



Literature for Children and Adolescents about the Refugee and Immigrant Experience



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Introduction

Do you want to impact the world view of the young people in your life? Do you want to find some reading material to which your tutee can relate?

These books, geared for children and adolescents, are written from many different perspectives and lands. Some tell the story of life in a war zone or conflict, flight from a home country, life in a refugee camp, or adjustment to a new home in a faraway country. The themes often tell truths of the refugee or immigrant experience, no matter which countries they come from. Read a variety.

Age appropriateness: These books were categorized into age groups by the Chicago Public Library and Amazon, mainly according to reading level. Some of the content may contain sensitive material that may be upsetting or scary. Please use your own judgment as to what is appropriate for your child.

Recommendations?

Please send book titles to volunteer@refugeeone.org.

Sources

Images, synopses, and other book information for this handout were gathered from the Chicago Public Library and Amazon. Books were compiled, in part, thanks to the joint work of Susan Corapi of Trinity International University and Megan McCaffrey of Governor's State University in their research *Seeing Themselves in a Book: A Collection of Titles to Support Refugee Children* (February 2017) and from the National Network of State Teachers of the Year's *Social Justice Book List* (August 2017).

Where to Purchase

We encourage supporting your local booksellers. If you plan to shop on Amazon, consider purchasing through AmazonSmile and selecting RefugeeOne. A portion of your purchase will be donated to us.

About RefugeeOne

As the largest full-service refugee agency in Chicago, RefugeeOne has welcomed more than 18,000 refugees fleeing war, terror, and persecution since 1982. RefugeeOne walks alongside refugees from the moment they land at O'Hare Airport – providing welcome, English classes, furnished homes, job search support, mental health care, after-school programming, and mentors to help refugees integrate into American society. Our ultimate goal is to empower refugee families to achieve self-reliance in as few as 6 to 9 months in the U.S., and to build the foundation for a flourishing life in the years that follow. What's remarkable is how quickly they succeed!

Contact Us

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Preschool to Second Grade

Ah Mu Weaves a Story

by Sara Gillam

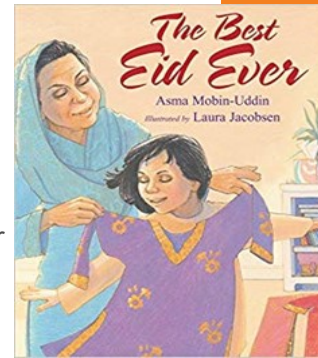
As Ah Mu weaves a blouse for her daughter, Pohkwa, she describes the experiences of exploring a strange city, taking English lessons, working in a factory and becoming a mother. Listening to these stories, Hsar Wah is inspired by her parents' courage and strength in the face of so many challenges.



The Best Eid Ever

by Asma Mobin-Uddin

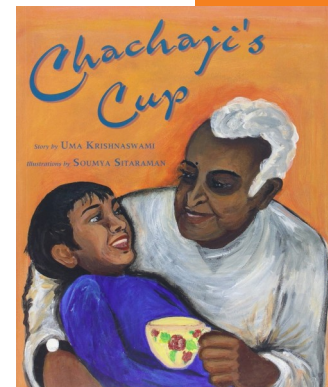
Aneesa is sad that her parents are away for the Hajj pilgrimage, but her grandmother attempts to cheer her spirits. When she meets a refugee family and their young girls at the prayer hall, who arrived to the United States with very little, she plans to help them have the best Eid ever.



Chachaji's Cup

by Uma Krishnaswami

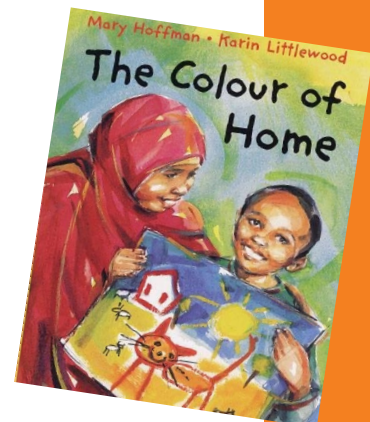
Neel loves listening to Chachaji's stories over hot cups of tea. Chachaji's tales of great Hindu gods and demons, and his adventures in the Army, leave Neel in awe. But it is the tale of his great-uncle's teacup that teaches Neel the most, for the cup holds far more than sweet, spicy chai. It holds the story of a family and a country split in two during the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan.



The Colour of Home

by Mary Hoffman

Hassan feels out of place in a new cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colorful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colors of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombassa, the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress - the new colors of home.

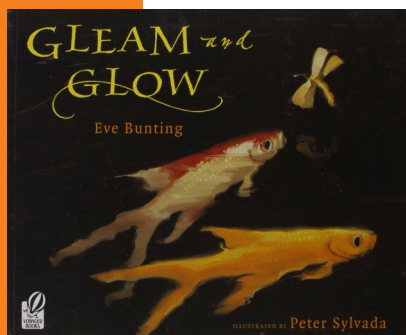




Faraway Home

by Jane Kurtz

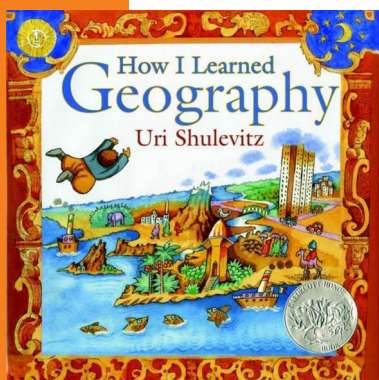
Desta's grandmother is ill in faraway Ethiopia, and her father must return to his native land to help out. As her father prepares for the trip back, the man's love and yearning for home is obvious and Desta begins to worry. Where does her father truly belong--in the village of his youth or here in America with her? What was growing up in Ethiopia like? And will her father's love for his family be enough to bridge these two worlds and bring him back to her?



Gleam and Glow

by Eve Bunting

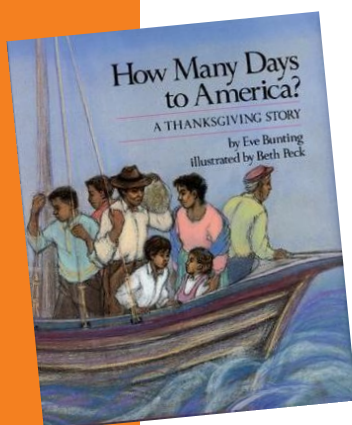
Eight-year-old Viktor, from Bosnia, watches as his father walks away to join the Liberation Army and knows that soon he, his mother, and younger sister, Marina, will be forced to leave their home too. One man leaves his two golden fish with the family. As they ready themselves to depart, Viktor releases the fish into their pond. After days of walking and weeks of living in a refugee camp, the boy and his family share a glorious reunion and eventually return home.



How I learned Geography

by Uri Shulevitz

The story of a young boy after he and his family fled their war torn homeland. In their new home, they live in poverty. One day, in order to brighten up their home, the boy's father brings home a colorful map which enriches his life in a way he never imagined.



How Many Days to America? A Thanksgiving Story

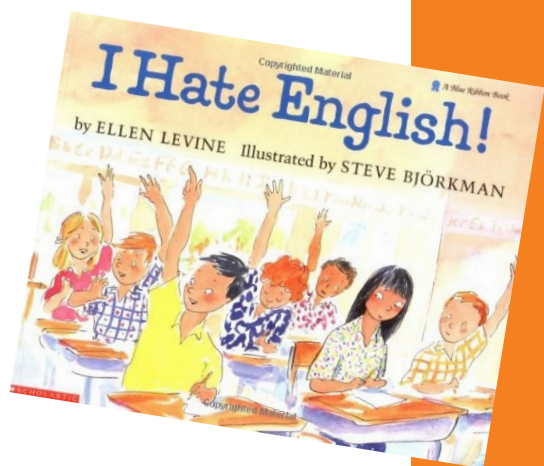
by Eve Bunting

After the police come, a family is forced to become refugees and must flee their home on a Caribbean island to embark on a dangerous boat trip to America. There, they have a special reason to celebrate Thanksgiving.

