

Asset-Based Perspectives on Modern Day Immigrants and Refugees

SABRINA NARGIZ JUN 24, 2021 09:08PM

Overview of Text-Set

Creators:

Sache Crouch
Sabrina Nargiz

Synopsis

This text-set aims to provide resources that showcase the diversity of modern day immigrants in the US through a focus on immigrants and refugees throughout the US and particularly communities in Memphis, TN. The text-set challenges preconceptions and stereotypes of immigrants from East Africa, Central America, and the Middle East to not only deepen understanding of the immigrant populations and the refugee experience, but also to help create more inclusive classrooms for these modern day populations to be viewed by teachers and students alike beyond their stereotypes.

Note on Terminology

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country." In this text-set we refer to people matching this definition, regardless of their country of origin, as refugees.

Annotated Bibliography

July, 2021

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Essential Question: How do the representations of immigrants and refugees in this text-set counteract common stereotypes perpetuated by the United States' educational and political systems?

Guiding Questions:

1. **The American Dream:** How do immigrants and refugees (from past periods in history to modern day) view the American Dream narrative and is it aligned with their goals and motivations for immigrating to the USA, and is it attainable?
2. **Language/Culture as a Monolith:** What different languages, religions, and cultures do you see

Asset-Based Perspectives on Modern Day Immigrants and Refugees (2021)

by Sabrina Nargiz

GOOGLE DOCS

Suggested Guiding Questions

Essential Question

How do the representations of immigrants and refugees in this text-set counteract common stereotypes perpetuated by the United States' educational and political systems?

Guided Questions

1. **The American Dream:** How do immigrants and refugees (from past periods in history to modern day) view the American Dream narrative and is it aligned with their goals and motivations for immigrating to the USA, and is it attainable?
2. **Language/Culture as a Monolith:** What different languages, religions, and cultures do you see represented in this text-set? How do these representations complicate preconceptions of one type of immigrant representing many diverse cultures?
3. **Criminalization/Implied Danger:** How do people's motivations for migration to the USA depicted in this text-

set counteract narratives of them being uneducated, dangerous, and bringing crime?

4. *Disenfranchisement of Women*: How do portrayals of women having agency and independence in this text-set exist in conjunction/alongside devotion to culture, religion, gender norms, and motherhood?
5. *Resource Intensive/Drains*: How do immigrants and refugees contribute to American society? In what ways do they strengthen our communities and develop relationships among each other and their neighbors?

Regionally Specific Suggested Questions: Central America

1. When you think of Spanish speaking cultures, what countries do you think of? How do these texts challenge the stereotype of Mexicans as the sole Spanish speaking immigrant in the US?
2. How do Central American people's motivations for migrating to the US counteract narratives of them bringing crime?
3. Comparative Analysis: Thinking about what immigrants bring/leave behind, what is recognized in the US, what is not - How does access to education and jobs differ in the US versus Central American countries? How are education and professions transferred from country of origin into the United States. Are they valued and respected differently?

Regionally Specific Suggested Questions: East Africa

1. How do more recent immigrants from Africa experience the US differently from African American's whose ancestors were forced to migrate during the slave trade?
2. What languages/ religions/ traditions/ histories/ government structures are present in the 54 different countries making up the African continent?
3. How does language study in East Africa differ from language study in the United States? Where do students learn, and what language do they learn in?
4. How do immigrants and refugees contribute to American society? In what ways do they strengthen our communities and develop relationships among each other and their neighbors?

Regionally Specific Suggested Questions: Middle East

1. Think and reflect about what you have been taught or what you teach about the Middle East in school. What have you learned

about the Middle East outside of 9/11?

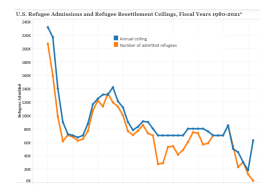
2. How do the stories in this text-set add to your understanding of people who come to the US from the Middle East? How do the narratives in this text-set combat the stereotype of people from the Middle East as terrorists?
3. How are depictions of women having agency and independence depicted in conjunction/ alongside devotion to the practice of Islam? Can they co-exist or are they mutually exclusive?

Resettlement Nationally!

U.S. Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings and Number of Refugees Admitted, 1980-Present

By Migration Policy Institute
Interactive Chart/Timeline!
(grades 8-12)

U.S. Annual Refugee Resettlement Ceilings and Number of Refugees Admitted, 1980-Present



This data tool shows refugee admissions and annual resettlement ceilings from the U.S. refugee resettlement program's inception in 1980 through the first seven months of fiscal year 2021. The number of persons who may be admitted to the United States as refugees each year is established by the President in consultation with Congress.

MIGRATIONPOLICY.ORG

Student Narratives of Migration Across the US

Personal Written Narratives and Oral Histories (grades 6-12)

I Learn (Library) | I Learn America

Youth from our partnering schools have created and posted the stories. Many of our young storytellers are new to English. Consequently, some of the texts may not be grammatically perfect. Unfiltered, unedited, raw and from the heart, they are that much closer to the students. LISTEN, LEARN and CARE.

I LEARN AMERICA



I Learn America

By Jean-Michel Dissard & Gitte Peng
Documentary Film (grades 6-12)



Statistics Breakdown-

<https://www.newamericaneconomy.org/city/memphis/>

Interactive Map (Filter by City/County) -

<https://data.newamericaneconomy.org/map-the-impact/>

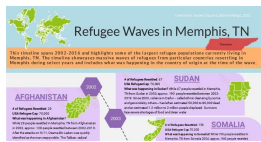
Resettlement in Memphis/Tennessee!

Timeline of Refuge Waves in Memphis, TN

2002-2016 (grades 8-12)

Refuge Waves in Memphis, TN

Created by Sabrina Nargiz and Sache Crouch in 2021, this timeline is part of a text-set aimed to provide resources that showcase the diversity of modern day immigrants in the US through a focus on immigrants and refugees throughout the US and particularly communities in Memphis, TN.



VISME

Biggest Sources of Immigrants in Memphis

By Nicole Caldwell

Article/List 2021 (all grades)

Biggest sources of immigrants to Memphis

Nearly 14% of the United States population is composed of immigrants. But in reality, the vast majority of Americans today are here because of relatives who immigrated from other countries some time in the last several hundred years.



STACKER

Rebuilding Welcome in Memphis

Life Across Borders: A World Relief Mini-Series

Podcast (grades 6-12)

Rebuilding Welcome in Memphis

In this episode, you'll hear from World Relief's Basuze Madogo and PJ Moore. Basuze was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was resettled in the United States in 2014, and currently works as a Resettlement Specialist at World Relief Memphis where PJ serves as the Office Director.



CASTOS

Refugees Among Us: Memphis, TN

By Commercial Appeal

Interactive map and timeline!

2001-2019 (all grades)

<https://data.commercialappeal.com/refugee/tennessee-memphis/all/all/>

Memphis Welcomes Refugees

By Adrian Sainz

News Article 2020 (grades 6-12)

Tennessee's largest county to keep welcoming refugees

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) - The mayor of Tennessee's largest county on Friday reaffirmed its commitment to welcome refugees, amid a drop in the number of people who are coming to the Memphis area as they flee persecution and war in other countries. Shelby County Mayor Lee Harris held a ceremonial signing of a letter he sent to U.S.



