

REFUGEES



Some titles that support the Australian Curriculum HASS (Social Science) programs

FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7—9

Fish by L.S. Matthews

My story starts the day I found the fish, struggling for life in a dried-out puddle. The day we had to leave our home behind forever. The only thing I took with me was the fish. Our journey took us across the mountains, away from the fighting and the danger - or so we thought...



Shadow by Michael Morpurgo

Never have Aman and his mother needed a friend more than when a dog appears in the mouth of their Afghan cave. Nursed back to health, the dog becomes a constant companion. Life in Afghanistan becomes more dangerous by the moment. Eventually Aman, his mother and their new dog, Shadow, find the courage to leave. How far can Shadow lead them? In this terrifying new world, is anywhere safe?

Escape from War: Frank's Story/Hannah's Story by James Riordan

Frank's story: Frank finds war exciting - there are air raid sirens at night and ruins to explore by day. When his East End neighbourhood is bombed, Frank is evacuated to the countryside. Hannah's story: In 1938, Hannah escapes by train to the safe English countryside, but she cannot forget the sound of breaking glass (Kristallnacht) and the sight of Nazi soldiers rampaging through the Jewish district of Hamburg.

Noodle Pie by Ruth Starke

When Andy's father, a former refugee, returns to Hanoi for the first time in over twenty years, Andy goes with him, but Vietnam is a shock.

Home is a Place Called Nowhere by Leon Rosselson

Amina knows her name, but doesn't know how old she is or where she's from. She's run away from home to look for her real mother. With her new friend Paul to protect her, and the magic of stories and songs to keep her going, she must overcome the dangers that crowd in on every side.





Story Links: Reading about Refugees and Asylum Seekers



The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier

Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage which kept the four deserted and starving children alive through the years of Nazi occupation, and afterwards on the exhausting and dangerous journey from wartorn Poland to Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents. Based on a true story.

Refugee, The Diary of Ali Ismail by Alan Sunderland

Ali Ismail is a refugee. Fleeing persecution in Afghanistan, Ali is smuggled away from his family. He eventually finds himself on a ramshackle boat bound for Australia.

Channeary by Steve Tolbert

Everything changes for Channeary when the feared Khmer Rouge attack the Cambodian fishing village that is her home. She begins a journey that takes her across war-torn, dangerous country and eventually leads her to a new life in Australia.





Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Alem's father is Ethiopian, his mother is Eritrean and with both countries at war, he is welcome in neither place. So his father does an astonishing thing, which at first appears callous, but is in fact the ultimate gift of love from a parent to their child.

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden

This novel is set during the Second World War and bombs are falling on London so Carrie and Nick become war-time evacuees billeted in Wales with old Mr Evans, who was a bit of an ogre. They become involved in the complex life of the village people.



Asmir series by Christobel Mattingley

No Gun for Asmir, Asmir in Vienna, Escape from Sarajevo

Based on a true story of a young refugee, Asmir, and his family, who must move from their beautiful home in Sarajevo, where war has broken out, and escape the conflict by fleeing to peaceful Vienna in Austria.

Little Brother by Allan Baillie

Vithy was alone, separated from his older brother in their desperate escape from the soldiers. He must cross treacherous jungles and mountains to reach safety - and the enemy is never far away. Will Vithy survive the journey? Will he ever see his brother again?





Only the Heart by Brian Caswell

From the chaos and the fear of post-war Saigon, and the terror of pirates on the open ocean, Toan and Linh, and a family that endures the endless nightmare, search for the dream of a new life.

Maddie by Brian Caswell

When Maddie lived in Vietnam, she was called Mai Linh. Her older brother, Mitchell, was known as Minh. They were given their new names when they came to Australia and went to Boundary Park School. Maddie is popular at school, but Minh, haunted by dark memories, doesn't make friends easily.

No More Borders for Josef by Diana Chase

Orphaned in the brutal Balkans conflict, thirteen-year-old Josef is forced to flee across the border. Frightened, angry and deeply traumatised, he is plucked to safety by an Australian uncle he never knew existed.



The Parvana series by Deborah Ellis Parvana, Parvana's Journey, Shauzia

Parvana is the story of a young Afghani girl who dresses and acts as a boy in order to make a living for her family under a brutal Taliban regime, where women and girls are not allowed to leave the house without a man and where people try to flee to the safety of another land.

No Safe Place by Deborah Ellis

Orphaned and plagued with the grief of losing everyone he loves, fifteen-year-old Abdul has made a long, fraught journey from his war-torn home in Baghdad, only to end up in The Jungle -- the squalid, makeshift migrant community in Calais. Desperate to get to England, Abdul takes a big risk and entrusts his life to a people smuggler.



Different Voices by Warren Flynn

Kim hoped the trauma of separation from her family and the horrific boat journey to Australia were behind her. Still the memories returned to haunt her, even though life in Australia had become so ordinary, so boring.



The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillon

Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother and sister fled the violence of a distant homeland, Subhi has only ever known life behind the fences.

Next Stop the Moon by Susanne Gervay

It's 1964 - Rosie and Lisa are discovering the Beatles, clothes, dieting and boys! It's not always easy being both Hungarian and Australian - there are times when the two cultures clash.



Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman

Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. First they must face landmines, pirates, storms, detention and racism.

Girl Underground by Morris Gleitzman

It's a desperate, daring plan - to rescue two kids, Jamal and Bibi, from a desert detention centre. Can Bridget and Menzies pull off their very first jail break, or will they end up behind bars too?

Mahtab's Story by Libby Gleeson

Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home and journey secretly through the rocky mountains to Pakistan, then to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting in a refugee camp, months of dread. Will they ever be reunited with their father; will they ever find a home?