I Hate English!

by Ellen Levine

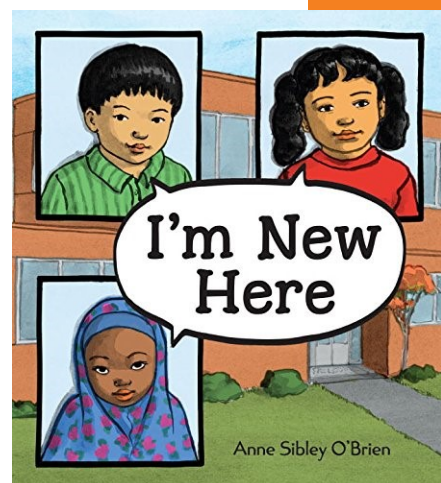
Mei Mei, a bright young girl, an immigrant from Hong Kong, is having much difficulty adjusting to the new language and culture at school in New York City. When she hears a story in English about traveling by covered wagon, Mei Mei cries. A sensitive teacher takes Mei Mei under her wing, and succeeds in helping Mei Mei understand her fear of losing her identity.



I'm New Here

by Anne Sibley O'Brien

Three students are immigrants from Guatemala, Korea, and Somalia, and they have trouble speaking, writing, and sharing ideas in English in their new American elementary school. Through self-determination and with encouragement from their peers and teachers, the students learn to feel confident and comfortable in their new school without losing a sense of their home, country, language, and identity.



The Journey

by Francesca Sanna

This title chronicles the unexpected, grueling migration of a family whose lives are forever changed by war. *From the author:* The Journey is actually a story about many journeys, and it began with the story of two girls I met in a refugee center in Italy. After meeting them I realized that behind their journey lay something very powerful. So I began collecting more stories of migration and interviewing many people from many different countries. A few months later...I knew I wanted to create a book about these true stories. This book is a collage of all those personal stories and the incredible strength of the people within them.

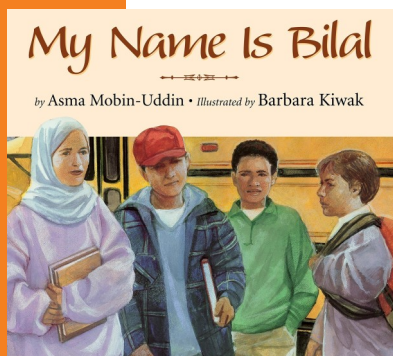




Mama the Alien/ Mama La Extraterrestre

by Rene Colato Lainez & Laura Lacámara

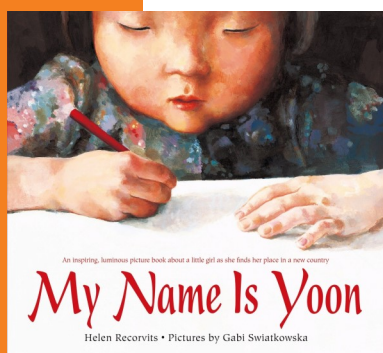
Mama the Alien/Mama La Extraterrestre is the story of a young girl who misunderstands the word alien on her mother's Resident Alien Card and lets her imagination run wild.



My Name is Bilal

by Asma Mobin-Uddin

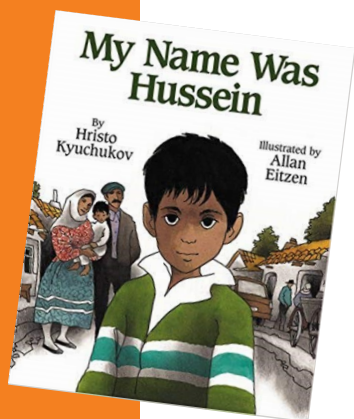
When Bilal and his sister Ayesha move with their family, they have to attend a new school and find out that they may be the only Muslim students there. When Bilal sees his sister bullied on their first day, he worries about being teased himself. As he decides his name, readers see the young boy grappling with his identity.



My Name is Yoon

by Helen Recorvits

Yoon's name means "shining wisdom," and when she writes it in Korean, it looks happy, like dancing figures. But she must learn to write it in English. In English, all the lines and circles stand alone, just like how Yoon feels in the United States. Yoon isn't sure that she wants to be YOON. At her new school, she tries out different names—maybe CAT or BIRD. Maybe CUPCAKE!



My Name Was Hussein

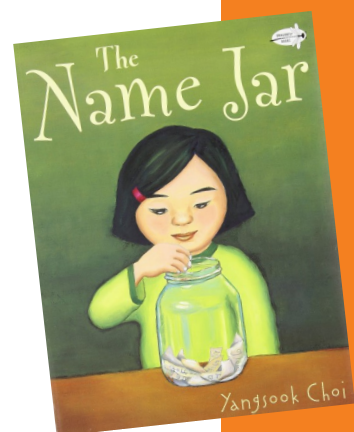
by Hristo Kyuchukov

Young Hussein lives with his Roma family in a small village in Bulgaria. Some call them Gypsies, but they are the Roma people, whose ancestors migrated many years ago from India. Hussein and his family are Muslims. The boy loves to celebrate the religious holidays and also loves his name. Life is good until the soldiers come with guns and tanks. Hussein and his family are forced to give up their identities and choose Christian names. This story of racial and religious prejudice is poignant and powerful.

The Name Jar

by Yangsook Choi

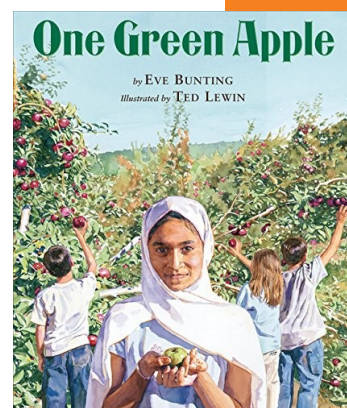
Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? Having just moved from Korea, Unhei is anxious. Instead of introducing herself on the first day of school, she tells the class that she will choose a name by the next week. While Unhei practices being a Suzy, Laura, or Amanda, one of her classmates comes to her neighborhood and discovers her real name and its special meaning.



One Green Apple

by Eve Bunting

Farah feels alone, even when surrounded by her classmates. She listens and nods but doesn't speak. It's hard being the new kid in school, especially when you're from another country and don't know the language. Then, on a field trip to an apple orchard, Farah discovers there are lots of things that sound the same as they did at home back in the Middle East, from dogs crunching their food to the ripple of friendly laughter. As she helps the class make apple cider, Farah connects with the other students and begins to feel that she belongs.



The Silence Seeker

by Ben Morley

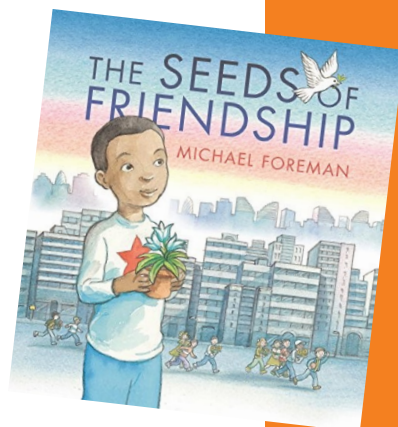
This colorful picture book explores a young boy's understanding of asylum seekers when new neighbors move in next door.

