

# Classroom Spice



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## Man? Woman? Nurse? Soldier? Spy?

The answer is yes to all the above! Sarah “Emma” Edmonds, also known as Franklin Thompson was a Canadian girl, who masqueraded as a man for years of her life. As a man, she served in the Civil War as a Union soldier, a nurse, and a spy. In short, she had a very interesting and exciting life story.

Emma was raised in a home with a father who had a violent temper and who resented the fact that she was not a boy. In 1856, when she was about sixteen, she could take neither the abuse from her father nor his arranged marriage for her, so she ran off. She hid by cutting her hair short, disguising herself as a young boy. Crossing into the U.S. she eventually found work as a Bible salesman and settled in Flint, Michigan. Fearing her father would still be looking for her, she lived as a boy. In 1861, seeing the young men join the Union forces and feeling very strongly about the Union’s cause, she too enlisted as a private. Note that in those days, no physical was needed and even young teenage boys were allowed to enlist. She served as at male nurse and helped the wounded in such battles as Antietam, the First and Second Battles of Manassas, and the Vicksburg Campaign.

Events led to Frank being

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## What Do you Know about Immigration?

Did you know, as of 2010, the top five states with the most foreign-born residents were California, New York, Texas, Florida, and *New Jersey*? Did you know that only about 40% of undocumented immigrants come into the U. S. by crossing U.S- Mexico border, yet 85% of border enforcement is concentrated there? Did you know that most Mexican nationals in the United States are migrant workers who return to their families in Mexico each year after their seasonal job is finished?

Immigration, particularly illegal immigration, is a hot topic of these days. Thus, a closer look at some of the commonly held *facts* about immigration is in order.

**\*Most immigrants are here illegally** Myth—Of the more than 40 million foreign-born U.S., 68% are U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents. 28% are undocumented, and 4% are legal temporary workers, thus more than 70% of immigrants are in the U. S. legally! Of those who are

undocumented, 40% originally were legal but overstayed temporary tourist, student, or work visas.

**\*Every job filled by an immigrant is a job taken away from an unemployed American.** Myth—The jobs immigrants typically take are not in direct competition with the American unemployed. Many of the jobs undocumented immigrants take are usually low paying, low-skill jobs, and most native-born Americans are better educated and/or too old so they do not seek those low-skill jobs. Immigrants overall actually help create new jobs as entrepreneurs and consumers. Statistics show that immigrants are twice as likely to start new businesses than native-born Americans.

**\*Undocumented immigrants do not pay taxes.** Myth—Undocumented immigrants pay sales taxes every time they go to a store. If they buy a home, they pay property taxes, if they rent—property taxes are included in their rent. More than half of undocumented immigrants pay federal and state income taxes, social security and Medicare taxes.

How? By using phony social security cards. In 2010, it was estimated illegal immigrants paid \$13 billion in payroll taxes to Social Security, and yet they were not eligible for any federal or state benefits.

**\*Immigrants come to the U. S. for welfare benefits.** Myth—Illegal immigrants are not eligible for federal public programs such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, Medicaid, Medicare, or food stamps. Even legal immigrants cannot receive such benefits until they have been in the U. S. for at least five years.

**\*Immigrants are more likely to be involved in crime than native-born Americans.** Myth—High rates of immigration have not been associated with higher crime rates. Immigrants, especially illegal immigrants, are less likely to commit a crime or be in jail than native-born Americans. In 2006 the ten states with the highest recent increase in immigration actually had the lowest crime rate.

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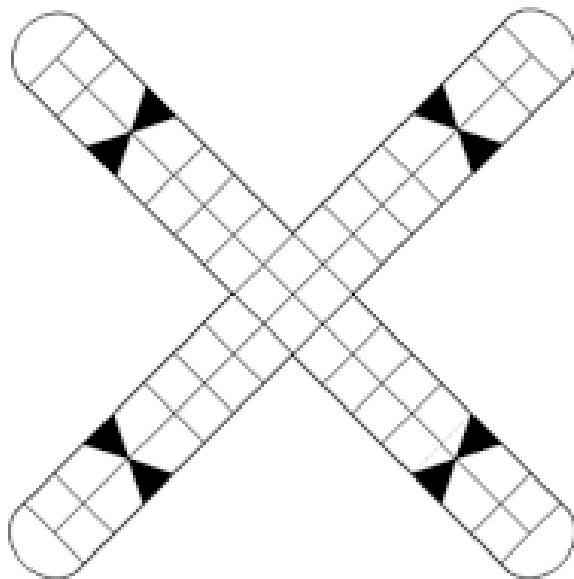
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## *Patolli*

Patolli is an ancient Mexica Aztec game, which was played during the classic period of Mesoamerican history (ca. AD 250-900), through the Aztec period, and up to today. The game was played by nobility and common people alike. Much as we may see people today carrying chess boards ready to play at a moments notice, Patolli players walked the streets carrying their patolli mats ready for their next game. In ancient times, betting played a central element when the nobility played. Bets were made with such items as precious metals and stones, and plants.

