

HOLIDAY HOUSE

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FIRST-TIME NOVELIST RUTH FREEMAN OFFERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT AMERICA THROUGH THE EYES OF AN IMMIGRANT CHILD AND FIND MANY GOOD THINGS.

New York, NY—February 2017—Ruth Freeman, known for her acclaimed non-fiction books, establishes hope for common ground across cultures in **ONE GOOD THING ABOUT AMERICA** (Holiday House/March 15, 2017/\$16.95), a timely, tender, and gently humorous story about a nine-year-old girl, Anaïs, who comes to America from Africa with her mother and little brother.

Starting a new school is difficult under any circumstances, but if you are in the fourth grade, and you just came to America from Democratic Republic of Congo, a small war-torn country in Africa, difficult takes on a much stronger meaning. Back home, Anaïs was the best English student in her class. Here in “Crazy America” she feels like she doesn’t know English at all. Nothing makes sense—for example, chicken fingers to eat? And why do the kids at school have such strange ideas about Africa? Anaïs misses her family, Papa and grandmother Oma and big brother Olivier, who had to stay behind, because here in Crazy America there’s only little Jean-Claude and Mama.

Told through letters Anaïs writes home to Oma, always in English, Ruth Freeman perfectly captures the voice of an endearing young girl finding her way in a new country and culture that are dramatically different from what she left behind. Anaïs grows from being unhappy and afraid of starting her new school to being confident, well-spoken, and full of enthusiasm about her new country, her school, and her friends.

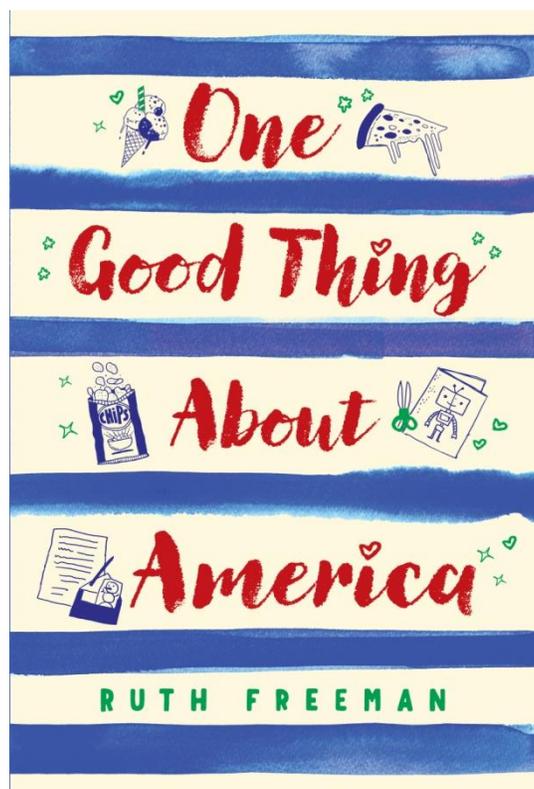
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ONE GOOD THING ABOUT AMERICA's story of a bright and hopeful immigrant child reminds us that the United States is, in fact, a nation of immigrants where we must accept our differences in order to survive—and that's one very good thing.

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Ruth Freeman grew up in rural Pennsylvania but now lives in Maine where she teaches students who are English language learners, including many newly arrived immigrants. She is the author of several acclaimed nonfiction picture books. *One Good Thing About America* is her first novel.



ONE GOOD THING ABOUT AMERICA

by Ruth Freeman

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