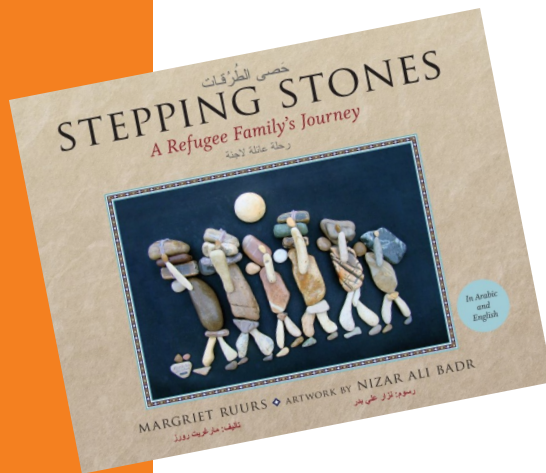


The Seeds of Friendship

by Michael Foreman

Adam, an immigrant boy in a big city, is lonely until he sees snow for the first time and starts to play with the neighborhood children. When he starts school, he gets some seeds and begins to plant them with help from his new friends. Adam is from a "faraway place," but he has moved to an apartment in a city. It's exciting, but lonely; Adam paints his homesickness, hanging pictures of African animals on his wall.

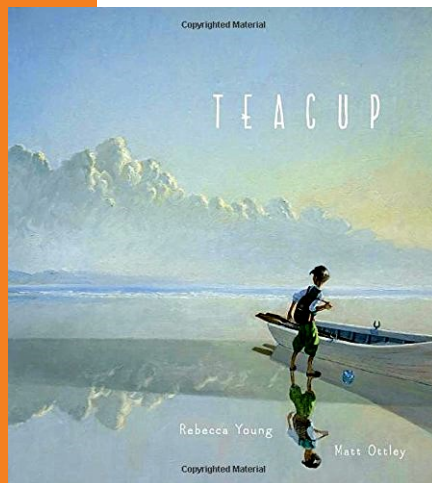




Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey

by Margriet Ruurs

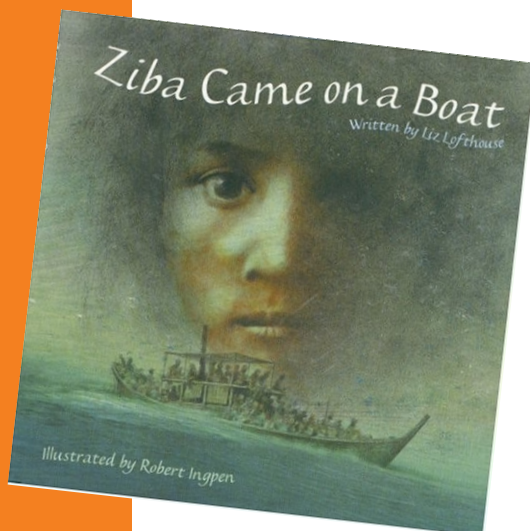
Quiet, intense nostalgia permeates the fictional Rama's recollection of her family's life in Syria before war forced them to flee and start over in another country. Written in English and Arabic, the tight blank verse contains just enough detail for readers to imagine Rama's journey. On every spread, a round pebble hovers over the refugees, providing light, like the moon or sun, as well as hope. A unique offering that will open eyes and soften hearts.



Teacup

by Rebecca Young

A boy must leave his home in a fictional land and find another. He brings with him a teacup full of earth from the place where he grew up, and sets off to sea. Some days, the journey is peaceful, and the skies are cloudless and bright. Some days, storms threaten to overturn his boat. And some days, the smallest amount of hope grows into something glorious. At last, the boy finds land, but it doesn't feel complete . . . until another traveler joins him, bearing the seed to build a new home.



Ziba Came on a Boat

by Liz Lofthouse

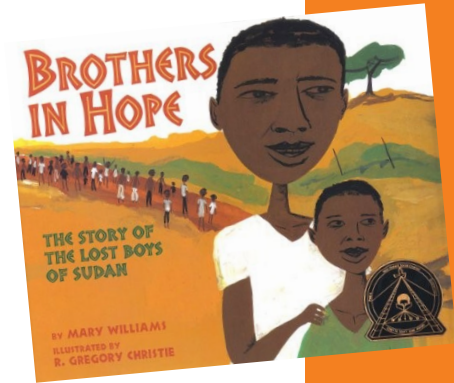
Based on real events about a refugee family from Afghanistan, this book is the moving story of a little girl whose family has lost almost everything. This beautiful picture book takes us on her brave journey to make a new life far from home. The author focuses on Ziba's bravery and her mother's hope for a better future.

First Grade to Fourth Grade

Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan

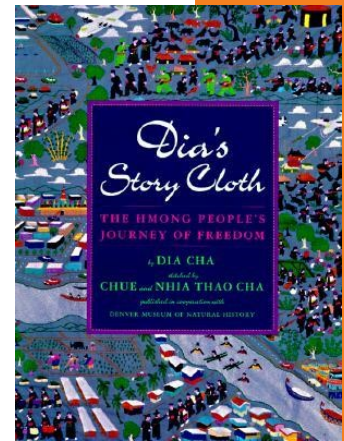
by Mary Williams

Eight-year-old Garang, orphaned by a civil war in Sudan, finds the inner strength to help lead other boys as they trek hundreds of miles seeking safety in Ethiopia, then Kenya, and finally in the United States. This is their story of resilience. Since 2000 the U.S. has taken in about 3,000 "Lost Boys of Sudan," orphaned by the ethnic and religious wars that have left over two million dead.



Dia's Story Cloth by Dia Cha

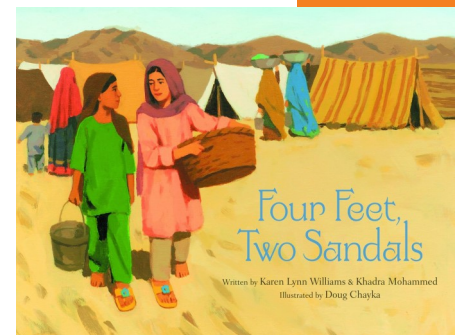
The story cloth made for her by her aunt and uncle chronicles the life of the author and her family in their native Laos and their eventual emigration to the United States. Intricately composed, painstakingly stitched by hand, the "story cloth" of the title was created by the author's aunt and uncle, Hmong who fled their native Laos for a refugee camp in Thailand.



Four Feet, Two Sandals

by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. This poignant story centers on two Afghani girls, each of whom ends up with half of a pair of sandals after the workers bring used clothing to their refugee camp. Lina and Feroza agree to share the shoes, taking turns and sometimes each wearing one.

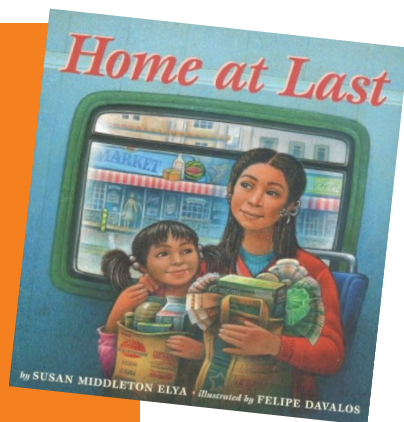


Going Home, Coming Home

by Truong Tran

A young girl visits her grandmother in Vietnam where her parents were born and learns that she can call two places home. This book tells a contemporary immigrant story, not of child refugees coming to America, but of a child of refugees visiting, for the first time, the country her parents still call home.

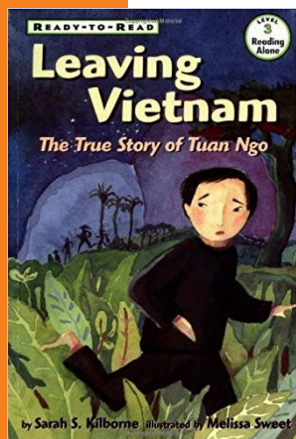




Home at Last

by Susan Middleton Elya

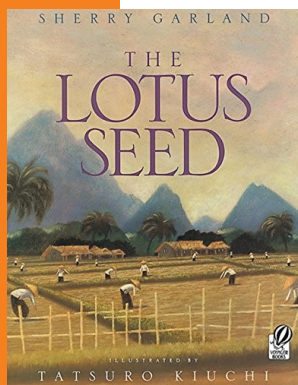
Ana Patino is adjusting well to her new life in the United States after leaving her home in Latin America, but her mother is having a difficult time because she doesn't speak English. When Ana's baby brother falls ill, Mama agrees to take English lessons. As her knowledge of the English language grows, so does her sense of belonging.



