By 1945 Australians thought of themselves as living in a vast, rich land that needed populating. During World War II Australia had been invaded by Japan. After the war Australians realised that there were countries that surrounded them which had much greater populations. There was a growing belief that Australia needed to actively encourage migration for several reasons.

Reading 3 shows how political leaders were thinking at the time. Menzies of the Liberal Party and Caldwell of the Labor Party were prominent Australian politicians of the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s.

In preparation for your class discussion think about these questions:

- Why was increased post-war immigration seen to be important?
- What sorts of people were wanted as migrants?
- Who do you think aliens might be?
- What are the similarities in the positions of both Government and Opposition about the question of migration?

* Hansard – record of parliamentary proceedings such as debates on bills.

Towards the end of the 1960s the White Australia Policy was relaxed but it still operated in a modified form. This is the story of a young woman who came to Australia at this time.

In preparation for a class discussion think about the following questions:

- Why was Lata’s ‘nationality’ a problem when she applied to migrate to Australia?
- How do you think Lata would have felt about this?
- What social policy was in effect at the time – predating today’s multiculturalism?

Refugee issues became big news in Australia from the late 1990s. Refugees have been part of the migration history of Australia particularly since just before World War II. As the upheavals of war have impacted on many overseas countries refugees find safe haven and a new life in Australia. This is the story of A_______.

His name has been changed so as not to draw attention to his personal situation. He is currently on a 3-year temporary protection visa and does not know what will happen to him after this visa expires.
As you read, seek to share the feelings that this refugee has experienced. Think about the following questions:

- Why do you think A_______ left his country? Why was his father so keen for him to leave?
- What might have been the concerns of A__________ before he left to go to Australia?
- How would you feel leaving your parents for a new land?

Reading 6

Coming to Australia

Read in the article about the trends of migration to Australia. Be prepared to contribute to a class discussion about the following points:

- Look at the Countries of origin table. What trend do you notice?
- What is the emphasis now in the sort of people Australia wants as migrants?
- What can you say about the information in the table entitled Main Avenues of Illegal Immigration?