AP NEWS

'Refugees Are People': Six Stories of Refugees in Nashville

By Jennifer Justus

Article 2017 (grades 6-12)

'Refugees Are People': Six Stories of Refugees in Nashville

The Monday after President Donald Trump signed the executive order commonly referred to as the "Muslim Ban," the office at a local refugee resettlement agency had the jittery atmosphere of a place running on fluorescent bulbs, caffeine and stress. It has stripped-down nonprofit decor - it doesn't need corporate slogans on the walls to motivate its inhabitants.



NASHVILLE SCENE

Immigrants and the economy in: Memphis Metro Area

By New American Economy

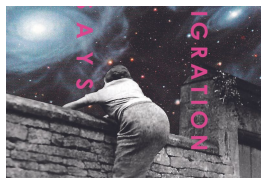
2019 (grades 9-12)

Chattanooga Refugee Stories & A Reverse Migration in 'Immigration Essays'

By Micheal Edward Miller
Podcast 2017 (grades 6-12)

Chattanooga Refugee Stories & A Reverse Migration in 'Immigration Essays'

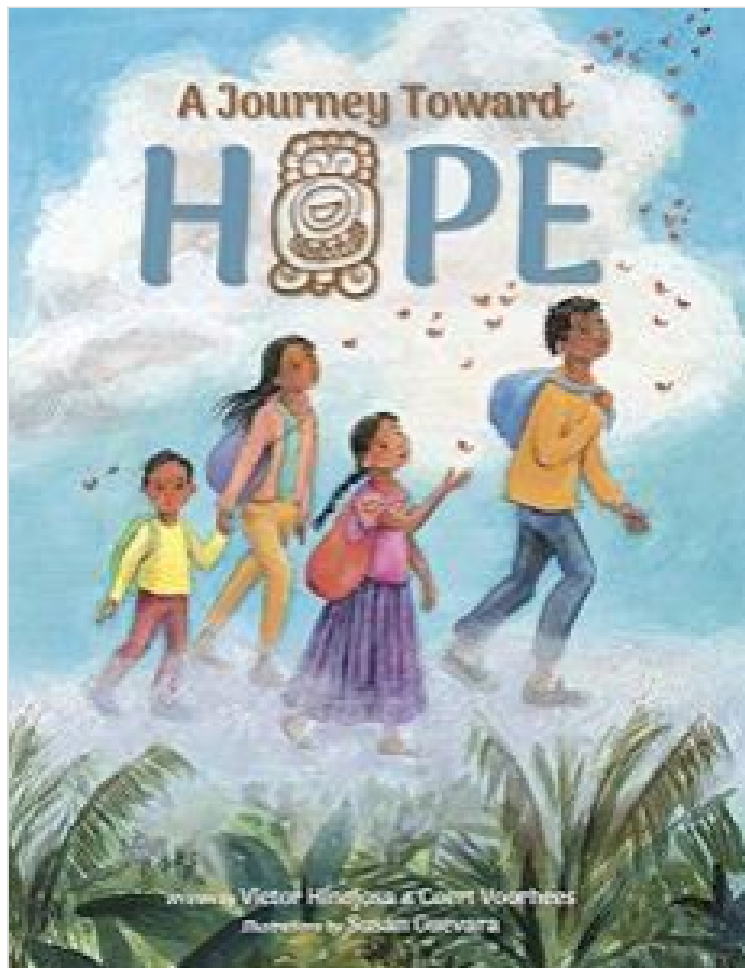
In 2013, Sybil Baker began working on a book about immigrants and refugees who have resettled in Chattanooga, Tennessee. At the request of people who reviewed early drafts, she began including stories of her own travels, including a "reverse migration" from America to Ankara, and 12 years she spent living in South Korea before moving to the Scenic City and teaching at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.



WUTC

Central America

Map of Central America



Eschucha mi voz: Los testimonios de los jóvenes detenidos en la frontera sureña de los Estados Unidos / Hear My Voice: The Testimonies of Children Detained at the Mexican-American Border in Their Own Words

Compiled by: Warren Binford for Project Amplify
Picture Book (grades 3-7)
Focus Region: Mexico & Central American countries

<https://youtu.be/wS7fsjNxPfQ>

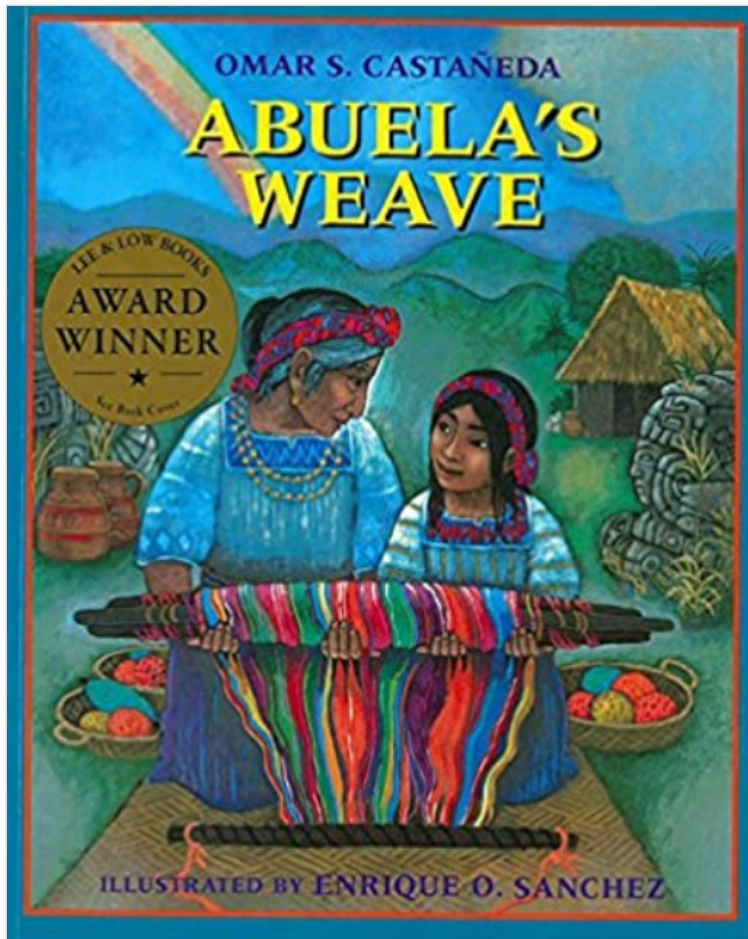
A Journey Toward Hope

By Victor Hinojosa
Illustrated by Susan Guevara
Picture Book (grades 1-3)
Focus Countries: Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador



Abuela's Weave

By Omar Castaneda
 Picture Book (grades K-4)
 Focus Country: Guatemala
<https://youtu.be/vYRtaaLxFPO>