Leaving Vietnam: The True Story of Tuan Ngo

by Sarah Kilborne

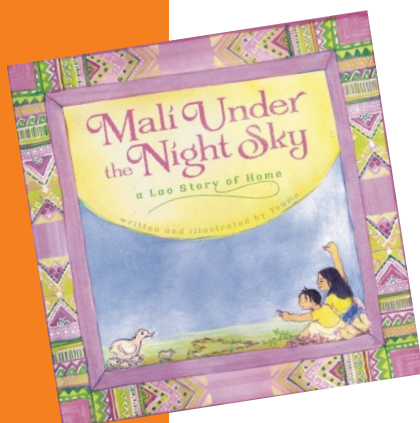
In the middle of the night, Tuan Ngo and his father fled their home in war-torn Vietnam. But slipping away on a tiny boat was only the beginning of this young boy's journey to freedom. "Leaving Vietnam" is the true story of Tuan's escape, a first-person tale as a boat boy and refugee.



The Lotus Seed

by Sherry Garland

A young Vietnamese girl saves a lotus seed and carries it with her everywhere to remember a brave emperor and the homeland that she has to flee. She keeps a seed from the palace gardens with her through vicissitudes of war, flight, and emigration until one summer a grandson steals it and plants it near the family's American home. The following spring, a lotus grows from the mud puddle, seeding hope in her heart.



Mali Under the Night Sky: A Lao Story of Home

by Youme Landowne

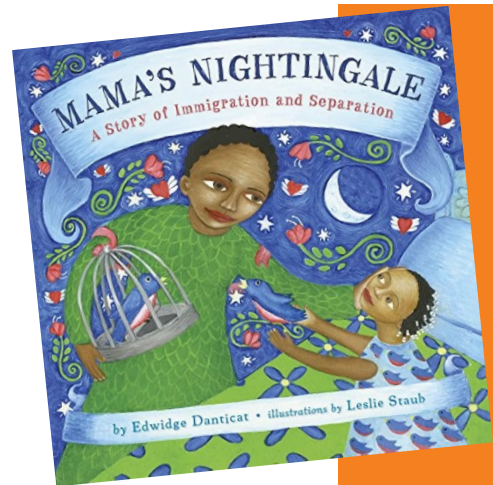
This book tells of a family's escape from civil war in Laos. The opening images celebrate family roots with pictures of a young girl, Mali, playing in her community, and at home. In abrupt contrast, the images move to scenes of Mali alone on a tense, empty street. War is near, and the family flees at night across a wide river to another country, where they are arrested for not having a home.

A Lao

Mama's Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation

by Edwidge Danticat

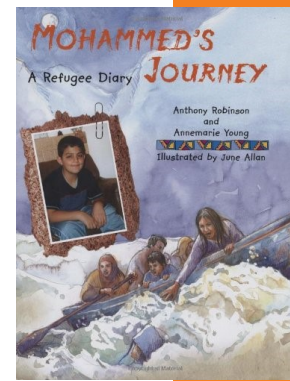
After Saya's mother is sent to an immigration detention center, Saya finds comfort in listening to her mother's warm greeting on their answering machine. To ease the distance between them while she's in jail, Mama begins sending Saya bedtime stories inspired by Haitian folklore on cassette tape. Moved by her mother's tales and her father's attempts to reunite their family, Saya writes a story of her own—one that just might bring her mother home for good.



Mohammed's Journey: A Refugee Diary

by Anthony Robinson and Annemarie Young

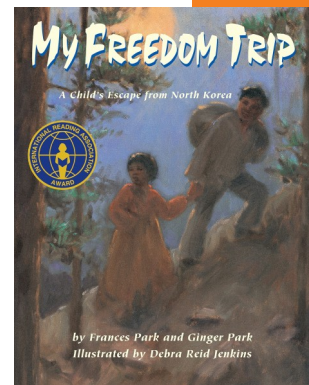
Saddam's soldiers came to Mohammed's house in Iraq, beat him and his mother, and took his father away. After that night, he and his mom escaped from Iraq by bus, on horseback, in an inflatable raft on a raging river, and finally, by hiding in a truck on a ship.



My Freedom Trip

by Frances Park and Ginger Park

Just prior to the outbreak of the Korean War, young Soo secretly crosses the 38th parallel from North Korea to South Korea, hoping to join her father on the other side. Because it is dangerous for more than one person to cross at a time, her mother waits behind. At every step there is danger, but the child remembers her mother's words—"Be brave, Soo!"

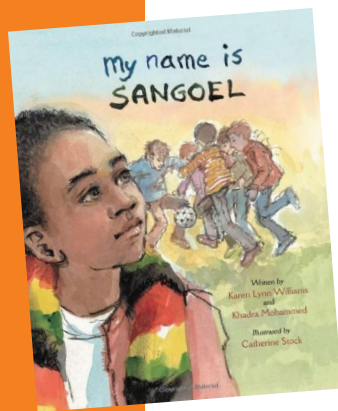


My Name is Maria Isabel

by Alma Flor Ada

For María Isabel Salazar López, the hardest thing about being the new girl is that the teacher doesn't call her by her real name. "We already have two Marías in this class," says her teacher. "Why don't we call you Mary instead?" But María Isabel has been named for her Papá's mother and for Chabela, her beloved Puerto Rican grandmother. Can she help her teacher see that if she loses her name, she's lost the most important part of herself?

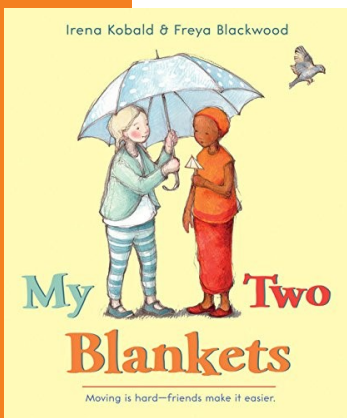




My Name is Sangoel

by Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

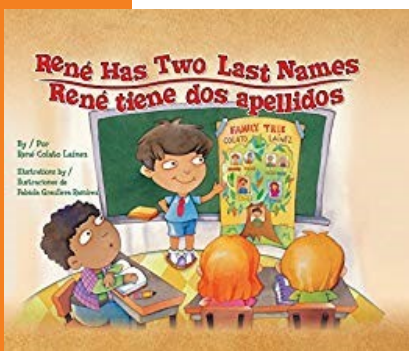
After Sangoel's father is killed in the Sudanese civil war, his family leaves their refugee camp, flies on a sky boat, and is settled in a city apartment as Sangoel starts school. As a refugee from Sudan to the United States, Sangoel is frustrated that no one can pronounce his name correctly until he finds a clever way to solve the problem.



My Two Blankets

by Irena Kobald

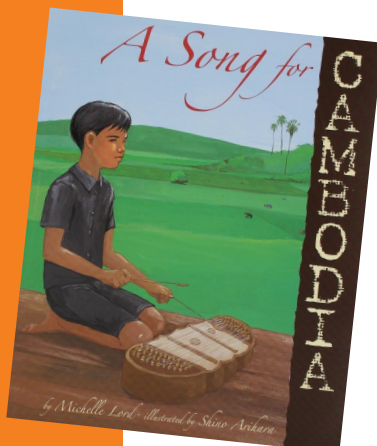
Cartwheel moves to a new country from Sudan with her auntie, and everything is strange: the animals, the plants—even the wind. An old blanket gives Cartwheel comfort when she's sad and feeling homesick—and a new blanket just might change her world. When she meets a new friend, the relationship helps her take her first steps into a new culture and building a new life there.



