

# 11. Home

In this chapter titled "Home," the author reflects on their connection to literature, family, and identity, beginning with a discussion of James Baldwin's autobiographical novel *\*Go Tell It on the Mountain\**. In the story, Baldwin portrays a father figure, Richard, who embodies the cultural aspirations of a Black man in a racially stratified 1920s New York City. The narrator finds resonance with Baldwin's longing for a proud and nurturing family environment, as they recount personal memories of visiting museums with their own parents in Los Angeles, where diverse art pieces sparked a sense of belonging and connection to humanity.

The author explores the immigrant experience, emphasizing the desire to assert one's humanity in a new country created on ideals of freedom and justice. Holding onto memories of humble backgrounds, they highlight how parents instilled a love of reading and culture, leading to a deep appreciation for the arts that became part of their family's narrative.

The narrative shifts to recount encounters with diverse individuals across the U.S., illustrating the complexity of Latino identity amid cultural intersectionality. The author meets activists and artists, like Teresa Alonso León, who navigates her Indigenous heritage while advocating for her community, exemplifying the interconnected histories of Mexican, Latino, and Indigenous peoples in America. Additionally, they discuss their observations of communities grappling with both racism and aspirations for acceptance within American society.

Traveling through various states, the author shares poignant stories of individuals, such as Andrew Alba, who expresses his identity through art, and Gustavo, a Mexican immigrant thriving against the backdrop of his undocumented status. Each encounter reveals the struggles and triumphs within the broader Latino experience, resonating with collective histories of migration, resilience, and cultural expression.

The chapter concludes with reflections on family dynamics, the complexities of identity, and the longing for belonging, highlighted by Claudia's story of navigating familial ties from Harrisburg and the importance of togetherness in a foreign land. It underscores the overarching theme of home as both a physical space and an emotional sanctuary shaped by shared histories and aspirations.