

# Literature on and written by immigrants

“Journeys of hope”  
Educational pathways to  
social inclusion and  
tolerance

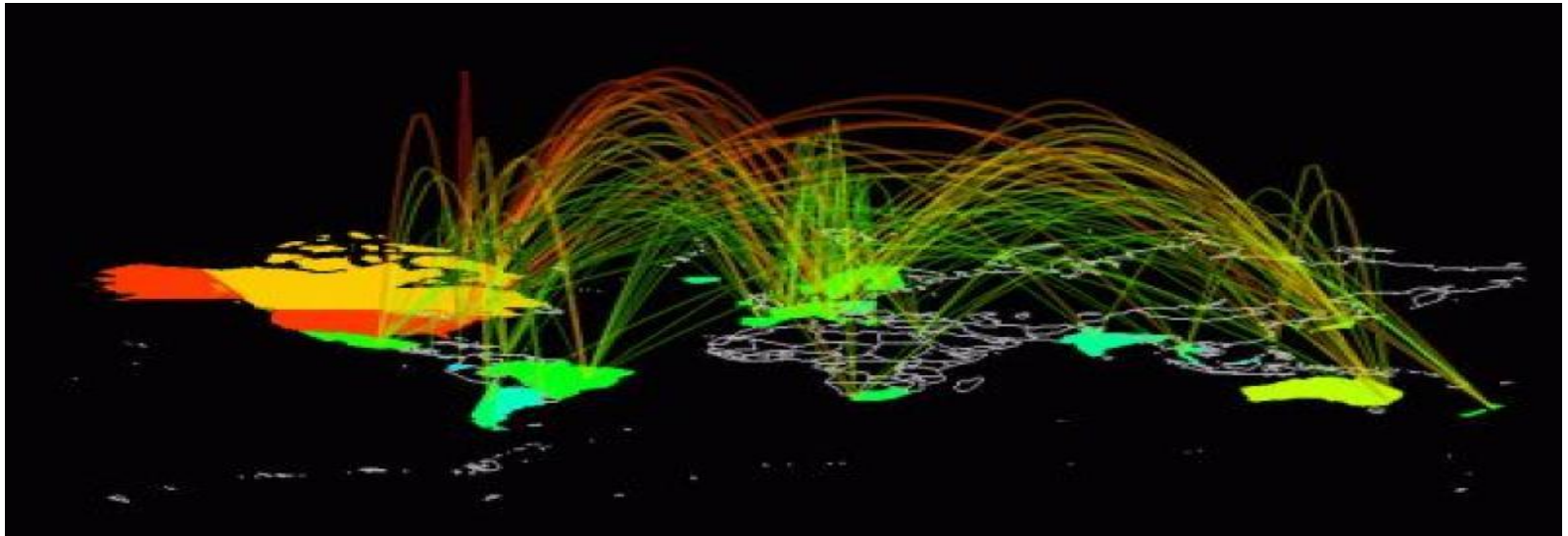


LICEO SCIENTIFICO  
FILIPPO SILVESTRI



# A brief history of immigration

- X-VIII millennium B.C.: many populations are nomads.
- The Middle Ages: people unsuccessfully try to control migrations.
- 1500-1600: Europeans emigrate to America, Africa and the Far East.
- 1700: 11 million slaves are brought to America.
- 1800-1900: 16 million Italians move to the U.S.A., Canada, Argentina, Brazil and Australia.
- 1973: more and more people move back to Italy.
- 1987: immigration becomes a relevant phenomenon.
- 1990-2000: Albanian immigrants move to Italy.
- 2000-2016: first problems concerning immigration in Europe.