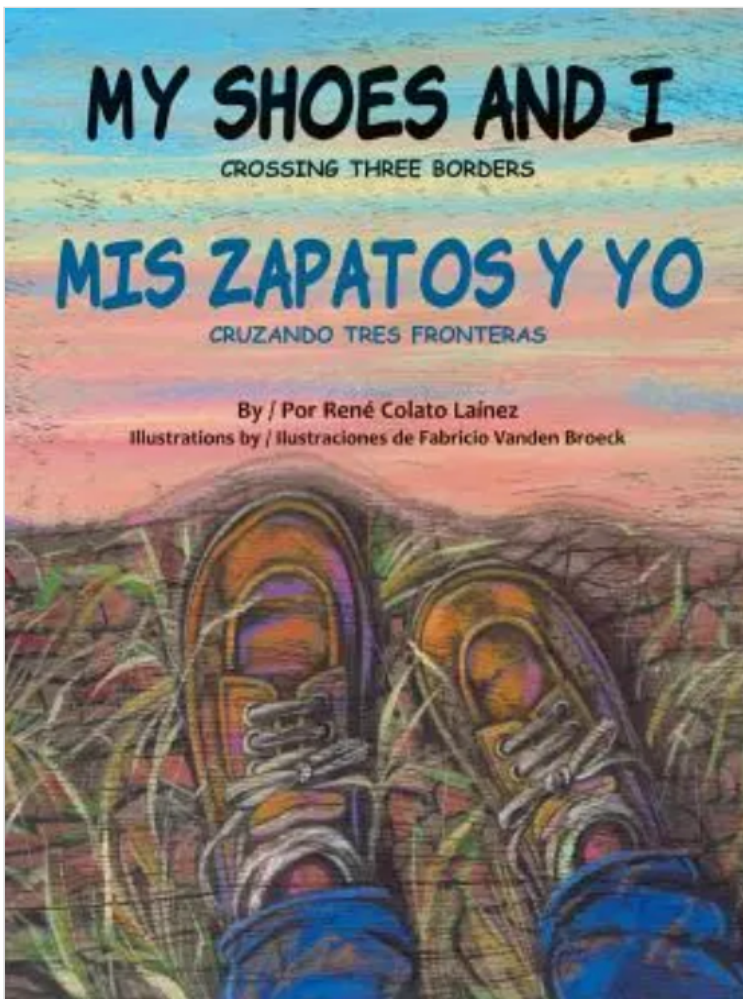


Mayan Weaves



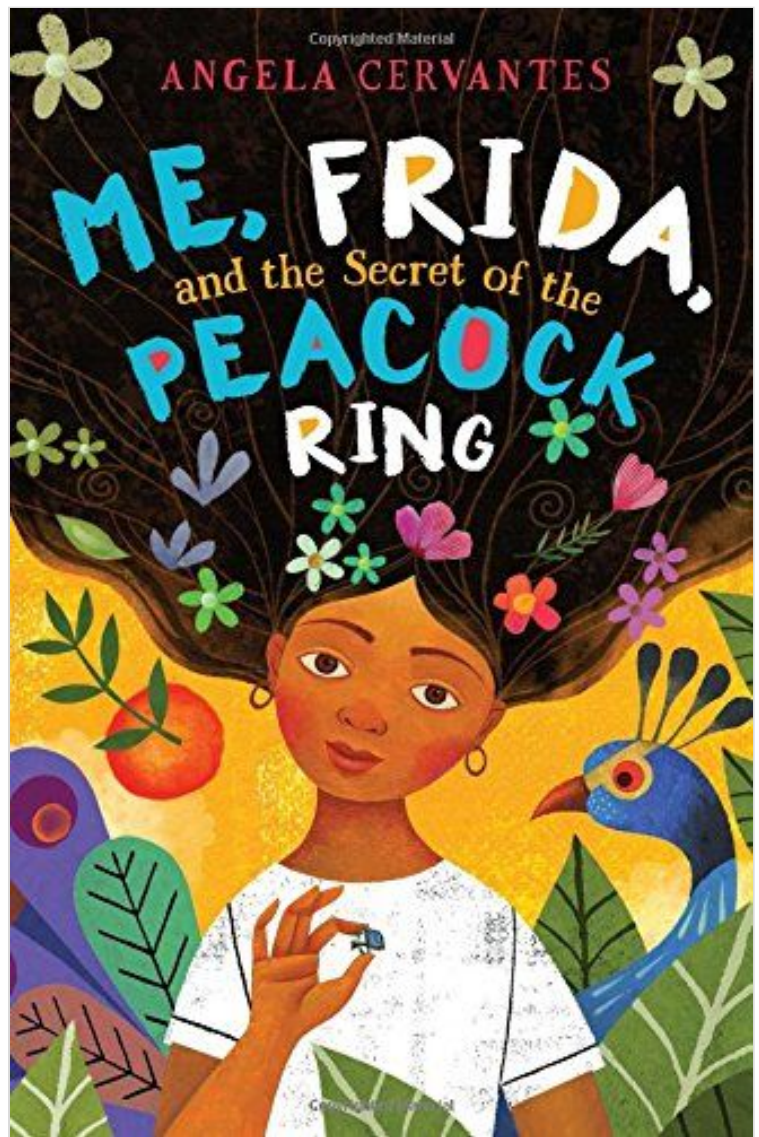
My Shoes and I: Crossing Three Borders / Mis Zapatos Y Yo: Cruzando Tres Fronteras

By Rene Colato Lainez
 Illustrated by Fabricio Vanden Broeck
 Picture Book (grades K-5)
 Focus Country: EL Salvador
<https://youtu.be/xkSI867lw>



Me, Frida, and the Secret of the Peacock Ring

By Angela Cervantes
 Novel (grades 3-7)
 Focus Country: Mexico



Land of Cranes by Aida Salazar

By Aida Salazar
 Poetry/Illustrated Novel
 (grades 3-7)
 Focus Country: Mexico

Land of the Cranes

From the prolific author of *The Moon Within* comes the heart-wrenchingly beautiful story in verse of a young Latinx girl who learns to hold on to hope and love even in the darkest of places: a family detention center for migrants and refugees. Nine-year-old Betita knows she is a crane.



SCRIBD

Enrique's Journey

By Sonia Nazario
 Novel (grades 6-up)
 Focus Country: Honduras

NATIONAL BESTSELLER

"MAGNIFICENT . . . *Enrique's Journey* is about love. It's about family. It's about home." —*The Washington Post Book World*

ENRIQUE'S JOURNEY

The story of a boy's dangerous odyssey to reunite with his mother

Sonia Nazario

Winner of the PULITZER PRIZE
REVISED AND UPDATED BY THE AUTHOR



We Are Not From Here

By Jenny Torres Sanchez
Novel (grades 7-9)
Focus Country: Guatemala

"A fierce and tender story...Relevant, timely, and perceptive."
—MARGARITA ENGLE, winner of the Pura Belpré Award and Newbery Honor