Materials: Patolli board/mat; 5 large flat beans, permanent marker, 6 playing pieces distinctive for each player. Use the marker to make a dot on one side of each bean. This must be played with an even number of players, either 2 or 4. The beans then serve as dice, with the number of black dots that show indicating how many you can move. Determine who will start the game. Each player rolls all five beans. To get one of your markers on the board you must roll a one, then you place it on the square on the upper left arm nearest you just below the center four squares. The goal is to get all six of your pieces on and around the board. Once on the board you proceed according to your roll. (In one version, a five is considered a double roll and you get to move 10 spaces.) In your travel around the board if you land on a space with another player, you lose a turn. If you and an opponent both land in the center four squares at the same time, you both go back to start. If you land on a triangle space, you get a free turn. As a piece makes the trip around the board successfully, it is removed from play. The goal is to be the first player to remove all your pieces.

The following link provides a pdf of a simplified rule and examples of playing boards  
<http://www.brookland.kent.sch.uk/Class%204/Patolli%20task.pdf>



Does the game seem familiar? Think about Parcheesi? The rules to Patolli are essentially the same as Parcheesi. A similar game is found in many cultures around the world throughout much of history.

(Emma Edmonds—cont'd from page 1)

asked to serve as a Union spy. In one mission she disguised herself as a young black slave, crossed behind enemy lines to do reconnaissance and successfully got back to the Union, providing vital information. In other missions she disguised herself as an old Irish woman peddler, a confederate soldier, a confederate sympathizer, and a young Southern boy. Her success as a spy led to being assigned as special courier for the Union general. One of her courier missions ended in her being shot, but she survived and continued serving her unit. However, in 1863 Emma contracted malaria. She could not risk being treated in a Union hospital as it would be discovered she was a girl. So she ran away to Cairo, Illinois where she dressed as a woman and went to the hospital where she was hospitalized for several weeks receiving treatment. Once she had recovered she planned to go back to her unit, but on her way there she saw posters of Frank Thompson wanted for desertion and would be shot on sight! Sadly she realized going back to her unit was not an option, so she went to Washington, D.C. where she worked throughout the remainder of the war as nurse Emma Edmonds.

Following the war she wrote her memoirs which became an instant best-seller. She married and had three sons. She and her husband worked to help African Americans and veterans, by managing an orphanage for African American children whose fathers had died in the Civil War and building a home for disabled veterans. Emma, who as Frank had been dishonorably discharged, never received a veteran's pension. Needing the pension desperately to help other veterans, she petitioned Congress and with testimonials from those she served with over several years she was finally granted an honorable discharge, a bonus, and her veteran's pension by a special act of Congress. Emma was the only woman allowed to join the Grand Army of the Republic, the association for Civil War veterans from the Union Army.

## The Literature Connection

There are many good books about the female Civil War spy, Emma Edmonds (pictured below). *Behind Rebel Lines* by Seymour Reit, is a great book for middle school and older students, ISBN 978-0-15-216427-0. *Nurse, Soldier, Spy: The Story of Sarah Edmonds, A Civil War Hero* by John Hendrix is a picture book with significant text geared for a somewhat younger student, probably 4th-6th grade, although the author's and artist's notes and author's bibliography are at a higher reading level, ISBN 978-0-8109-9735-6.

In this time of unrest in the Middle East, a timely book to read is *Sami and The Time of The Troubles* by Florence Heide and Judith Gilliland. This book shows what it was like for a ten year old boy living in Lebanon during years of war and constant bombing. It helps to give the reader a new perspective on what children in Israel and Gaza must be enduring, ISBN 0-395-72085-0.

