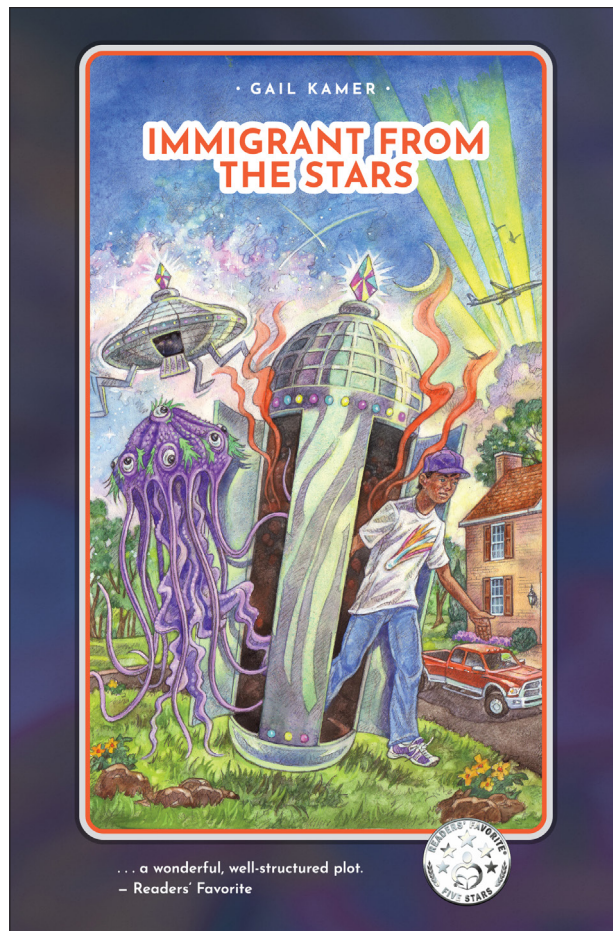




Media Kit

Immigrant from the Stars

by
Gail Kamer



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Press Release for
Immigrant from the Stars

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ALIEN IMMIGRANT INFILTRATES KENTUCKY SIXTH GRADE IN
CHILDREN'S SCIENCE FICTION BOOK

Alien Family Fleeing Their Home Planet Camouflages Themselves as Human

When Dostramixon, a kid on the planet Trinichia, crashes a drone he's flying with his mind into a government monitoring pole by mistake, he floats home in fear of arrest. But at home more turmoil awaits him—his parents and grandfather huddle together in secret conversation they're hiding from their government monitors. Minutes later his parents steal a spaceship, and the family—except for the grandfather who plans to join them later—takes off for Earth, pursued by government ships. Dostramixon doesn't know whether the drone accident or something else caused their sudden exodus.

In Bardstown, Kentucky, Dostramixon and his parents permanently change into human form, shedding purple skin and green hair for normal human colors, tentacles for arms and legs, and multiple eyes for only two. They also take new names. Dostramixon now masquerades as Iko Newman and starts sixth grade. The fun begins as alien Iko meets his classmates: Marty, the school bully; Creepy Zeek, the weird kid; and the girls Destinee and LaShondra and their friends, who he later discovers are the source of the dread girl cooties.

In *Immigrant from the Stars*, a humorous novel for elementary school children by Gail Kamer, Iko relates one ludicrous mistake after another as he tries to act like a normal sixth grader and as he and his parents learn the nuances of human life. Having lived in fear of the government all his life, Iko finds adjustment to his new found freedom on Earth challenging, especially since he must fend off malevolent agents of the Trinichian government as he waits his grandfather's arrival. Kamer shows Iko treading through the perils of being a sixth grade boy and as he learns how to develop friendships among his peers.

After a career in education, the author, Gail Kamer, draws on her years of experience working with and teaching children. She understands what's important to kids, how they act and feel, and their sense of humor.

Immigrant from the Stars is available as a trade paperback (200 pages, ISBN 978-0-9994595-5-3) for \$12.99 and as an ebook (ISBN 978-0-9994595-4-6) for \$3.99. For more information or to schedule an interview with the author, call Denise Timpko at 703-723-3005 or e-mail her at denisetimpko@verizon.net. A high-resolution file for the cover may be found at <http://www.gettiergroup.net>.