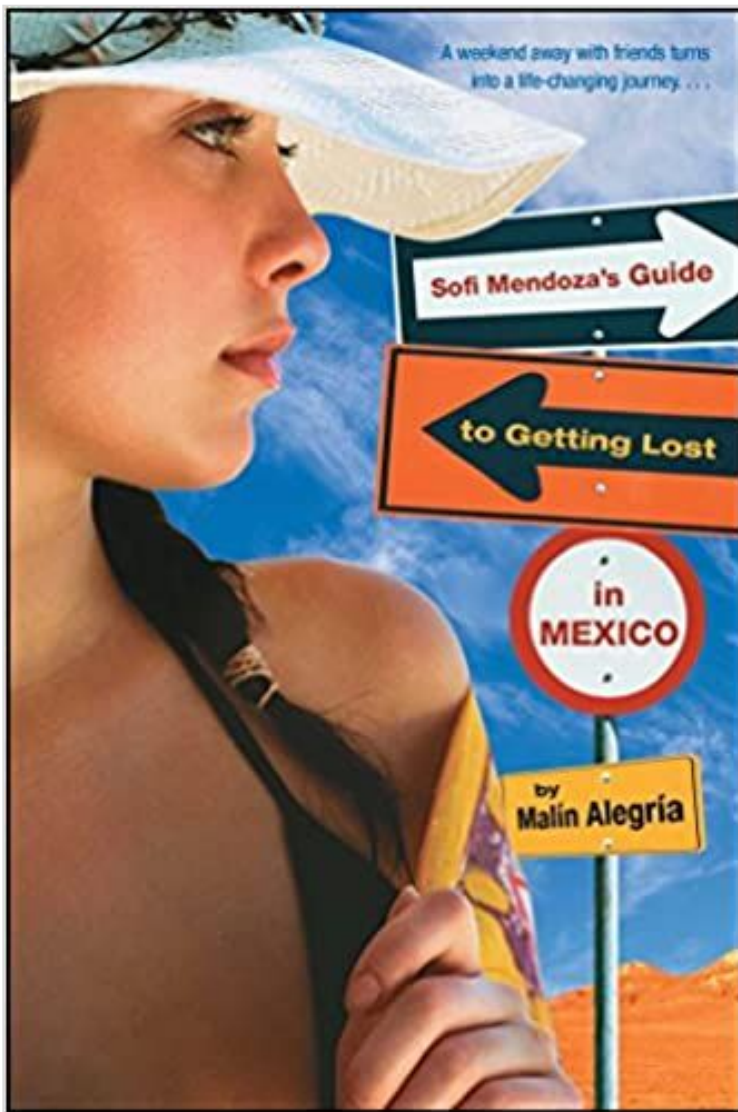
WE ARE NOT FROM HERE

JENNY TORRES SANCHEZ



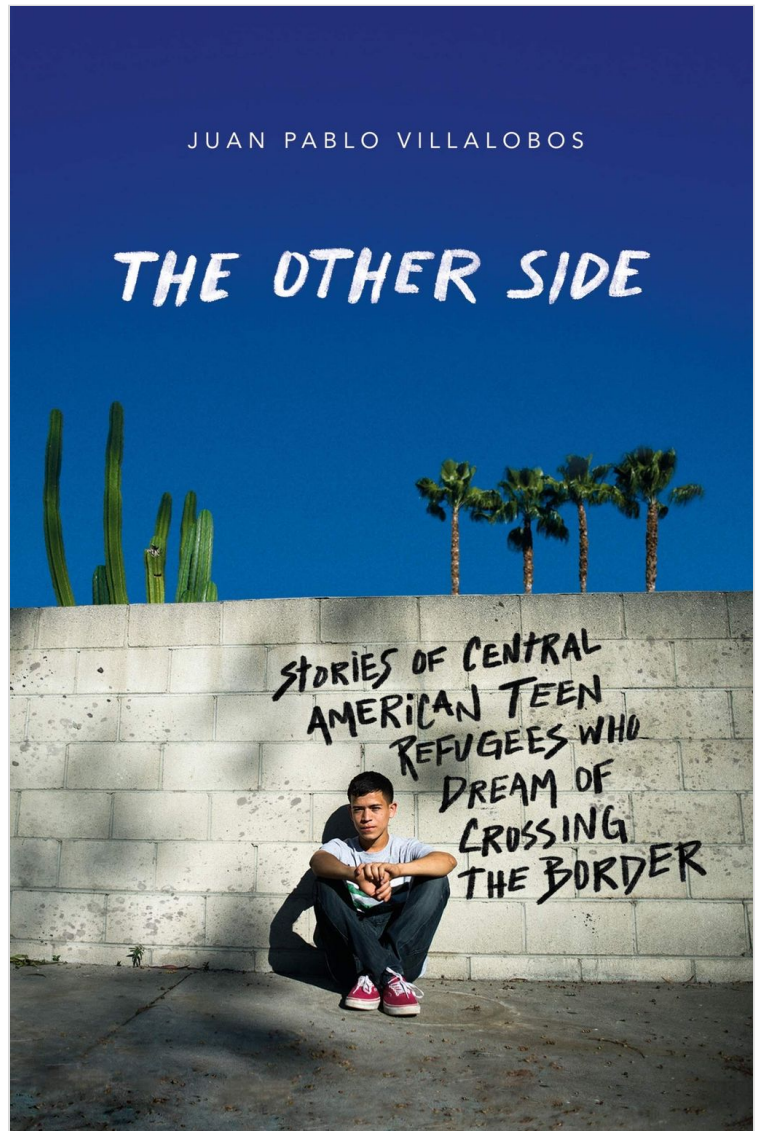
Sofi Mendoza's Guide to Getting Lost in Mexico

By: Malin Alegria
Novel (grades 7-12)
Focus Country: Mexico



The Other Side: Stories of Central American Teen Refugees Who Dream of Crossing the Border

By Juan Pablo Villalobos
 Nonfiction (grades 7-up)
 Focus Region: Central America



Modern Immigrant: Walking to the USA from Honduras with Luis Rosales

Podcast - Suggested Grades: 9-12

Walking to the USA from Honduras with Luis Rosales - Modern Immigrant

How to turn trauma into triumph? New Episode!!!! Luis moved to the US when he was 8 years old. He walked from Honduras to the USA. A journey that took almost 3 months. Luis is a gay male and undocumented immigrant that has been turning trauma into...

BUZZSPROUT



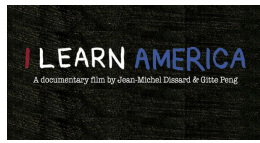
Joni Lopez - Mi historia, mi creacion

(Bilingual) Narrative (grades 6-12)
 Focus Country: Mexico

Mi historia, mi creacion. | I Learn America

By Joni Lopez | From : Cuauhtepc de Hlnojosa, Hidalgo, MEX | School : Social Justice at Humanitas/Cesar Chavez Mi historia Hay muchas cosas que pasan en la vida, y duelen mucho.

I LEARN AMERICA



Leslie Roman - What's Your Story?

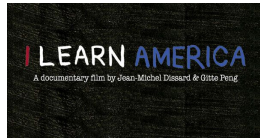
Narrative (grades 6-12)

Focus Country: El Salvador

What's your story | I Learn America

By Leslie Roman | From : El Salvador | School : Los Angeles School of Global Studies I was born in 2002 in El Salvador, but my life changed the moment I came to the United States in 2012. No one said that leaving your country would be easy.

I LEARN AMERICA



We're Contreras! From: Guatemala/Honduras/El Salvador

(Bilingual) Spoken Poetry
(grades 3-12)

Focus Countries: Guatemala/ Honduras/El Salvador

We're Contreras! | I Learn America

From : Guatemala/Honduras/El Salvador | School : Miguel Contreras Learning Complex, LA Francisco from Ahuachapan, El Salvador I come from a warm place, from a very small city. I come from Nature's rubble, from beaches and mountains. I remember waking up in the mornings with the roosters' song in the distance, more than an alarm it was an incomparable and perfect song.

