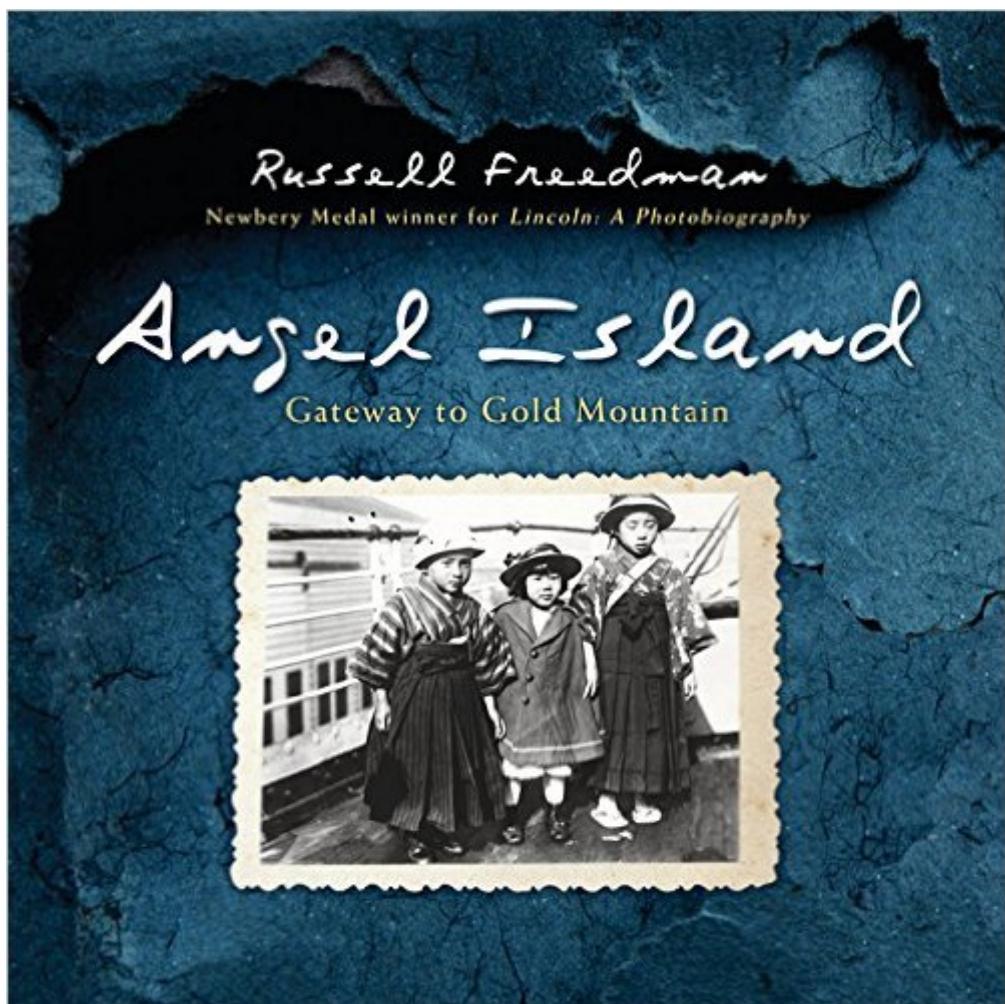


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# Angel Island: Gateway To Gold Mountain



## Synopsis

Angel Island, off the coast of California, was the port of entry for Asian immigrants to the United States between 1892 and 1940. Following the passage of legislation requiring the screening of immigrants, "the other Ellis Island" processed around one million people from Japan, China, and Korea. Drawing from memoirs, diaries, letters, and the "wall poems" discovered at the facility long after it closed, the nonfiction master Russell Freedman describes the people who came, and why; the screening process; detention and deportation; changes in immigration policy; and the eventual renaissance of Angel Island as a historic site open to visitors. Includes archival photos, source notes, bibliography, and index.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1140 (What's this?)

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (26 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

In a "Dear Reader" at the beginning of this book author Russell Freedman (over)states the case: "... Ellis Island and Angel Island... could not have been more different. Immigrants passing through Ellis Island... were usually processed in a matter of hours before boarding a ferry into Manhattan. But for those landing at Angel Island, the immigration station was a barrier to be overcome rather than a welcoming gateway to America...." Except that, like at Ellis Island, the overwhelming majority would overcome this "barrier", in weeks or months rather than in hours to be sure, but overcome it they

would. To Mr. Freedman's credit he freely admits this,... eventually. On page 45 he quotes without disputing it the claim that 75 percent of Chinese applicants passed their Angel Island interrogations and another 20 percent successfully appealed their rejections, leaving only 5 percent who were actually deported. (This would not include those who were rejected for medical reasons.) Of course it obviously took MUCH longer than it should have and the whole disgraceful business was based upon some embarrassingly racist immigration laws, but a 95 percent success rate is something modern day would be immigrants to America would be inclined to leap at, even if it included a few months of detention in (for the time) clean and modern detention facilities under the control of clueless (but not once reported to be cruel) guards and staff. Complaints about the food are telling; Americans TRIED to prepare traditional Chinese meals without really knowing what they were doing. The results were mushy and tasteless, but plenty of it; no one went hungry at Angel Island. It is kind of a shame; Mr.

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