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About the Author

Gail Kamer spent the years before becoming a children's book writer as a teacher and principal. Her encounters with children have been a joy and sometimes a source of inspiration in her writing. She has been published traditionally and self-published. *Immigrant from the Stars* is her favorite story so far.



Gail is married and lives in Kentucky. Besides writing, she loves to travel, spend time with family, and research her genealogy. Gail can be reached on facebook and at her website: www.adventuresinreading.webs.com.

Books by the Author

In English:

Beach Birds

Chick-A-Bunga

Fang Sang

Little Chick

Secrets Hidden Within: The Levi Coffin House

Someone's Spying

Swoosh and Slide Search and Glide

The Kid Jesus

The Pardon

Wanted: Icky, Stinky, Dead Stuff Scavengers Got to Eat, Too

What Is That Thing?

In Spanish:

Alguien está Espiando

El Niño Jesús

El Perdon

Pájaros de la Playa

Que Es Esa Cosa?

Swoosh y Diapositive Busqueda y Deslizarse

Review of *Immigrant from the Stars*

Five-Star Review from Readers' Favorite

“My secret life as an illegal space alien. Would I survive the first night in this strange world?” In *Immigrant from the Stars* by Gail Kamer, Dostramixon escapes his home planet Trinichia and its totalitarian government with his parents. They land on Earth, in Kentucky, USA, to be specific, and disguise themselves as Earthlings—the Newmans from Texas. The family tries to blend in without raising any suspicions while anxiously waiting for another family member’s arrival. Now identified as Iko, the new kid from Texas, how will he deal with his first day at school?

Gail Kamer’s *Immigrant from the Stars* has a wonderful, well-structured plot. The positive messages of family, friendship, perseverance, and tolerance give the plot substantial depth. Trying to understand Earth, its native life, especially the humans, from the perspective of a young alien is fascinating. Who knew trying to pass as a human boy is so complicated? Iko has to quickly learn the strange norms of dealing with bullies, accused of being a vampire, puberty and even farting. His experience is amusing but it also gives a sense of appreciation of our planet, our lives, how and why we do all those normal things every day.

All the characters are well fleshed out; Iko and his family are easy to root for. I wasn’t sure about Zeek’s character at first, but his development surprised me in the end. As an adult, it’s easy for me to see how the messages in the story relate to the world’s issues today and are not just confined to how kids deal with school. Overall, this is a fun but meaningful story for its targeted young readers.

—Lit Amri for Readers' Favorite

Catalog Sheet for *Immigrant from the Stars*

- **Title:** *Immigrant from the Stars*
- **Author:** Gail Kamer
- **Cover:** Daniel F. Bridy
- **Book Description:** Iko and his family are in serious trouble. The Trinichian government monitors their every move. And Iko's family has something to hide. Like Dad's mysterious vials. And Iko's special power. Escaping their home planet is the only way to avoid capture. So they steal a spaceship and secretly land on Earth. Are they followed? Probably. Iko and his parents morph into human form to blend in with humans, and Iko enrolls in middle school. But school on Earth is nothing like school on Trinichia. The rules differ. So do the humans. Will Iko fool Earthlings into thinking he's one of them? Or will they recognize him for what he is—an alien from outer space? Are some humans really Trinichian spies in disguise trying to catch Iko? Can he navigate this dangerous new world? Lives are at stake. Is Iko up to the challenge?
- **Audience:** Elementary school children (9 to 12)
- **Genre:** Science fiction
- **Unique Selling Points:**
 - Features aliens and friendship
 - Features perseverance and dealing with bullies
- **Formats and Availability**
 - Trade paperback
 - **Price:** \$12.99
 - **Product Dimensions:** 6 x 9 inches
 - **Number of Pages:** 200
 - **ISBN:** 978-0-9994595-5-3
 - **Publication Date:** June 1, 2019
 - **Availability:** Amazon, Ingram, and others

-more-

- Ebook

- **Price:** \$3.99
- **Full Size:** 2,060 Kb
- **ISBN:** 978-0-9994595-4-6
- **Publication Date:** June 1, 2019
- **Availability:** Amazon; Ingram and others

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Questions and Answers

Gail Kameron, author of *Immigrant from the Stars*, answers questions about her book.

Why did you write a book about space aliens?

Science fiction fascinates me. I believe it's quite possible that other planets have intelligent life, and, if that's true, aliens could become Earth's immigrants. How cool would it be to say, "My best friend is from the stars!"