I LEARN AMERICA



East Africa

Map of Africa



The Color of Home

By Mary Hoffman

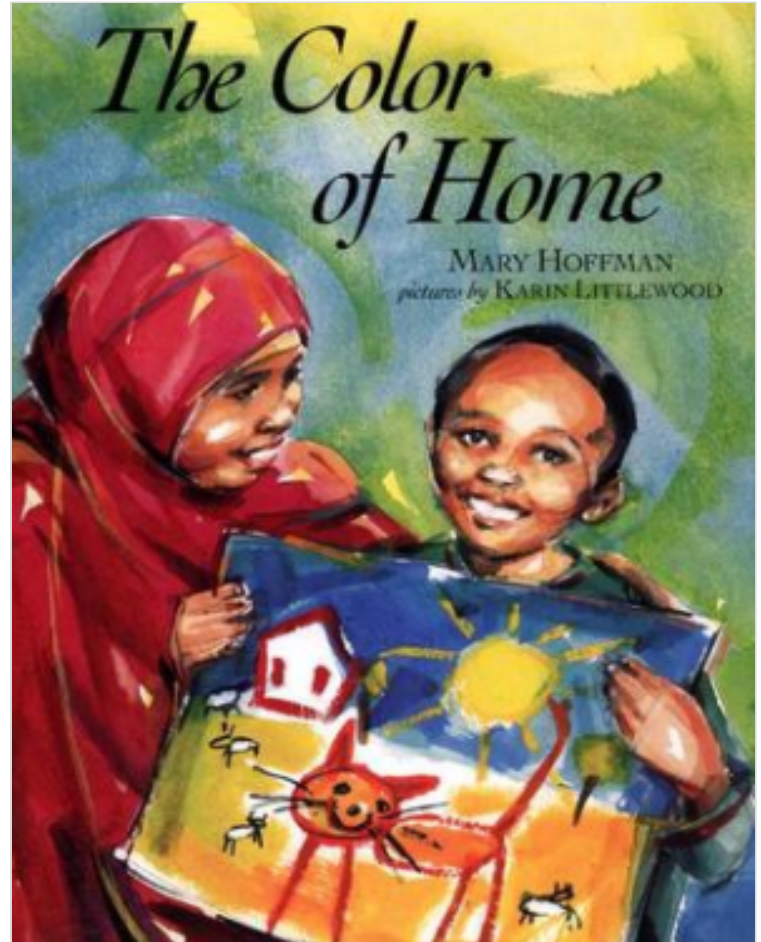
Illustrated by Karen Littlewood

Picture Book

(grades K-2)

Focus Country: Somalia

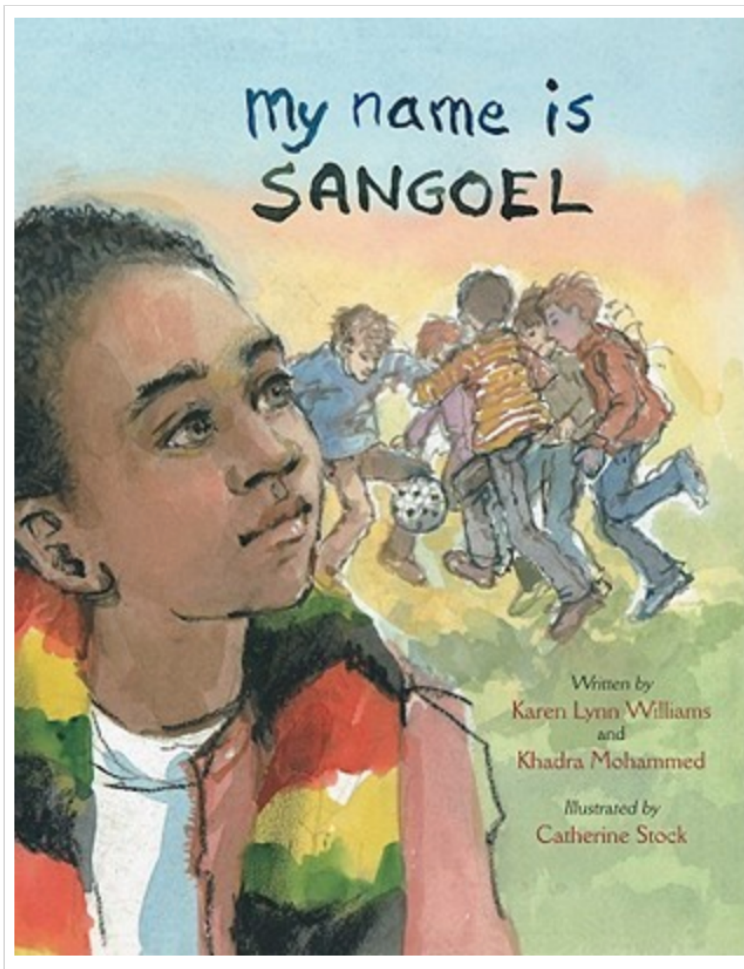
<https://youtu.be/m5DmJ6sA0nc>



My Name is Sangoel

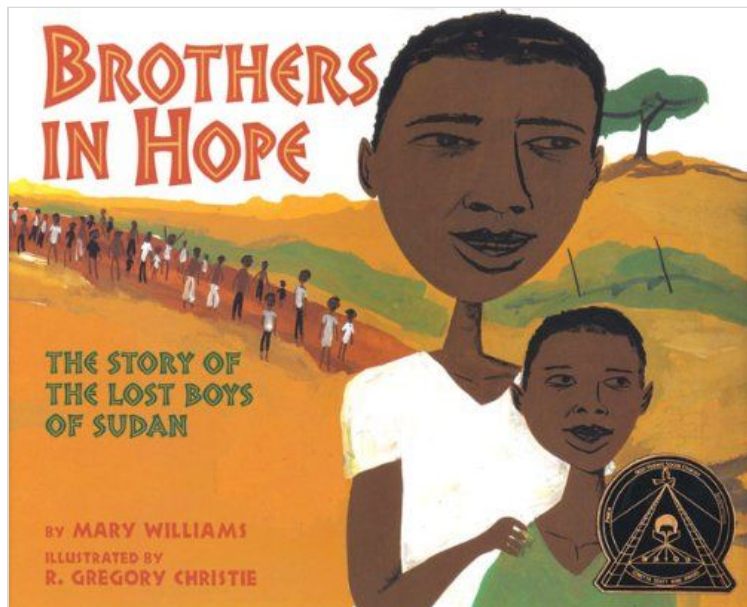
By Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed, Illustrated by Catherine Stock
Picture Book
(grade level 1-3)
Focus Country: Sudan

<https://youtu.be/vnbkBkA7cDg>



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

By Mary Williams
Picture Book (grades 2-4)
Focus Country: Sudan



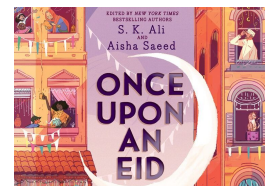
Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices

By S K Ali, Aisha Saeed
Short Stories (grades 3-7)
Focus: African Culture/Religion

