

Kathy Short, 2021

Refugee Experiences in African Countries

Picturebooks

Addison, Amanda. (2020). ***Boundless Sky***. London: Lantana. RF

A bird and a young girl from southern Africa travel across the world, meeting at the common end of their journeys in northern England. Parallel migration story.

Copp, Mary Wagley (2019). ***Wherever I Go***. Illus. Munir Mohammed. New York: Atheneum. RF

Abia is the self-proclaimed queen of a refugee camp in Ethiopia, where she has spent her childhood. When her family is resettled, she takes her story of resilience and strength with her.

Farish, Terry (2016). ***Joseph's Big Ride***. Illus. Ken Daley. Toronto: Annick. RF

A refugee from Kenya in Canada is determined to ride a bicycle, leading to an unexpected friendship.

Gouichoux, Rene (2019). ***Idriss and His Marble***. Illus. Zau. StarBerry. RF

War forces a child and his mother to flee a country in Africa, as he clings to his lucky charm, a marble.

Kobald, Irena (2014). ***My Two Blankets***. Illus. Freya Blackwood. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. RF

A Sudanese girl clings to an old blanket when she is sad, but a friendship helps her create a new blanket.

Novels

Anderson, Natalie (2019). ***Let's Go Swimming on Doomsday***. New York: Putnam's. YA RF

Forced to become a child soldier, a 16-year-old Somali refugee confronts his painful past.

Bassoff, Leah (2018). ***Lost Girl Found***. Toronto: Groundwood. YA HF

Poni must run for her life due to the Sudanese war in a long and dangerous trek to a camp in Kenya

Coates, Jan (2010). ***A Hare in the Elephant's Trunk***. Red Deer Press. HF

After an attack on his Sudanese village, an orphaned boy struggles to survive and escape the violence.

Park, Linda Sue (2010). ***A Long Walk to Water***. New York: Clarion. HF/RF

Two stories in alternating sections connecting a "lost boy" of the Sudan in 1985 with a girl in the Sudan in 2008 who must walk long distances for water.

Pinkney, Andrea (2014). ***The Red Pencil***. Illus. Shane. Evans. New York: Little Brown. HF, NV

Amira's Sudanese village is attacked, and she flees to a refugee camp, expressing her dreams in drawings.

Robert, Na'ima bint (2008). ***From Somalia with Love***. London: Frances Lincoln. YA RF

A Somali teen's life in London is turned upside down when her father returns from Mogadishu after 12 years, expecting the family to live by his rules.

Whitman, Sylvia (2013). ***The Milk of Birds***. New York: Atheneum. YA RF

Two teens are paired as pen pals, one in a Sudanese refugee camp and the other in Richmond, Virginia.

Williams, Michael (2009). ***Now is the Time for Running***. Boston: Little Brown. HF

Deo goes on the run with his brother after his village is attacked in Zimbabwe, trying to get to South Africa.

Nonfiction

Jamieson, Victoria & Mohamed, Omar (2020). ***When Stars are Scattered***. New York: Dial. Bio, GN

Omar, a Somali refugee, who has spent most of his life in a refugee camp in Kenya, gets an opportunity for an education, but that would mean a separation from his nonverbal brother.

Milway, Katie Smith (2017). ***The Banana-Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World***. Toronto: Kids Can. NF

When gangs become a problem in a refugee camp in Tanzania, a coach organizes soccer games.

Uwiringiyimana, Sandra (2017). ***How Dare the Sun Rise: Memoirs of a War Child***. New York: HarperCollins. Bio

A memoir of a Congolese teen who survived a massacre to come to the U.S. as an activist and artist.

Williams, Mary (2005). ***Brothers in Hope: The Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan***. Illus. R. Gregory Christie. New

York: Lee & Low. Orphaned by the Sudanese civil war, a boy leads other "lost" boys on a long walk to Ethiopia and Kenya.