*Blue Jasmine*, not to be confused with a recent movie by that name, featuring Cate Blanchett, is a book about a twelve year

old girl from India who moves to Iowa with her family. It follows her story of emigration through the heartbreak of leaving her birth country to the difficulties of fitting into a new country. As a winner of the Oppenheim Toy Portfolio Platinum and the Paul Zindel First Novel Awards, and named an IRA Children's Book it is a must read, ISBN 078685565-7

*Singing Hands* by Delia Ray is the story of a hearing twelve year old girl, daughter of deaf parents. It is her sudden humming in the middle of a church service for the deaf that leads her father, who is minister of St. Jude's Church for the Deaf, to send Gussie to a hearing church in town., where she can sing with the congregation. But Gussie has trouble fitting into both the hearing and deaf



communities, and finds herself in constant trouble. Set in Alabama in 1948, it is inspired by stories of being a hearing child to deaf parents as told to the author by her mother. This book helps the reader gain insight into the prejudices and difficulties those in the deaf community must face,

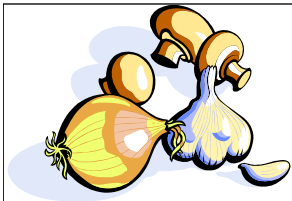
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## The Hall of Remembrance

Mike Madden has been teaching U.S. history in Sugarland, Texas for twenty-three years. He is passionate about U.S. history, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Holocaust. His interest in the latter was peaked in 1998 in Poland when he met Hannah Pick, a Holocaust survivor and childhood friend of Anne Frank. She asked him to share her story and that of so many others in the Holocaust with his students. For the past twelve years he has hosted "The Shoal," a night of multimedia docudrama telling the story from a soldier's perspective of the liberation of a concentration camp and the rescuing of a

ten year old girl. The night also includes a survivor speaking of their experiences, and the Hall of Remembrance, a 155-foot hallway transformed into a mini-museum, showcasing the Holocaust related projects of over 200 students. Madden hopes to teach his student to act in the face of injustice, intolerance, and bigotry. In 2007, Madden received the Ms. Rita and Mr. Jacob Salzman Outstanding Educator Award.





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available at our website:  
<http://usao.edu/classroom-spice>

### In This Issue...

Immigration Facts; Emma Edmonds; Patolli; The Hall of Remembrance, Lit. Connection; Guitarist Les Paul

#### Imagine being a guitarist and suddenly having an arm permanently at a 90 degree angle!

That is what happened to Les Paul, inventor of the solid body electric guitar, after a severe car accident in Oklahoma. The doctors saved his arm, but had to set it permanently at a 90 degree angle. Les designated that angle so he could still play the guitar (but movement was limited). He went on to sell tens of millions of records as one of the greatest guitarists of all time and was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame.

*(Immigration—Cont'd from page 1)*

**\*If an immigrant wants to get into the U.S. he simply needs to get in line, fill out the forms, and wait.**

Myth—In general, to get authorization to live and work in the U. S. a person must be: 1) highly trained in a skill in an area of need 2) escaping political persecution or 3) joining close family who are legally living in the U.S.

**\*Immigrants today, unlike those in the past, refuse to learn English. .**

Myth— In 1917 when the U. S. entered World War I there were more than 700 German-language newspapers in the U.S., although German immigration had peaked years earlier in the 1870s. While to-

day's immigrants most often speak their native language at home, research shows that within ten years of arriving in the U.S. 75% of immigrants speak English "well," and many seek adult ESL classes.

Most Americans have ties to immigrants, although it may be generations back. Most immigrants are legal, hard workers who bring much to the country to which they hope to become a citizen. For more information go to [http://www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla/special\\_02.php](http://www.pbs.org/pov/madeinla/special_02.php); <http://lirs.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/IMMIGRATION-MYTHS-AND-FACTS-APRIL-13-20121.pdf>; <http://www.tolerance.org/immigration-myths>; <https://www.uschamber.com/immigration-myths-and-facts-0>; OR <http://www.immigrationforum.org/images/uploads/mythsandfacts.pdf>.

*(Lit. Connection—Cont'd from page 3)*  
ISBN 10:0-618-65762-2.

In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, which is September 15th—October 15th, take a look at *Just a Minute: A Trickster Tale and Counting Book*, by Yuyi Morales. This trickster tale centers around skeleton Señor Calavera and Grandma Beetle. The skeleton is not really scary, but he is coming to take Grandma Beetle away to the next life. However, Grandma is a tricky lady and provides a happy ending to the story. The story which is based on a traditional tale includes counting in both Spanish and English, and would be great to read around the Day of the Dead (Oct. 31st-Nov. 2nd), ISBN 13: 978-0-8118-3758-3. The trickster theme would make a great comparison with some of the Native American Trickster stories.