René Has Two Last Names

by René Colato Lainez

Young René is from El Salvador and he doesn't understand why his name has to be different in the United States. His new classmates giggle when René tells them his name. "That's a long dinosaur name," one says. René doesn't want to lose the part of him that comes from his mother's family. When the students are given a project to create a family tree, René is determined to explain why he uses both of his last names.



A Song for Cambodia

by Michelle Lord

When Arn was a young boy in Cambodia, his days were filled with love, laughter, and music. That all changed in 1975 when Arn's village was invaded by soldiers and his family was torn apart. Arn was taken to a children's work camp, where he labored long hours in the rice fields. When guards asked for volunteers to play music one day, Arn bravely raised his hand taking a chance that would change the course of his life.

Their Great Gift: Courage, Sacrifice and Hope in a New Land

by John Coy

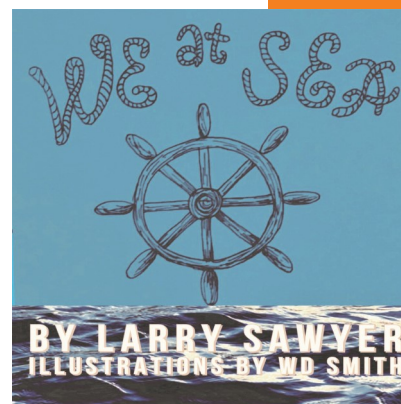
Simple text and thought-provoking photographs offer an utterly distinctive look at immigration to the United States through the eyes of children from many different backgrounds. Images of families who came to the United States from many different parts of the world celebrate the diversity of our country and contain a vision of hope for the future.



We At Sea

by Larry Sawyer

What if we became stronger in numbers in the face of adversity, all of us banding together to make things better? This rhyming tale tells a story about barnacles—although they're often seen as pests to sailors, in this exciting story, barnacles just may save the day. With its message of teamwork and cooperation, this book is an allegory for the strength and diversity that comes from welcoming newcomers and will help children navigate life's increasingly stormy seas. **20% of proceeds from the sale of this book will be donated to RefugeeOne.**



Where Will I Live?

by Rosemary McCarney

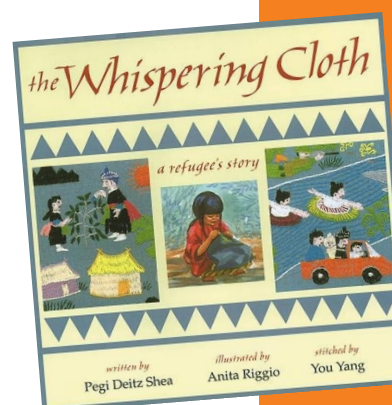
This stunning photo essay takes a look at the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters—young refugees on the move with very little left except questions. Children, even with uncertain futures, are resilient and can face uncertainty with optimism.



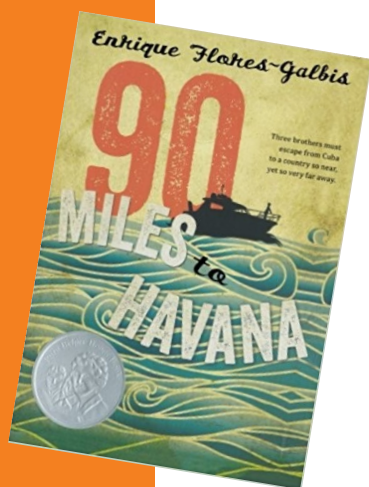
The Whispering Cloth: A Refugee's Story

by Pegi Deitz Shea

Mai spends her days listening to the Hmong women as they stitch and talk. They are making pa'ndau---brightly colored story cloths. This tale depicts life in a refugee camp in Thailand. Only by going back into her own brief and tragic past can she find a story to tell--one of hope and faith in the midst of war and confinement.



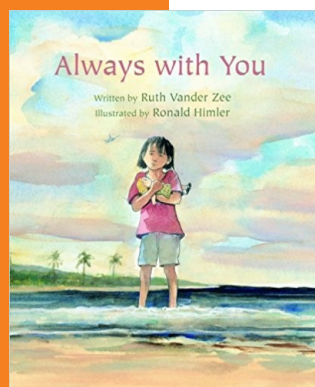
Third Grade to Sixth Grade



90 Miles to Havana

by Enrique Flores-Galbis

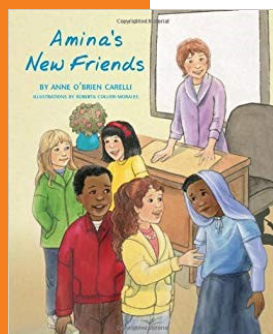
In 1961, Julian, a young Cuban boy, experiences the violent revolution and watches mobs throw out his family's furniture and move into their home. For his safety, his parents make the heartbreaking decision to send him and his two brothers away from Cuba to Miami via the Pedro Pan operation, the boys are thrust into a new world where bullies run rampant and it's not always clear how best to protect themselves. He tries to avoid the powerful camp bullies while he waits in anguish for his parents, and in a wrenching parting, his two older brothers are sent away to a harsh orphanage in Denver.



Always With You

by Ruth Vander Zee

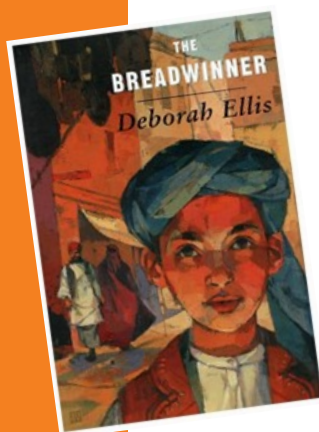
After her mother is killed by an explosion that also destroys her Vietnam village, four-year-old Kim is alone and afraid. Eventually, she is rescued by soldiers who bring her to an orphanage. Surrounded by the love of the couple who run the orphanage, the companionship of the children who live there, and her mother's promise, "I will always be with you," Kim finds the strength and courage to survive.



Amina's New Friends

by Carelli O'Brien

The story of a Somalia refugee girl's first day in an American school, and her desire to make new friends.



The Breadwinner

by Deborah Ellis

The story of a young Afghan girl whose father is arrested by the Taliban. With her father gone, her family is left without anyone to earn money and shop for food. Forbidden to work as a girl, Parvana disguises herself as a boy to save her family.

Drita, My Homegirl

by Jenny Lombard

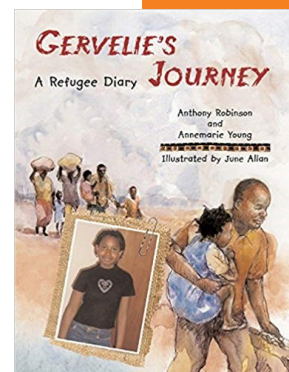
Fleeing war-torn Kosovo, ten-year-old Drita and her family move to America with the dream of living a typical American life. But with this hope comes the struggle to adapt and fit in. How can Drita find her place at school and in her new neighborhood when she doesn't speak any English? Meanwhile, Maxie and her group of fourth-grade friends are popular in their class, and make an effort to ignore Drita. So when their teacher puts Maxie and Drita together for a class project, things get off to a rocky start. But sometimes, when you least expect it, friendship can bloom and overcome even a vast cultural divide.



Gervelie's Journey: A Refugee Diary

by Anthony Robinson

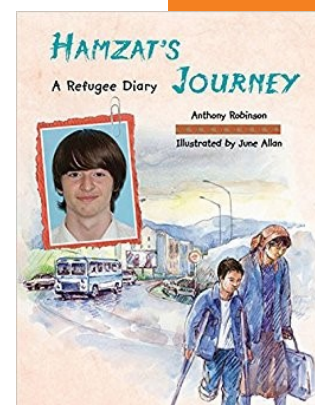
Gervelie was born in the Republic of the Congo in 1995. This is the true story of her flight from her home in Africa to seek refuge in the United Kingdom and is told in her words. It is the honest and heartrending story of a family torn apart by war and their courageous decision to seek a life of peace in the West.