Soraya: The Storyteller by Rosanne Hawke

Soraya is a story teller. The stories from Afghanistan keep her memories alive in Australia, as she starts a new life under the shadow of a Temporary Protection Visa.

More Than Gold by John Heffernan

Raiko is a runner and he's come a long way since he arrived with his mother as a refugee from their war-torn homeland. The memory of his father spurs him on.



When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

Anna is too busy with schoolwork and tobogganing to listen to the grown-ups' talk of Hitler. But one day she and her brother are rushed out of Germany in alarming secrecy, away from everything they know to find refuge in England.

The Other Way Round by Judith Kerr, sequel to 'When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit' It is hard being a teenager in London during the Blitz, finding yourself in love and wondering every night whether you will survive the bombs.

Onion Tears by Diana Kidd

Nam-Huong, a young Vietnamese girl, tries to adjust to her new life in Australia where she lives with a kind Vietnamese woman she calls Auntie. Children at school try to make friends with Nam but, haunted by memories of her family missing in Vietnam, she rejects their overtures.

Kiss the Dust by Elizabeth Laird

For Tara, the world is turned upside-down when her father's involvement with the Kurdish resistance movement obliges the family to flee Iraq. They escape to Iran but even there they are not safe.

Pirates of Pompeii by Caroline Lawrence

It's late August, AD79. The Roman world is reeling from the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. At a makeshift camp south of Stabia, hundreds of refugees from the cities of Vesuvius try to come to terms with the disaster.







Between Us by Clare Atkins

Ana is in a detention centre and her growing romance with Jono creates difficulties for both of them.



When Michael Met Mina by Randa Abdel-Fattah

They met at a rally for refugees but they are on opposing sides. When Mina wins a scholarship to Michael's school matters become even more intense. A close look at the different sides to the refugee debate.

Hope in a Ballet Shoe by Micaela De Prince

After a war-torn childhood in Sierra Leone that makes her an orphan, Michaela is adopted by an American couple and given ballet lessons. Everything should now be wonderful but the ballet world is not yet ready for a black ballerina.

Picture Books about Refugees and Immigration



The Arrival by Shaun Tan (Picture book)

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown?

Refugees by David Miller (Picture book)

Two wild ducks become refugees when their swamp is drained. Their journey in search of a new place to live exposes them to danger, rejection and violence before they are given a new home.





Home and Away by John Marsden illustrated by Matt Ottley (Picture book)

Everyone wants a place of safety, a place to share with the people they love. Right now, more than a billion people don't have a home - that's one in seven of the world's population. There are only two places you can be in life: home or away.



Story Links: Reading about Refugees and Asylum Seekers

THE ISLAND

The Island by Armin Greder (Picture book)

One morning, the people of the island found a man on the beach, where fate and ocean currents had washed his raft ashore. When he saw them coming, he stood up. He wasn't like them. He was alone and needed refuge.

Stephania's Dancing Slippers by Jennifer Beck (Picture book)

"Choose one thing that's most precious to you. That's all we can take". Stefania's choice helps bring her comfort through years of hardship, separation, and a journey of thousands of miles. Set against a background of war, this is a story of courage and love.





My Two Blankets by Irena Kobald illustrated by Freya Blackwood

(Picture book)

Cartwheel has arrived in a new country, and feels the loss of all she's ever known. She creates a safe place for herself under an 'old' blanket made out of memories and thoughts of home. As time goes on, Cartwheel begins to weave a 'new' blanket, one of friendship and a renewed sense of belonging. It is different from the old blanket, but it is eventually just as warm and familiar.

My Dog by John Heffernan (Picture book)

better life?

Alija's only companion is his dog, but his optimism and courage in the face of the adversity of war and the loneliness of losing family is touching and inspiring.





Ali the Bold Heart by Jane Jolly (Picture book)

Ali is a magician. Life in Ali's own country becomes dangerous so he travels to a new land that he thinks will be safer. There, he is locked up in a place surrounded by wire as sharp as a tiger's teeth. Can Ali's magic bring him a

Ziba Came on a Boat by Liz Lofthouse (Picture book)

Sitting in the crowded hull, with her mother's arms around her, Ziba remembers all that she has left behind. They hope to find peace and safety in a new land, but where will their journey end, and what will they find when they arrive?





A True Person by Gabiann Marin illustrated by Jacqui Grantford (Picture book)

Zallah and her mother have escaped their war-torn country and are looking for safety in Australia. Instead of freedom they find themselves in a refugee detention centre. Zallah struggles with the reason for this punishment. **Suri's Wall** by Lucy Estela illustrated by Matthew Ottley (Picture Book) Suri is tall so she can see over the wall and she tells all the other children marvelous tales of what she can see. A moving work that celebrates the power of the imagination.





The Journey by Francesca Sanna (Picture Book)

A family has to leave home and everything they know to escape the tragedy of war. A moving story of loss and displacement told in beautiful images that stay with you long after the last page is turned.

Teacup by Rebecca Young, illustrated by Matt Ottley (Picture Book) A boy leaves his home in a rowboat to find somewhere else to live. He takes with him a book, a blanket and some earth from his homeland in a teacup. A moving story of loneliness, uncertainty and bravery.





The Little Refugee by Ahn Do, Suzanne Do illustrated by Bruce Whatley (Picture Book)

Anh Do's family nearly lost their lives in an overcrowded boat on their way to Australia. Life here can be tough for a small boy who speaks little English and eats strange food but Anh always finds something to cheer himself up

Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes, illustrated by Sue Cornelison (Picture Book)

An Iraqi family escapes by car, by foot and by boat accompanied by their pet cat. The family is heartbroken when Kunkush escapes but a refugee volunteer, Amy, is determined to reunite him with his family.





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