## **Witness 1990-1991**

- ★ Authors tell their personal experiences as immigrants

Literature written by immigrants

## **Emancipation 1992-2016**

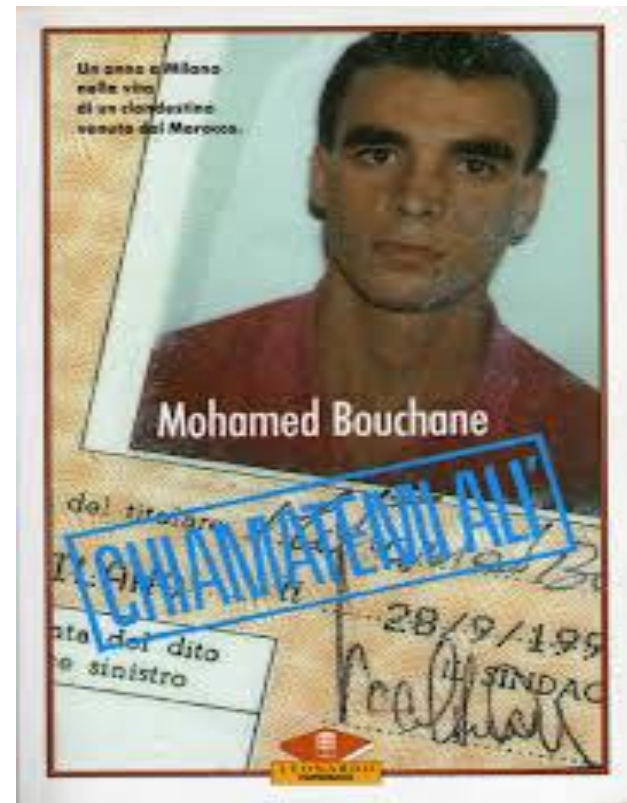
- ★ Authors develop a personal style, merging their culture with the Italian one.

# Chiamatemi Alì

Author: Mohamed Bouchane, born in Morocco in 1964. He reached Italy in 1989. He is the main exponent of witness literature.

Plot: a Moroccan guy looks for a job in Milan; he faces the prejudices and discriminations strengthened by his Islamic religion and friends.

- This novel is a clear example of witness literature because Bouchane tells his real experience:
  - a. He decides to leave university and moves to Italy.
  - b. He looks for a job.
  - c. He wants to be called 'Alì' rather than hearing his name mispronounced.



# *Il pellegrinaggio delle voci*



- Author: Tahar Lamri, the most important author of emancipation literature. He was born in Algeri in 1958 and he has lived in Ravenna since 1987.
- Plot: 'Il pellegrinaggio delle voci' describes a walk through the cultures of northern Italy and Africa. It inspired a play.
- Style: The language is very innovative, because he mixes northern Italian dialects and his native land ones.

Tahar Lamri goes beyond the 'witness literature' phase. He does not focus just on his personal experience, but he creates a link between his culture and the Italian one.



