The speaker is a man whose paternal family emigrated from Russia to the USA. At that time, the USA was considered as a place of freedom, prosperity whereas the grandfather viewed Russia as unfair especially concerning the Jews.He went by himself as he didn’t have a lot of money and left in 1910 after his son was born.His name was changed from Myor Mishkan to Max Miller. He worked in a shoe factory and earned enough money to send for his wife and son.

On her way to the USA, the grandmother went to Dusseldorf to say goodbye to her sister who will later died in the Holocaust. She missed the boat she was supposed to take, the Titanic.She eventually arrived in NYC The grandmother only spoke Russian and Yiddish. She managed to find out her husband’s address in Brooklyn and was taken .She and the speaker’s father f waited for the whole day as her husband was working.