Hamzat's Journey: A Refugee Diary

by Anthony Robinson

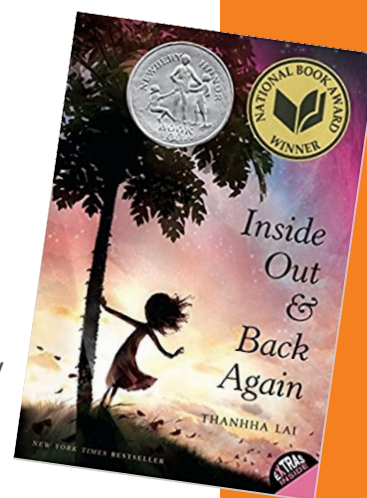
In 2001, when Chechens were at war with Russia, Hamzat was on his way to school in the capital of Grozny when he stepped on a landmine. His leg had to be amputated, and eventually he and his father went to the U.K. for treatment. As it was unsafe for them to return home, the family sought asylum in the U.K., where the family is learning to adapt to their new life after the horror of living in a war zone.

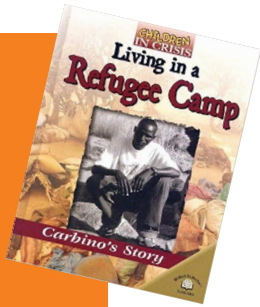


Inside Out & Back Again

by Thanhha Lai

Inspired by the author's childhood experience as a refugee—fleeing Vietnam after the Fall of Saigon and immigrating to Alabama—this coming-of-age debut novel in verse has been celebrated for its touching child's-eye view of family and immigration. Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.

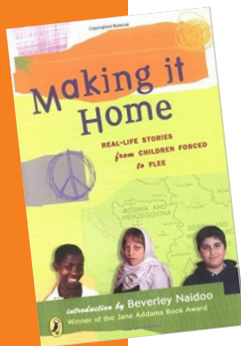




Living in a Refugee Camp: Carbino's Story

by David Dalton

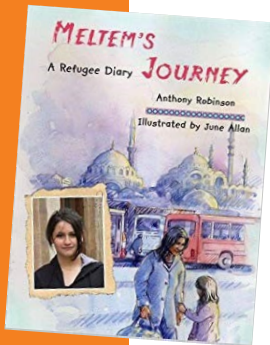
This book helps readers understand what it means to flee all that one knows with the hope of surviving. It tells the story of Carbino, who fled Sudan's civil war.



Making it Home: Real Life Stories from Children Forced to Flee

by Beverley Naidoo

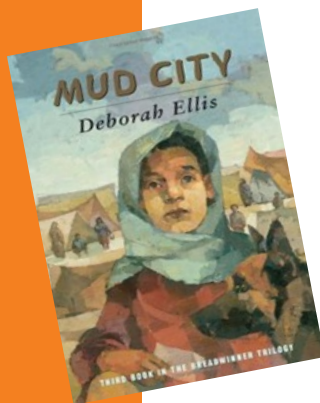
Here, in this remarkable book, real kids from all over the world tell their stories as children forced to flee. They tell how it happened to them, what their life is like now, and what they hope and plan for as they grow up. They offer a personal reflection on family, food, safety, a future, a place to call home.



Meltem's Journey: A Refugee Diary

by Anthony Robinson

13-year old Meltem tells the story of her Kurdish family's their journey from Turkey to the UK, and the months waiting to find out if they can stay in Britain. After much trouble, the end of the story is full of hope for the future, as the family is at last given permission to stay in the UK and Meltem starts a new school.



Mud City

by Deborah Ellis

The final book of the Breadwinner trilogy is the story of Parvana's best friend. Although, fourteen-year-old Shauzia escaped the misery of her life in Kabul and now lives in a refugee camp in Pakistan, she still dreams of seeing the ocean and eventually making a new life in France.



One Day We Had To Run! Refugee Children Tell Their Stories in Words and Paintings

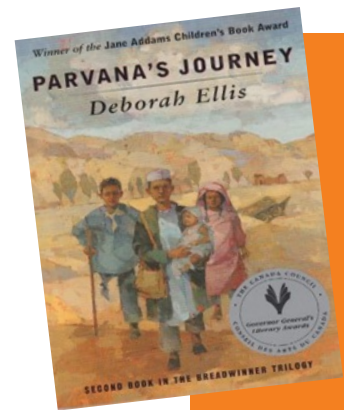
by Sybella Wilkes

Records the experience of a group of young refugees in Kenya, including the tragedies they witnessed, the dramas they survived, and the future they envision in words and pictures.

Parvana's Journey

by Deborah Ellis

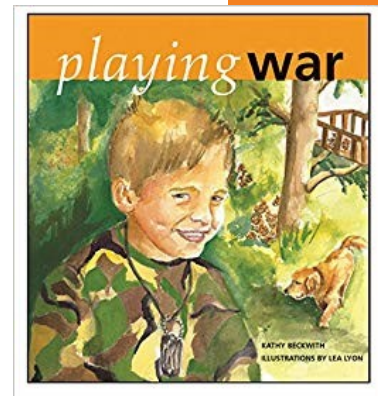
This second novel in the Breadwinner series, tells of Parvana's quest to find her family. Her father has died, and her mother, sister and brother could be anywhere in Afghanistan.



Playing War

by Kathy Beckwith

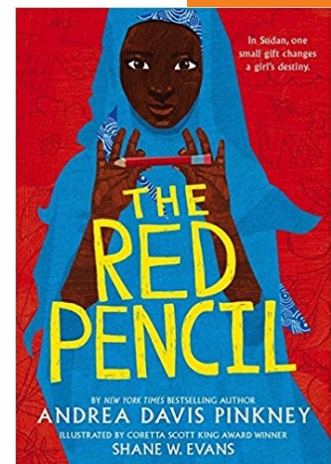
One summer day Luke and his friends decide to play their favorite game of war, but Sameer, who is new, hesitates to join in. When Sameer tells them the next day that he has been in a real war, they don't believe him. As he tells what happened to his family in his old home in the Middle East, the others start to see their game in a new light.



The Red Pencil

by Andrea Davis Pinkney

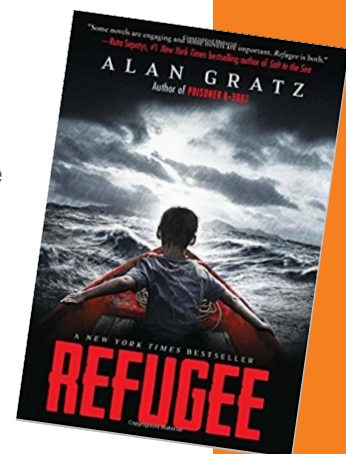
Life in Amira's peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when Janjaweed attackers arrive, unleashing unspeakable horrors. After losing nearly everything, Amira needs to find the strength to make the long journey on foot to safety at a refugee camp. She begins to lose hope, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind -- and all kinds of possibilities.

