

Name:

Day One

Immigration Scams

Part 1: Silent read

→ Some dishonest people take advantage of immigrants. Read silently.

Back in 2014, President Obama made changes in immigration rules. He challenged immigrants to “come out of the shadows and get right with the law.” For some immigrants, however, this is when problems really began.

The waiting time for a green card can stretch into years. People without green cards often face deportation. Some crooked lawyers take advantage of families who are trying to get legal status. Families pay thousands and get nothing in exchange.

Razeen Zaman’s family came to New York City from Bangladesh. Razeen told her story in an interview for “Raise Our Story.” Her father faced death in Bangladesh because of his political stands. The family tried to apply for refugee status in the U.S. A dishonest lawyer took their case. The Zamans learned he did not file the right papers. Then he threatened to turn them in if they did not pay.

When people are desperate, scams are common. Sometimes criminals get the phone numbers of undocumented immigrants. They send phony text messages. “You have won the immigration lottery.” They follow up with demands for money.

There is a real immigration lottery. People from certain countries can apply. Exactly 50,000 people are picked to win a green card. But paying fees to a shady business is no help. Either your name gets picked, or you are out of luck. But many immigrants pay for lottery help that makes no difference in the outcome.

Where can immigrants go for real help? Church and community groups can refer them to honest lawyers. The government can crack down on crooked immigration businesses.

Source: *Why We Rise* (video funded by the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund). Retrieved from <http://www.aaldef.org/raise.html>



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// one minute

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

What happened to Razeen’s family?

What happens if your name is picked in the immigration lottery?

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Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

Back in 2014, / President Obama made changes in immigration rules. // He challenged immigrants / to “come out of the shadows / and get right with the law.” // For some immigrants, / however, / this is when problems really began. //

The waiting time for a green card / can stretch into years. // People without green cards / often face deportation. // Some crooked lawyers / take advantage of families / who are trying to get legal status. // Families pay thousands / and get nothing in exchange. //

Razeen Zaman’s family came to New York City / from Bangladesh. // Razeen told her story / in an interview for “Raise Our Story.” // Her father faced death in Bangladesh / because of his political stands. // The family tried to apply for refugee status / in the U.S. // A dishonest lawyer took their case. // The Zamans learned / he did not file the right papers. // Then he threatened to turn them in / if they did not pay. //

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Where can immigrants go for real help? // Church and community groups / can refer them to honest lawyers. // The government can crack down / on crooked immigration businesses. //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.