



“The New Colossus” by Emma Lazarus

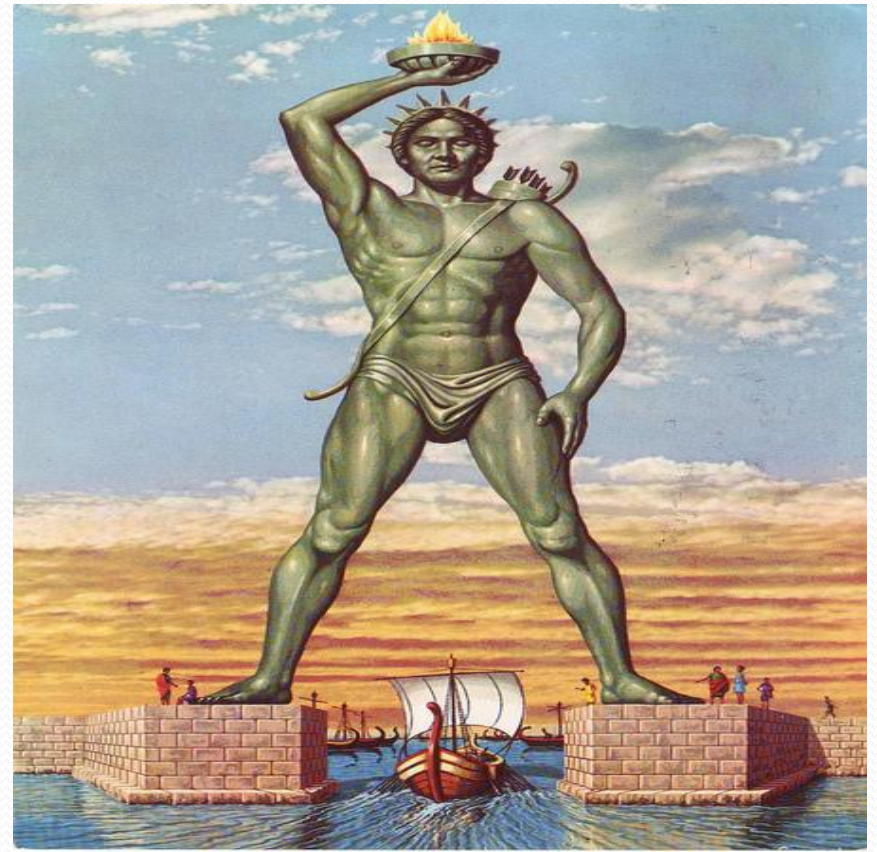


Background Information

- This poem is engraved on the pedestal on which the Statue of Liberty stands. The Statue of Liberty was a gift given to the United States by France in 1885. It stands in New York Harbor and has become one of the most well-known and beloved symbols of freedom in the U.S. For some immigrants, it was the first thing they saw when they came to this country.

Colossus of Rhodes

- A giant statue said to have stood with one foot on each side of the harbor entrance at the Greek island of Rhodes



Structure and Sound

- Sonnet- A poem containing fourteen lines, usually written in iambic pentameter. Sonnets have strict patterns of rhyme and usually deal with a single theme, idea, or sentiment.
- The first eight lines describe the Statue of Liberty. In the last six lines, the Statue is speaking.
- Alliteration: *world-wide welcome; tempest-tossed; lift-lamp; sea-washed, sunset;*

Imagery

- *Homeless, tempest-tossed*: immigrants looking for a new way of life have traveled through storms and difficult circumstances to arrive in America.
- *Sea-washed, sunset gates*: signal the portal of welcome
- *Mother of Exiles*: She beckons and cares for the new arrivals.
- The Statue of Liberty is a mighty woman with a welcoming torch and mild eyes. She is the “golden door” where many enter the United States. She is contrasted with the mighty warrior of Rhodes (Colossus).

Summary

- Emma Lazarus's poem describes the message the Statue of Liberty sends to those around the world. This sonnet(14 line poem) brings the symbolism of the Statue of Liberty to life.



Theme

- The Statue of Liberty is a memorable place for many people because it is a symbol of our freedom.