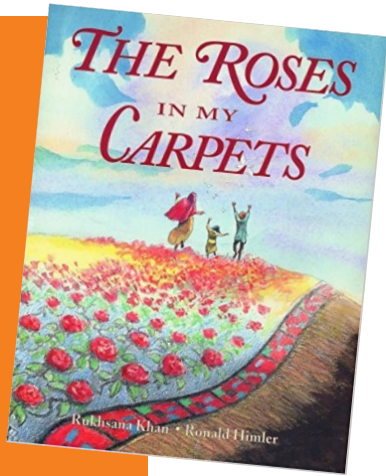


Refugee

by Alan Gratz

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers, but there is always the hope of tomorrow. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

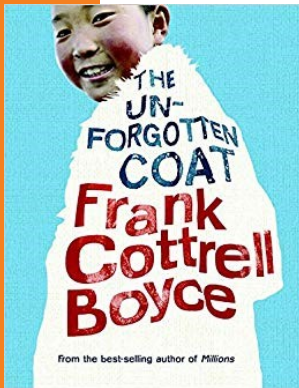




The Roses in My Carpets

by Rukhsana Khan

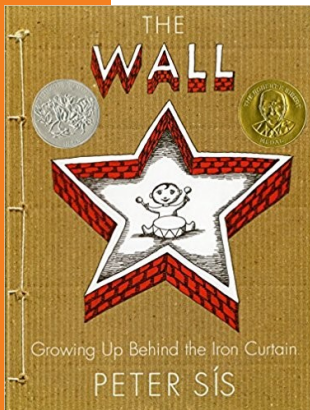
Living in an Afghanistan refugee camp, a young boy refuses to let his imagination be stifled. He weaves beautiful carpets as he deals with memories of tragic events that made him lose his father and flee his home. In a recurring nightmare, the boy flees with his mother and younger sister, Maha, from the planes that killed his father, then awakes to find himself in a safe but impoverished camp.



The Unforgotten Coat

by Frank Cottrell Boyce

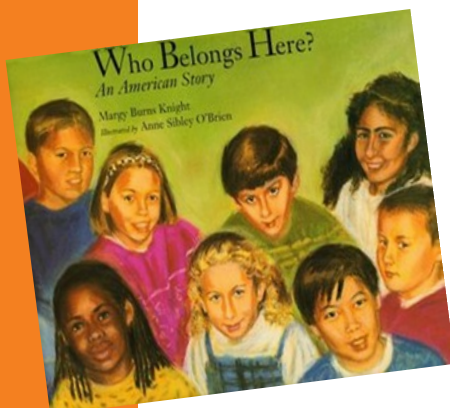
When Chingis, the older of two Mongolian brothers who have arrived in Julie's sixth-grade class, proclaims her as their "Good Guide" – a nomadic tradition of welcoming strangers to a new land – Julie must navigate them through soccer, school uniforms, and British slang.



The Wall: Growing Up Behind the Iron Curtain

by Peter Sis

When cracks begins to appear in the Iron Curtain, and news from the West slowly filtered into the country, a young child in Soviet Czechoslovakia learns about beat poetry, rock 'n' roll, blue jeans, and Coca-Cola. Then comes the Prague Spring of 1968, and for a teenager who wants to see the world and meet the Beatles, this is a magical time. But this brief flowering provides a glimpse of new possibilities—creativity can be discouraged but not easily killed.



Who Belongs Here? An American Story

by Mary Burns Knight

Nary is a young boy fleeing war-torn Cambodia for the safety of the United States. This story teaches compassion for recent immigrants while sharing the history of immigration in America and some important contributions made by past immigrants.

Sixth Grade and Up

The Arrival

by *Shaun Tan*

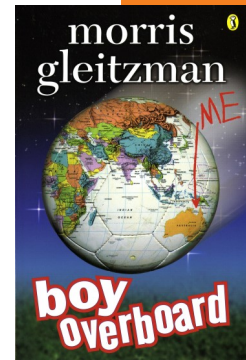
Tan captures the displacement and awe with which immigrants respond to their new surroundings in this wordless graphic novel. It depicts the journey of one man, threatened by dark shapes that cast shadows on his family's life, to a new country. The only writing is in an invented alphabet, which creates the sensation immigrants must feel when they encounter a strange new language and way of life.



Boy Overboard

by *Morris Gleitzman*

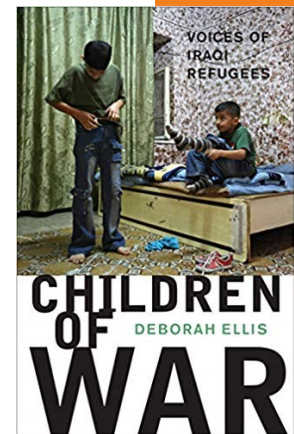
The story of Jamal and his family on their journey to Australia. Jamal and Bibi want to be part of the next World Cup but first they must face landmines, pirates, and assassins to get their new lives.



Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees

by *Deborah Ellis*

This book is a collection of heartrending entries based on interviews with displaced kids from Iraq. Though young in years, the individuals in this book have suffered through more death, destruction, and violence than most people endure in a lifetime. The stories in this book are frank, harrowing and show surprising resilience.



Dawn and Dusk: A Kurdish Family Torn by War

by *Alice Mead*

Depicts the personal and political crises facing a Kurdish family living in western Iran during the early 1980s, the growing conflict in the country and their own family, and their eventual flight to Turkey and the United States.

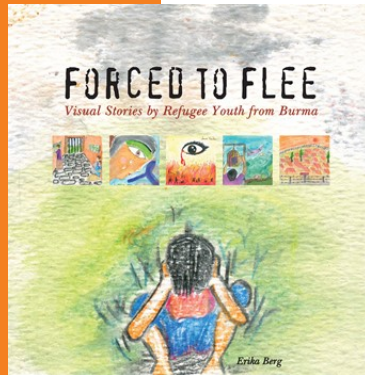




Esperanza Rising

by Pam Muñoz Ryan

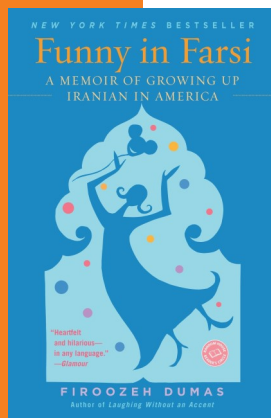
Esperanza thought she'd always live comfortably with her family on their ranch in Mexico. But a sudden tragedy forces Esperanza and Mama to flee to California during the Great Depression, and to settle in a camp for Mexican farm workers. Esperanza isn't ready for the hard labor, financial struggles, or lack of acceptance she now faces. Esperanza must find a way to rise above her difficult circumstances--Mama's life, and her own, depend on it.



Forced to Flee: Visual Stories by Refugee Youth from Burma

by Erika Berg

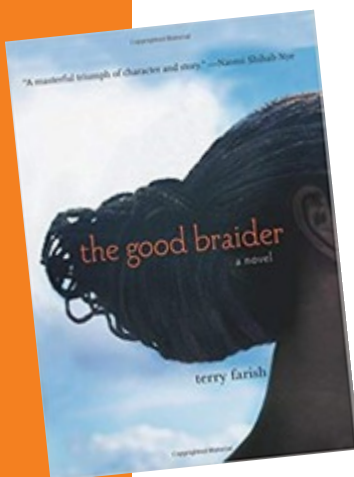
This book aims to increase awareness of and mobilize support for those who have been forced to flee violent conflict and persecution in Burma, also known as Myanmar. Collectively, over 1,200 youth participated in the visual storytelling workshops.



Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America

by Firoozeh Dumas

Tells the story of Firoozeh Dumas from the time she came to Southern California as an Iranian girl of seven years old through her college years and marriage to a Frenchman and the cultural difficulties she and her family encounter through the years.



The Good Braider

by Terry Farish

Viola, a young teen who has escaped Sudan, is haunted by the life she left behind – the people she has loved, the violence she has endured, and the natural beauty she remembers – as much as she is fearful and uncertain in her new life as an American living in Portland, Maine.

Growing Up Muslim in America: Stories by Muslim Youth

by Marie Glancy O'Shea

This book shares the experiences of Muslim teens and how they balance typical American teenage issues with pride in their faith.

Home of the Brave

by Katherine Applegate

Kek, a Sudanese refugee, is confronted by many strange things at the Minneapolis home of his aunt and cousin, as well as in his fifth grade classroom, and longs for his missing mother, but finds comfort in the company of a cow and her owner. American culture, the Minnesota climate, and personal identity are examined in this moving first-person novel written in free verse.

