye” by Sandra Da Silva (Student): A powerful story in which a mother and her children flee an abusive home

Personal Stories: Ambitions and Accomplishments

- “No Longer Alien” by Maryam Salib (Student): The vivid story of a woman who leaves Egypt as a young girl and eventually overcomes a profound sense of cultural dislocation
- “2,904 Miles Later” by Kimberly Fawcett (Student): A daughter pays homage to her heroic mother, originally from Ecuador
- “Being a Leader While Being an Introvert” by Angela Casallas (Student): A Columbian chef and business owner realizes her dream to study in the US and advance her career
- “A Better Future” by Maryam Shafai (Student): An Iranian woman recounts her challenges and those of her husband to obtain a visa to enter the US

Personal Stories: The Challenges of Home

- “Huge Changes” by Ruija Lin (Student): A young woman struggles to live without electricity and running water, but realizes that these challenges pale in comparison to the physical decline of a loved one
- “Earthquake in Kashmir” by Abdullah Khan (Student): A college student in Kashmir offers a first-hand account of the earthquake that killed many of his peers

Personal Stories: Search for Belonging

- “An Adventurous Experience” by Ping Phillips (Student): A mother’s quest to find a suitable home for herself and her daughter in Ocean County, NJ
- “My Odd English Speaking” by Nhu Vu (Student): A woman recounts her challenging and humorous experience with personal pronouns in English
- “My Immigration Experience” by N. Rajkumari Wesley (Psychology Professor): An immigrant, and future academic, tells the heartening story of the way in which her family from India enriched a community
- “Identity, with Subtitles” by Donna Pope (English Professor): The experience of a privileged American college student in Honduras—it could be an existential crisis, or just a coming of age tale