Also, I spend my spare time doing genealogical research, looking specifically for an elusive ancestor who doesn't seem to want to be found. My family jokes he was accidentally left behind by a spaceship when it made a rest stop on Earth.

What are your sources of inspiration?

Three things especially inspire me:

- **People**—That includes my siblings. I'm the oldest of seven and was nineteen when my baby sister was born. I can share something about each of them growing up. Of course, children also inspire me. Kids are fun to be around. They see the world in special ways and are great entertainers.
- **Humor**—I try to incorporate humor into everything I write. I love making people laugh and getting them to think "that just might be possible."
- **My first career**—During my tenure as a teacher, I sometimes became frustrated with books I was supposed to use to teach children reading because I thought the stories were boring. My goal with *Immigrant from the Stars* was to create a story that readers could not put down, would make them laugh, and would feel was believable.

Who are your favorite children authors?

Reading was my favorite thing to do as a child because I could go anywhere and be anyone. I loved fairy tales and *The Boxcar Children* by Gertrude Chandler Warner.

As a teacher *The Witches* by Roald Dahl was one of my favorite books to read to my classes. I also loved *The Green Book* by Jill Paton Walsh in which an Earth family moved to another planet.

Who is your favorite character in *Immigrant from the Stars*?

Of course the main character, Iko. He flees Trinichia, his home planet, and moves to an entirely new world. He needs to make friends and fit into sixth grade while being disguised as an Earthling, who, in his opinion, are ugly. He misses being able to float like he did on Trinichia. In addition, he needs to keep his powers a secret, although he sometimes forgets and makes hilarious mistakes. He also needs to deal with a bully. While coping with all of this, he must avoid capture by the government agent from Trinichia who was sent to Earth to capture his family. That's a lot for a twelve-year-old kid to deal with.

-more-

But I also love Zeek, the weird kid, and Marty the bully. There's more to both of them than meets the eye, but I can't give away all their secrets here. Of course, there are many secrets to learn as you travel through the book.

Do you have other books related to *Immigrant from the Stars* planned?

I have two others in the planning stages. I've developed a rough outline for Book 2 and am flushing out the overall concept for Book 3. Although all of the main characters appear in both books, some experience major changes.

How long did it take you to write *Immigrant from the Stars*?

I began writing full time in 2011 after my retirement from the education field. I wrote several picture books and self-published some. *Immigrant from the Stars* began as a picture book about a little boy who was a vampire. The story line just kept going and changing. It's my favorite book because it was so much fun to write. I "see" characteristics of kids—no matter where I've met them—impacting Iko.

I'm currently working on a teacher's guide for *Immigrant from the Stars* because the book provides a great teaching story about immigration, perseverance, and our world as a global society.

How long have you been a science fiction fan?

Ever since I saw the first episode of *Lost in Space*, I was hooked. The impact of seeing the United States land on the moon when I was young helped me realize anything is possible.

How long have you been writing?

I began as a young child writing plays for my siblings to perform for our parents. I also wrote plays for my dolls who, by the way, were great actors.

My first published piece was in a magazine for teachers, and I've published articles in newspapers that relate to my work. My picture book, *Swoosh and Slide, Search and Glide*, received a five-star review from Readers' Favorite as did *Immigrant from the Stars*. Another picture book, *Chick-A-Bunga*, received a four-star rating.

I am a member of the Society for Children's Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI), Children's Book Insider (CBI), Redstarr Media, and several critique groups. Learning is a life-long process, and I continue learning through my association with my writing groups.

What work in education did you do?

When I was in college, I worked in summer school as a teacher's aide, custodian, and cafeteria worker. During my tenure in education, I taught Head Start and second through eighth grade. I was a social studies specialist, resource teacher, assistant principal, and principal. I was also involved in writing curriculum documents as well as serving as my district's Metric Project Director. I can honestly say I find every grade level fascinating. I'm not sure I could pick a favorite, although I taught second grade for the longest period of time.

What are your interests?

Besides writing and genealogy, I love to travel. I've been to all fifty U.S. states and to ten countries with a trip planned to three more countries in 2019. My favorite person to spend time with other than my imaginary friends is my husband. Sometimes I'm not so sure he's not imaginary, too, or maybe ... he's a space alien!

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