'And the mountain echoed' by Khaled Hosseini

'Le camp des saints' by Jean Raspail

'The Gods themselves' by Isaac Asimov

Novels about immigration

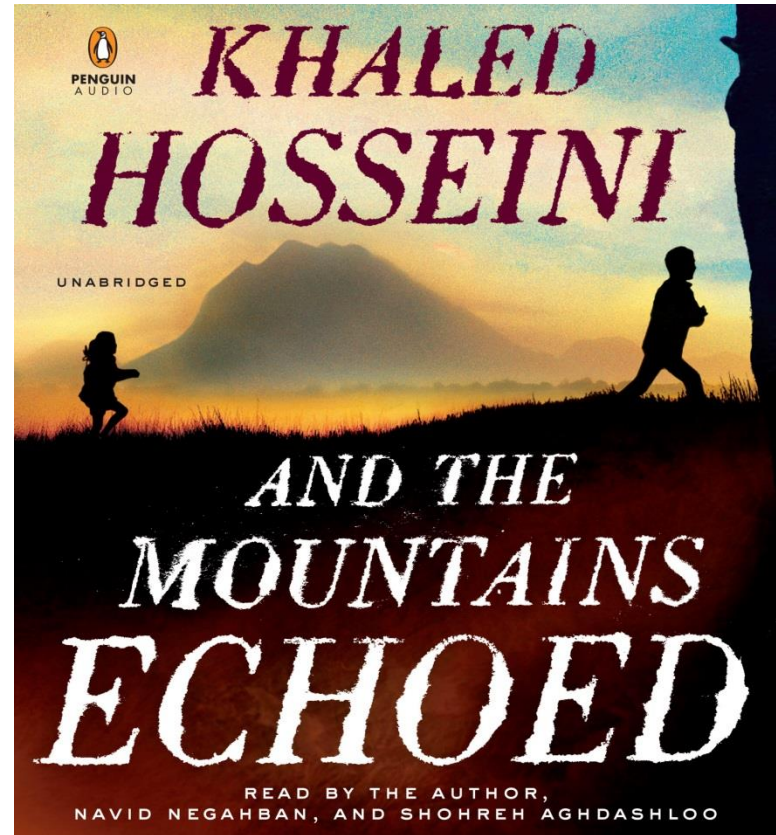
'Bloodchild' by Octavia Butler

'I fantasmi di Portopalo' by Giovanni Maria Bellu

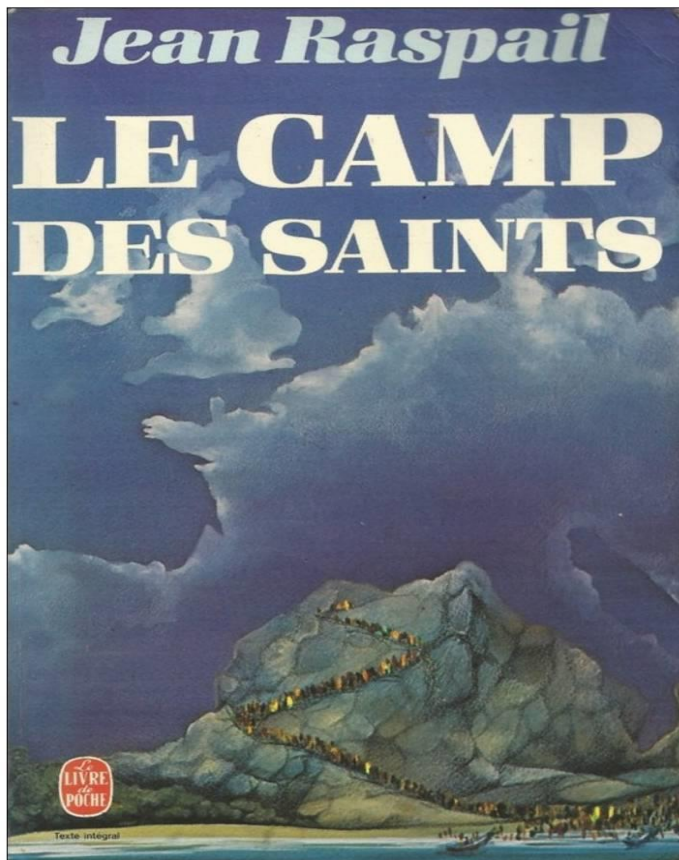


# And the Mountains Echoed

- Author: Khaled Hosseini was born in 1965 in Afghanistan and has been living in the USA.
- Plot: There are several storylines told by many narrators, who are related to each other by different relationships. Many of them are lost. In the end all the characters reconcile with their roots.
- Quotation: "But it is important to know this, to know your roots. To know where you started as a person. If not, your own life seems unreal to you. Like a puzzle. Like you have missed the beginning of a story and now you are in the middle of it, trying to understand".