Once Upon an Eid: Stories of Hope and Joy by 15 Muslim Voices

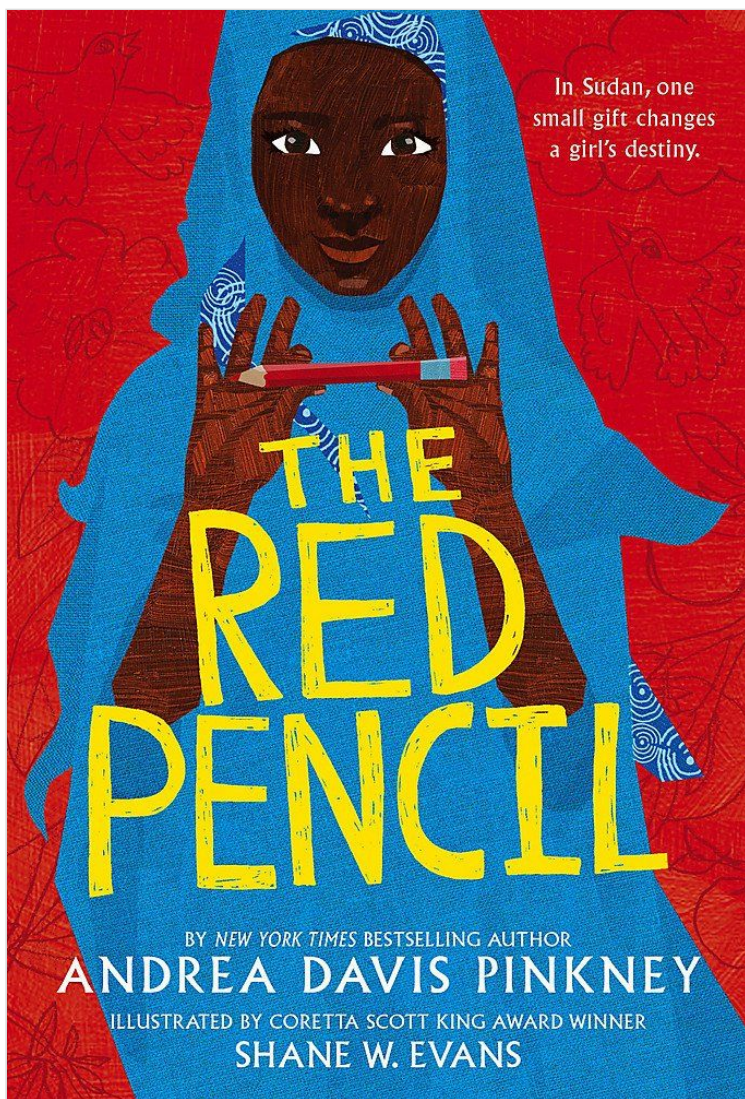
A joyous short story collection by and about Muslims, edited by New York Times bestselling author Aisha Saeed and Morris finalist S. K. Ali. Once Upon an Eid is a collection of short stories that showcases the most brilliant Muslim voices writing today, all about the most joyful holiday of the year: Eid!

SCRIBD



The Red Pencil

By Andrea Davis Pinkney
Novel (grades 4-Up)
Focus Country: Sudan



Novel (grades 9-12)
Focus Country: Ethiopia



When Stars Are Scattered

By Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed
Graphic Novel (grades: 4-8)
Focus Country: Somalia

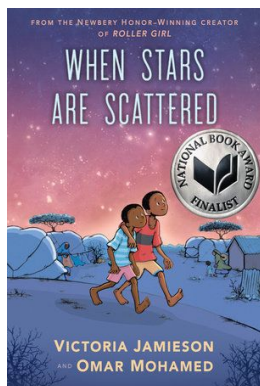
When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed:

9780525553915 |

PenguinRandomHouse.com: Books

National Book Award Finalist
Schneider Family Book Award, Middle School Honor
YALSA Great Graphic Novel for Teens
YALSA Quick Pick for Reluctant Young Adult Readers
YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Nominee
Walter Award Winner (Younger Readers)
Amazon Best Children's Book of 2020
New York Times Book Review Notable
Children's Book
TIME Best Book of the

PENGUINRANDOMHOUSE.COM



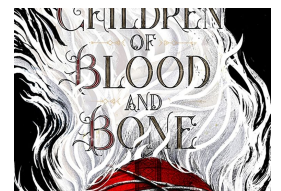
Children of Blood and Bone

By Tomi Adeyemi
Fantasy (grades 9-12)
Focus Region: Africa

Children of Blood and Bone Sneak Peek

Download a FREE sneak peek of CHILDREN OF BLOOD AND BONE! Tomi Adeyemi conjures a stunning world of dark magic and danger in her West African-inspired fantasy debut. They killed my mother. They took our magic. They tried to bury us. Now we rise. Zélie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic.

SCRIBD



Cold White Sun

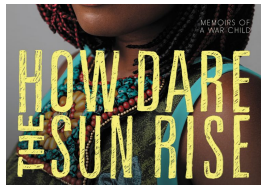
By Sue Farrell Holler

How Dare the Sun Rise

By Sandra Uwiringiyimana
Memoir (grades 8-12)

How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child

Junior Library Guild Selection * New York Public Library's Best Books for Teens * Goodreads Choice Awards Nonfiction Finalist * Chicago Public Library's Best of the Best Books for Teens: Nonfiction * 2018 Texas Topaz Nonfiction List * YALSA's 2018 Quick Picks List * Bank Street's 2018 Best Books of the Year "This gut-wrenching, poetic memoir reminds us that no life story can be reduced to the word 'refugee.'" -New York Times Book Review "A critical piece of literature, contributing to the larger refugee narrative in a way that is complex and nuanced."



SCRIBD

Mohamed Abamoor, What I've Seen Lead Me to Where I Want To Be

Oral History from I Learn America (grades 9-12)
Focus Country: Somalia



HMS - Mohamed - Horace Mann School for the Deaf
by I LEARN AMERICA
YOUTUBE

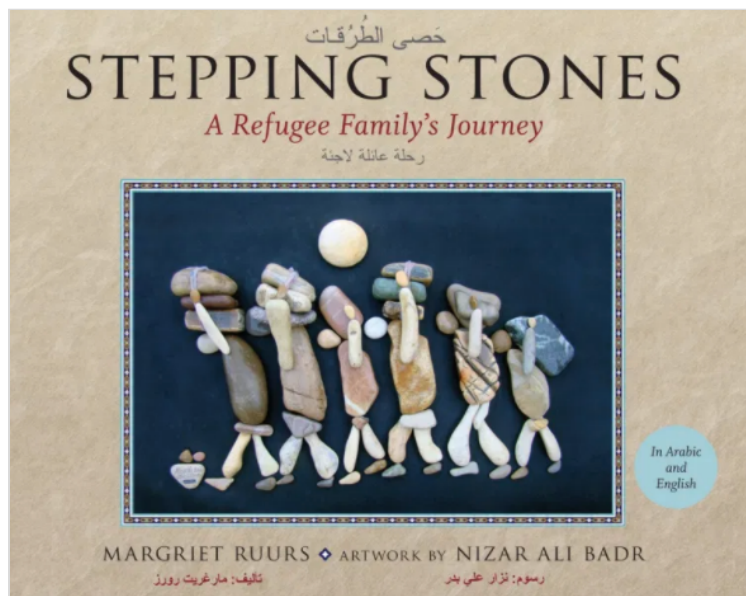
Middle East

Map of Middle East



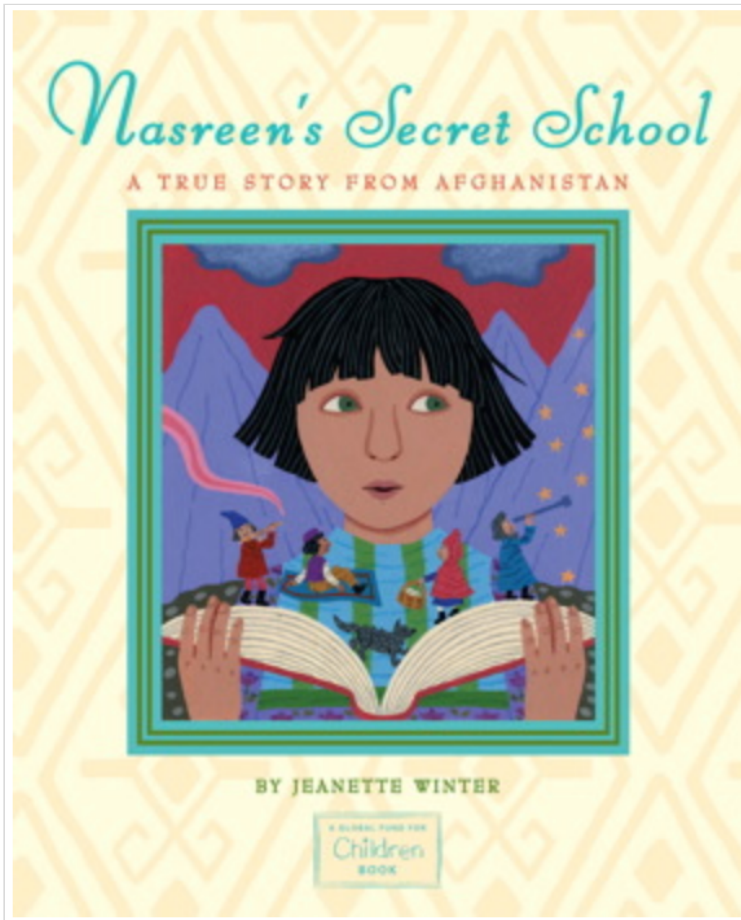
Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey

By Margriet Ruurs
Illustrated by Nizar Ali Badr
Picture Book (grades K-2)
Focus Country: Syria
<https://youtu.be/UmoPKZHdVVo>



Nasreen's Secret School

By Jeanette Winter
(grades 1-4)



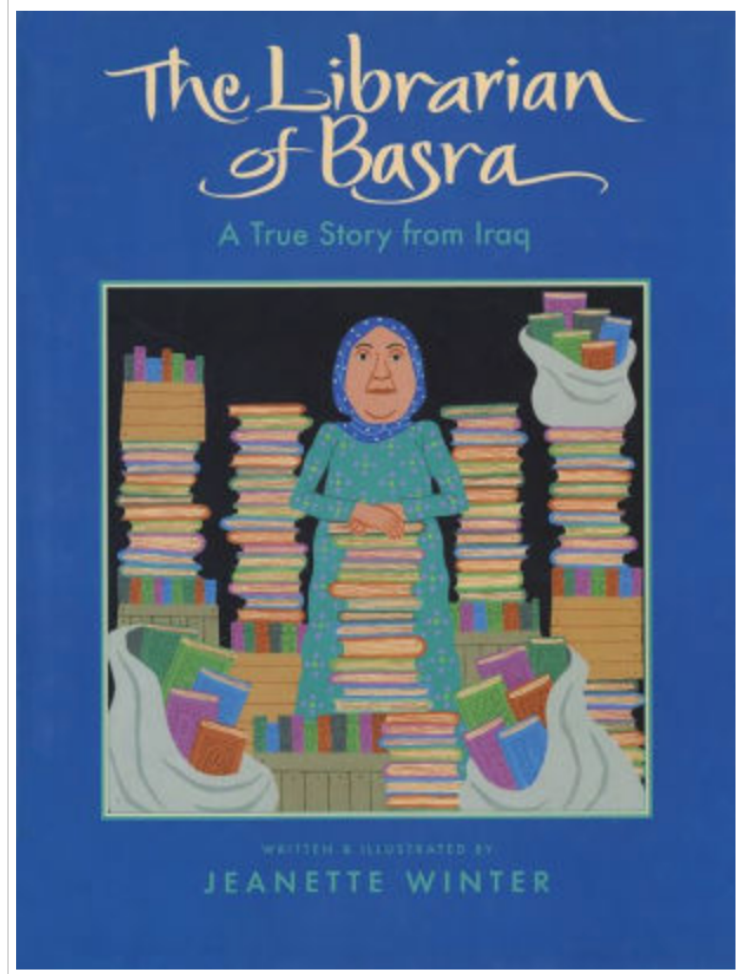
The Librarian of Basra

By Jeanette Winter

(grades K-3)

Focus Country: Iraq

<https://youtu.be/c8OHjvuaw5M>



Malala: Activist for Girls' Education - video

(grades 4-7)

Focus Country: Pakistan

Watch Malala: Activist for Girls' Education on Epic

Built on a collection of 40,000+ popular, high-quality books from 250+ of the world's best publishers, Epic safely fuels curiosity and reading confidence for kids 12 and under. Get Started

WATCH MALALA: ACTIVIST FOR GIRLS' EDUCATION ON EPIC



Syrian Refugee Children

A photo essay. A story of Syrian refugee children in 23 photos.

Syrian refugee children: A story in 23 photos | World Vision

If you could see through eyes of a Syrian refugee child, what would life look like? In this informal tent settlement in Lebanon, we asked children to show us. These are the scenes they wanted to share. It's cold in the late afternoon. This family burns trash - most of it plastic - to stay warm.

WORLD VISION



Boy, Everywhere

By A. M. Dassu
Novel (grades 3-7)
Focus Country: Syria

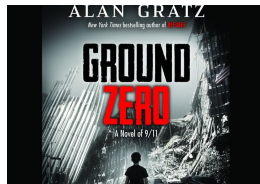


Ground Zero

By Alan Gratz
Historical Fiction (grades 4-8)
Focus Country: Afghanistan

Ground Zero

September 11, 2001, New York City: Brandon is visiting his dad at work, on the 107th floor of the World Trade Center. Out of nowhere, an airplane slams into the tower, creating a fiery nightmare of terror and confusion. And Brandon is in the middle of it all.



SCRIBD

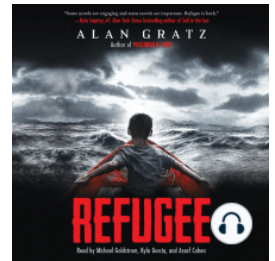
Refugee

By Alan Gratz

Historical Fiction (Grades 4-8)
Focus County: Syria

Refugee

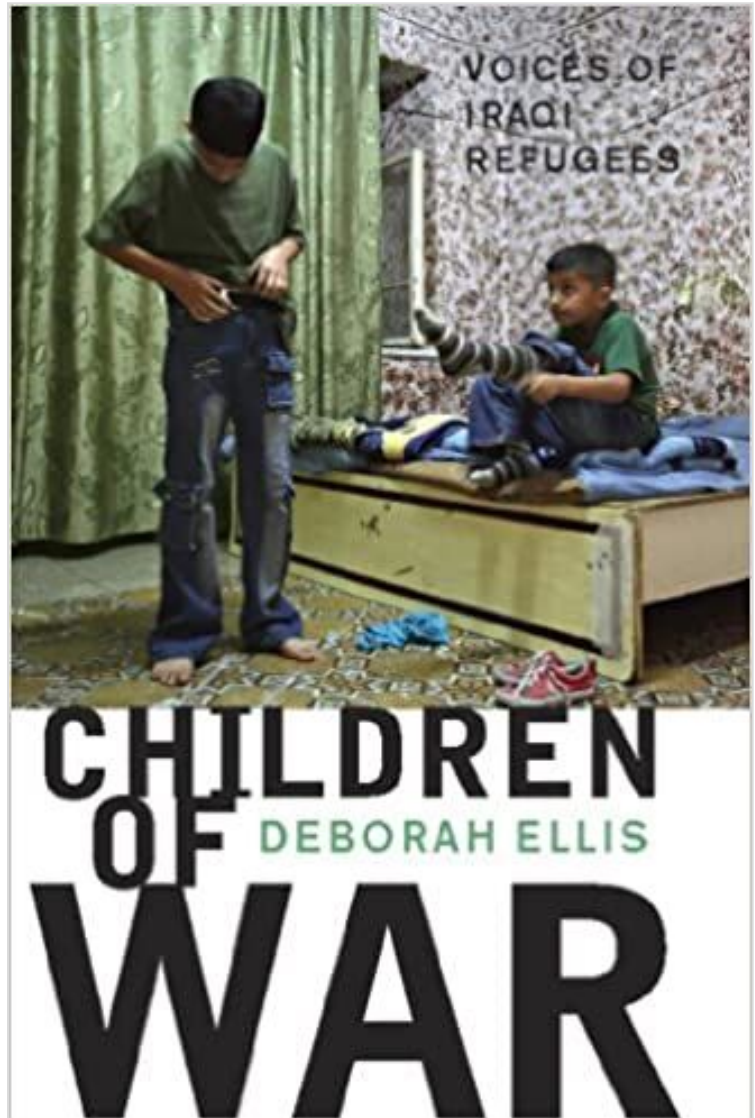
A tour de force from acclaimed author Alan Gratz (Prisoner B-3087), this timely and powerful novel tells the story of three different children seeking refuge. JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world.