How Dare the Sun Rise

by Abigail Pesta

This profoundly moving memoir is the remarkable and inspiring true story of Sandra Uwiringiyimana, a girl from the Democratic Republic of Congo who tells the tale of how she survived a massacre, immigrated to America, and overcame her trauma through art and activism.

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

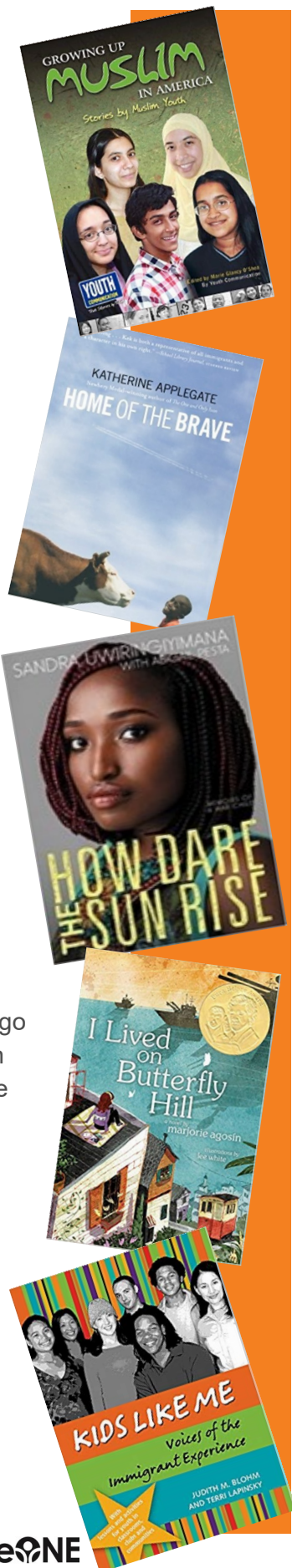
by Marjorie Agosin

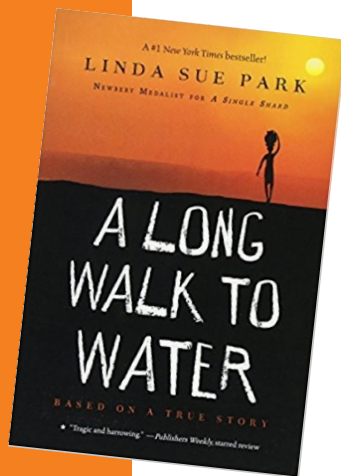
When her beloved country, Chile, is taken over by a militaristic, sadistic government, Celeste is sent to America for her safety and her parents must go into hiding before they "disappear." Agosin's rich, expansive novel, based on true events in Chile during the 1970s, covers three turbulent years in Celeste Marconi's life.

Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience

by Terri Lapinsky & Judith Blohm

Personal narratives of 26 young immigrants as they adapt to life in a new and sometimes strange country and culture. Discussion questions, self-directed activities and research ideas for teachers and families are also available.

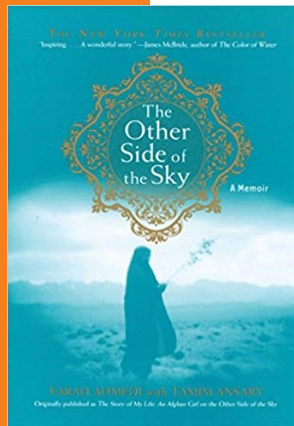




A Long Walk to Water

by Linda Sue Park

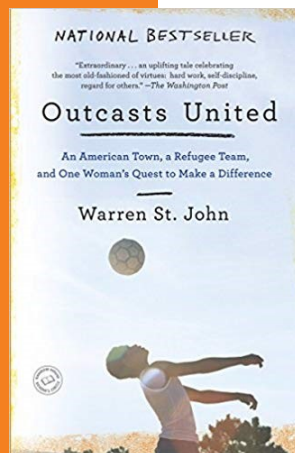
This is a story about two eleven-year-olds in Sudan, a girl in 2008 and a boy in 1985. The girl, Nya, fetches water twice a day from a pond that is two hours' walk from her home. The boy, Salva, is one of the "lost boys" of Sudan, refugees who cover the African continent on foot as they search for their families and for a safe place to stay. Enduring every hardship, Salva is a survivor, and his story goes on to intersect with Nya's.



The Other Side of the Sky

by Farah Ahmedi & Tamim Ansary

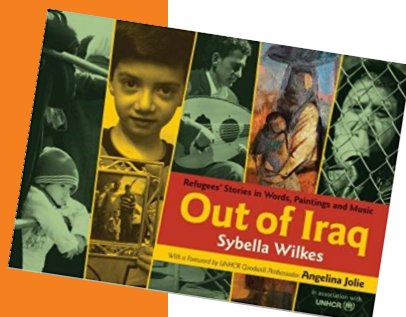
Recounts the life of an Afghan girl, Farah Ahmedi, who is crippled by a landmine when walking to school in Kabul and who eventually comes with her mother to Chicago to attend high school.



Outcasts United

by Warren St. John

The heart-warming story of a refugee soccer team, a remarkable woman coach and a small southern town turned upside down by the process of refugee resettlement.



Out of Iraq: Refugee Stories in Words, Paintings and War

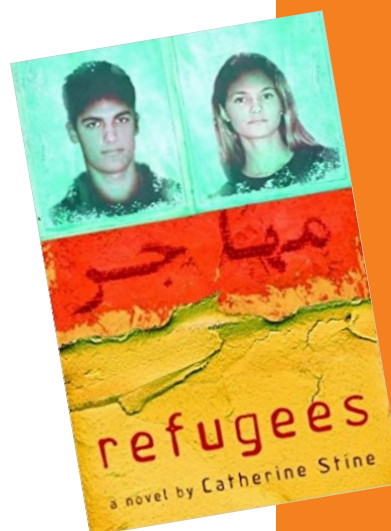
by Sybilla Wilkes

A glimpse of what life was like in Iraq before they left, why they were forced to flee, and how they feel about life as a refugee. Their stories are set against background information about Iraq, Saddam Hussain's rule, the invasion, and the subsequent civil war.

Refugees

by Catherine Stine

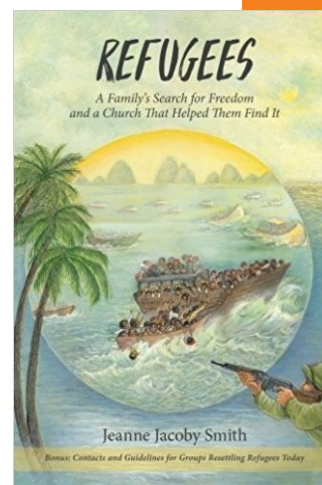
Sixteen-year-old Dawn runs away from her foster home. Johar, an Afghani teenager, sees his world crumble before him. He flees his village and the Taliban, and makes a dangerous trek to a refugee camp in Pakistan. Thanks to his English skills, Johar finds a job at the camp assisting Louise, the Red Cross doctor—and Dawn's foster mother. In e-mails and phone calls, Dawn and Johar begin to share and protect each other and a remarkable bond forms.



Refugees! A Family's Search for Freedom and a Church That Helped Them Find It

by Jeanne Jacoby Smith

This story recounts the story of a family who escaped their home during a war. Afloat for many days, they were rescued by the United Nations. Their new life began when a church in Ohio opened its doors to resettle them. From setting up a household, to teaching the refugees English, finding them a job, and acclimating them to their new life in America, the author walks sponsors through the process of resettling refugees.



Running For My Life

by Lopez Lomong

Lopez Lomong chronicles his inspiring ascent from a barefoot lost boy of the Sudanese Civil War to a Nike sponsored athlete on the US Olympic Team. Though most of us fall somewhere between the catastrophic lows and dizzying highs of Lomong's incredible life, every reader will find in his story the human spark to pursue dreams that might seem unthinkable, even from circumstances that might appear hopeless.

