

New Beginnings Answer Key

1. Nervous, scared, unsure - "my heart felt even shakier," holding mother's hand
2. Large crowds, many languages, long lines, waiting hours
3. Having a home, learning English, mother finding work, better opportunities
4. B
5. C
6. Possible answers:
Challenges: long wait, medical inspection, crowded lines
Feelings after approval: hopeful, relieved, happy

Teacher's Guide

Before Reading

- Preview vocabulary: inspected, approval, journey, opportunities
- Show a photo of Ellis Island to provide visual context
- Ask students what they know about immigration

During Reading

- Encourage students to underline clues showing feelings and challenges
- Pause for quick discussion: "What might they be afraid of?"

After Reading

- Review main idea vs. small details
- Invite students to share personal connections: "Have you ever waited for important news?"

Differentiation Strategies

- Provide sentence frames for written responses
- Allow oral discussion before independent completion
- Offer simplified multiple-choice options if needed

Extension Opportunities

- Students rewrite the passage from the mother's point of view
- Create a timeline of the narrator's journey (departure to approval)
- Introduce primary sources such as photographs, ship logs, or interview excerpts