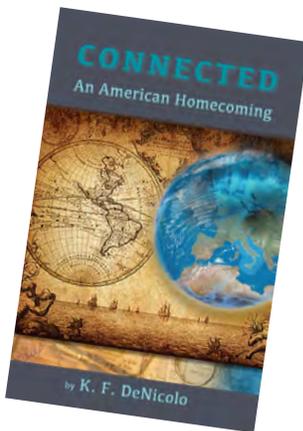


In the Age of Covid-19

# A Virtual Study Guide 2

*for Parent and  
Children*



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to accompany K.F. DeNicolo's book

## **Connected** An American Homecoming

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# Study Guide



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***Risk taking: "Homesick"***

Prologue: Did you ever feel like you were in a dream that was sometimes scary and sometimes wonderful? Were you ever an outsider peeking in on a whole new world? Wanting to belong, but not quite knowing the rules? Were you ever homesick? Listen to what happens in this story.

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As Catherine lay nauseously in her stateroom, and Tav waited on the shores of America, Josephine ran aboard ship. What mystery for this curious little girl as she wandered the ship's maze of parties and feasts, sampling something called a banana, pocketing some for later?

Now, facing mama, the daughter shared the news with her mother. They looked closely at each other; as if, seeking truth and hope in each others eyes. What happened to peaches and grapes, figs and biscotti, climbing trees in the orchard, playing at the seashore, laughing with loving cousins, aunts, uncles, grandparents, villages of friends? All so far away! They held hands and vowed to taste carefully the kaleidoscope of food, and color and sounds and strangers that was America. Still, the questions lingered between them. Catherina wondered at the difficulty of the trip and the life of the day to come. Would she and Tav be able to comfort this sweet child? Their daughter was bewildered about the "vacation." The little girl wondered where Italy was hiding.

**Reader's Guide Summary:**

This story is an introduction to a new way of life. It seems, to be exciting, problematic, and lonely. What can you predict? Do you have some helpful advice? Did you ever have people in your life in the wrong places, saying things you didn't understand or agree with? Did you ever long for the safety of home with people you love?

**Reader's Guide Exercises and Activities:**

Interview a family member & make a scrapbook showing photos of family fun.

Collect recipes and cook a special meal for a festive gathering.

Make an invitation and include menus showing your heritage and our common ground.

Create a collage picturing human challenges like: peace, fun and responsibility, authority and family relationships, abandonment and community.

Make a poster about yourself and what you like to do to relax and calm yourself?