# *The Camp of the Saints*

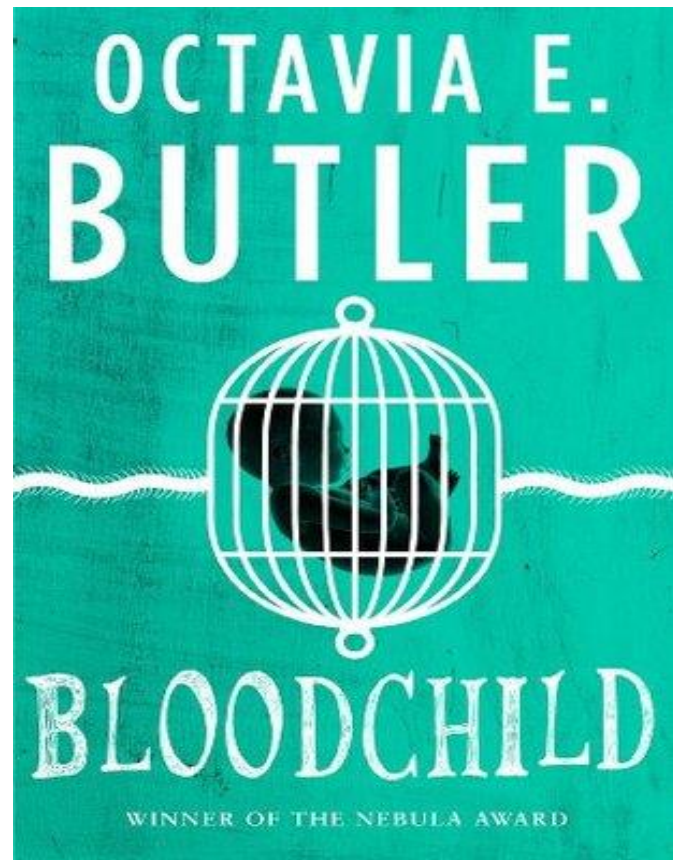


- Author: Jean Raspail, born in 1925, is a French author, traveller and explorer.
- Plot: In Calcutta, India, the Belgian government announces a policy establishing that Indian babies will be adopted and raised in Belgium. The policy is reversed after the Belgian consulate is inundated with poverty-stricken parents eager to give up their infant children. So an Indian "wise man" rallies the masses to make an exodus to live in Europe.
- Quotation: 'All peoples are fascinating but when you mix them too much, it is much more animosity that develops than sympathy.'

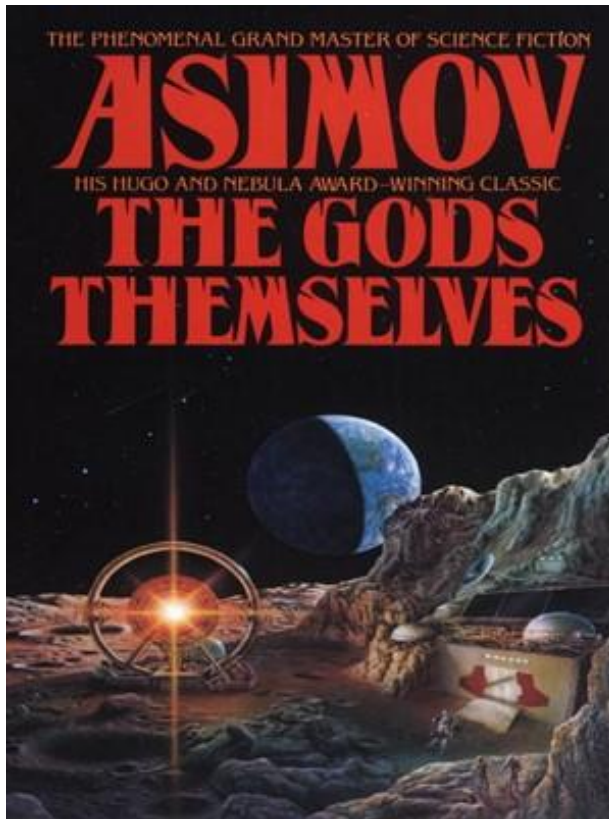


# Bloodchild

- Author: Octavia Butler, born in 1947, was an African-American science fiction writer.
- The plot: "Bloodchild" describes the unusual bond between the Tlic, a race of insect-like aliens, and a colony of humans who escaped from the Earth and settled on their planet. When *the Tlic* realize that humans are excellent hosts for their eggs, they establish the 'Preserve' for their protection and, in return, they impose every human family to choose a child for egg implantation.
- Quotation: 'Positive obsession is about not being able to stop just because you're afraid and full of doubts. Positive obsession is dangerous. It's about not being able to stop at all.'



# The Gods Themselves



- Author: Isaac Asimov is a well-known American author for his science-fiction novels.
- Plot: 'The Gods themselves' is divided into three parts, the last of which focuses on the Lunarites, descendants of humans who moved to the Moon. Even though they come from the Earth they are racist towards newcomers that they call 'Immi', from 'immigrant'. Lunarites hate Earthborns so much that they want to develop a dangerous form of energy in order to move the Moon far from the Earth.
- Quotation: 'On the Moon, there is no past to long for or dream about. There is no direction but forward.'