SCRIBD

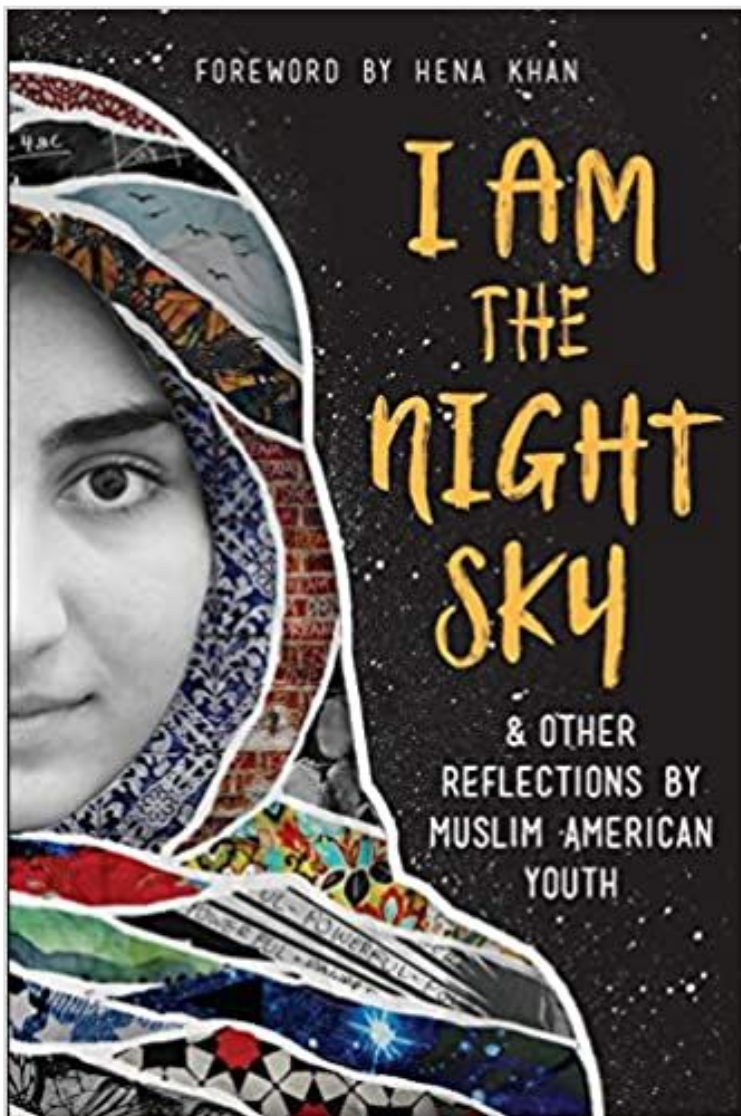
Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees

By Deborah Ellis
Nonfiction (grades 6-9)
Focus Country: Iraq



I Am the Night Sky: ...& Other Reflections

By Muslim American Youth
Non-Fiction (grades 7-12)



Resettled: Culture

By Angela Massino
Podcast (grades 6-12)
Focus County: Afghanistan

Culture

How do you preserve your culture when integration is a primary focus of resettlement? For Chef Hamidullah Noori, he expresses his Afghan culture through food and poetry. But it's not just a lifestyle for Noori, it's his livelihood as well.



VPM.ORG

Noor Alothman, Syria, Respect Other Religions

Focus Country: Syria
Personal Narrative from I Learn America (grades 9-12)
<https://ilearnamerica.com/respect-other-religions/>

RESPECT OTHER RELIGIONS

By Noor Alothman | From: Upper Marlboro, MD | School: International High School at Largo

My name is Noor Alothman, and I am from Syria.



More Resources!

Their Greatest Gift: Courage, Sacrifice, and Hope in a New Land (2016)

By John Coy
Picture Book (K-3)
https://www.getepic.com/book/40320414/their-great-gift-courage-sacrifice-and-hope-in-a-new-land?utm_source=t2t&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=content&share=6618679179



Their Great Gift



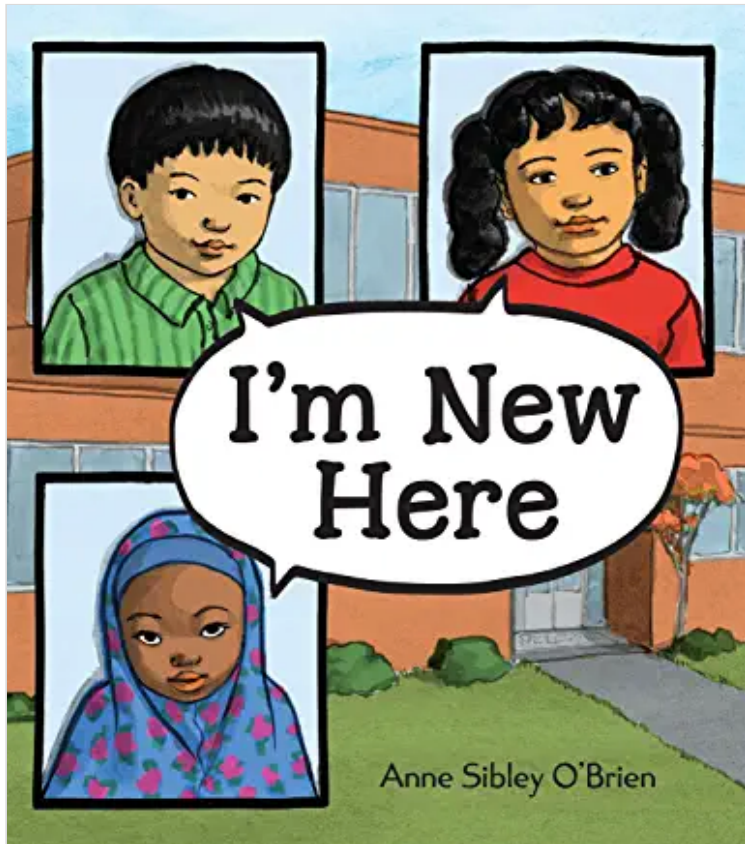
I'm New Here (2015)

By Ellen Levin

Illustrated by Steven Bjorkman

Picture Book (K-2)

https://www.getepic.com/book/66035620/im-new-here?utm_source=t2t&utm_medium=link&utm_campaign=content&share=6618679179



Lubna and Pebble

By Wendy Meddour

Illustrated by Daniel Egneus

Picture Book (grades K-3)

Lubna and Pebble (read for Empathy Lab)

by Wendy Meddour's Story Time

YOUTUBE

Bamboo People

By Mitali Perkins

Novel (grades 7-9)

Focus Country: Myanmar

Bamboo People: A Novel

'A graceful exploration of the redemptive power of love, family and friendship ...!' - Publishers Weekly
Chiko isn't a fighter by nature. He's a book-smart Burmese boy whose father, a doctor, is in prison for resisting the government.

SCRIBD