# I fantasmi di Portopalo

● Author: Giovanni Maria Bellu, born in Cagliari in 1957.

● Plot: a Sicilian fisherman, after finding a corpse stuck in his fishnet, is torn between two opposing choices: whether throwing the dead body back into the sea or reporting the authorities what happened. When the fisherman lifts the corpse to throw it back into the sea and the head falls down on the boat deck is the 'novel climax'.

● Quotation: « Il comandante capisce che, se non si sbriga, non riuscirà più a fare quello che deve fare. Infilta le braccia sotto quel corpo e lo solleva. Tenendolo più lontano possibile dal torace, quindi facendo uno sforzo doppio, si dirige a piccoli passi verso il parapetto. Un tonfo. Un rumore secco secco sul tavolato. Improvvisamente il peso è diminuito. Il comandante volge lo sguardo verso il punto da cui è giunto quel rumore: la testa rotola sul ponte.»



# *'A macabre fishing'*

*from 'I fantasmi di Portopalo'*

- Video

# Interviews

Gustavo De Luca

Wasinee  
Thanakarnjanasuth

Stories of  
Immigration

Cecil Odonkor





***'I am not a citizen from Athens or from Greece, but from the world'. Socrates***



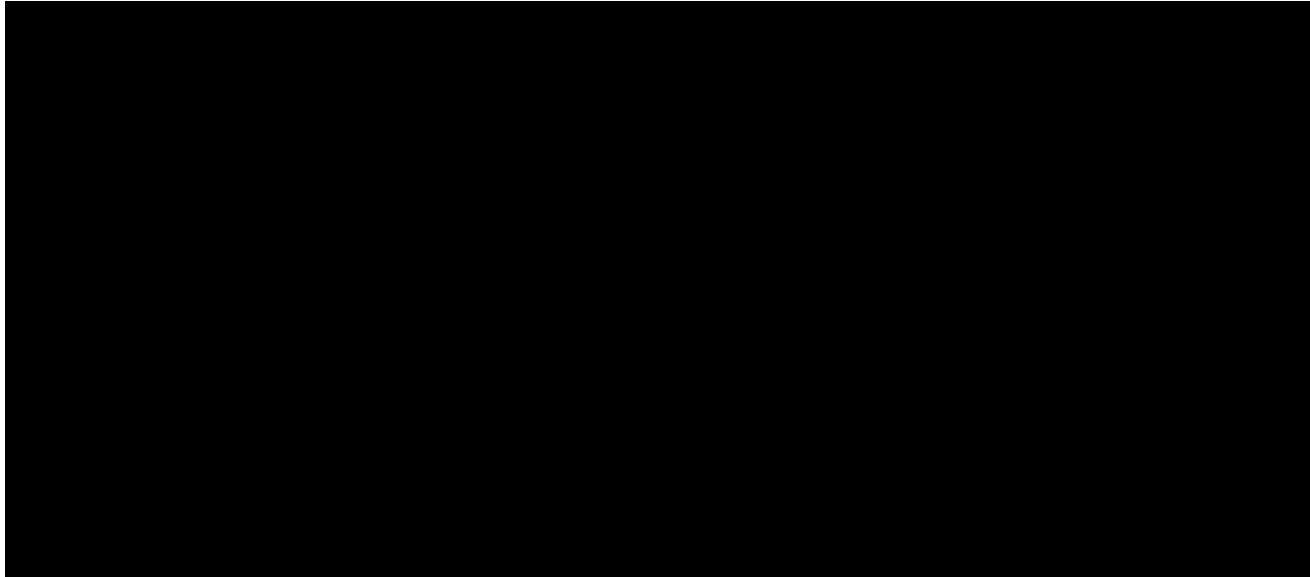
Wasinee Thanakarnjanasuth

***'We are always a foreigner for someone else,  
learning how to live together is fighting  
against racism'.*** Marguerite Yourcenar.



Gustavo de Luca

***'When you leave your own country, right before leaving, everything acquires an extraordinary value to memory and makes you anticipate a feeling of nostalgia for being far away'. Corrado Alvaro***



Cecil Odonkor

# Carried out by:

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