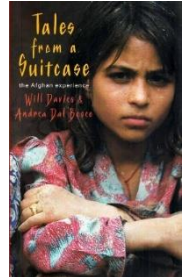


Afghanistan Fiction & Non-Fiction

Selected resources for Middle Grade & Older Readers

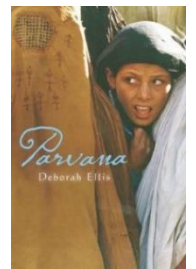
Tales From a Suitcase: The Afghan Experience by Will Davies and Andrea Dal Bosco, 2001

This book shows the courage of post-war Afghan migrants moving to Australia. It is sad, funny, and amazing to read of their trials and successful assimilation into Australian society. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



Parvana/The Breadwinner by Deborah Ellis, 2000/2015 **The Breadwinner Series #1**

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 regime where women and girls are not allowed to leave the house without a man.



Parvana: a Graphic Novel, 2018

This graphic-novel adaptation of the **animated film**, inspired by Deborah Ellis's novel.

Parvana's Journey by Deborah Ellis 2002/2015 **The Breadwinner Series #2**

About a young girl's talent for friendship, hope and gritty determination despite the ravages of war. Sometimes shocking and sad, always compelling, this novel takes an honest, compassionate look at the situation in Afghanistan. **A sequel to Parvana.**



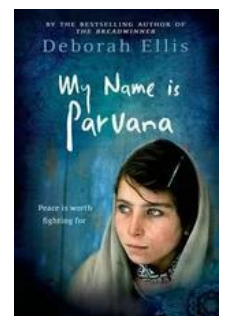
Parvana's Promise/Mud City by Deborah Ellis 2012 **The Breadwinner Series #3**

Parvana, now fifteen, is found in a bombed-out school and held as a suspected terrorist by American troops in Afghanistan. **A sequel to Parvana and Parvana's Journey.**



My Name is Parvana by Deborah Ellis, 2014 **The Breadwinner Series # 4**

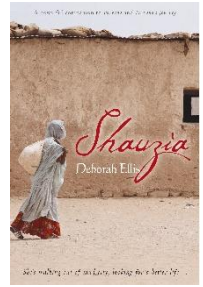
Fifteen-year-old Parvana has built a new life with her family, and it's the life she's always dreamt of. She's learning in a real school and teaching too. But this is Afghanistan, and the war is far from over. Many still view the education and freedom of women with suspicion and fear. And that means Parvana - and her family - are in danger. When she's taken away by American soldiers, suspected of being a terrorist, Parvana must find a way to protect her family, and keep her hope alive. **A sequel to The Breadwinner Trilogy**



Afghanistan Fiction & Non-Fiction

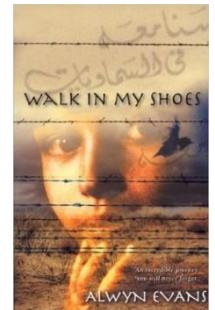
Shauzia by Deborah Ellis, 2003

When Shauzia leaves the relative safety of the refugee camp she faces many difficulties. But she has all the spirit and pluck of her friend Parvana, and with the help of her dog, Jasper she knows she will fulfil her dreams. **A companion to The Breadwinner Series of books.**



Walk in My Shoes by Alwyn Evans, 2005

After a perilous and terrifying escape from war-torn Afghanistan, Gulnessa and her family find themselves in Australia, a place they know nothing about. They are exhausted and traumatised, but full of hope. At last, somewhere safe to call home. Their struggle isn't over yet. They are confined in a detention centre for asylum seekers and forced to prove their refugee status.



Refuge by Jackie French, 2013

Faris is a 13-year-old Afghani who spent much of his life in Pakistan refugee camps before making the voyage from Indonesia to Australia. As the boat crashes against the rocks of Christmas Island he loses consciousness and awakes to find himself in the life he has always dreamed of in Australia, but with no memory of how he got there. He becomes one of a gang of kids who roam the beach. Each of the children in the gang has come to Australia as a place of hope or refuge and they represent the times and places of Australia's greatest migrations.



Mahtab's Story by Libby Gleeson, 2008

Mahtab was empty. Her father was dead. She felt sure of it. She was just a speck of dirt on the floor, drifting through the gap between the boards, falling to the ground. Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home in Herat, Afghanistan, and journey secretly to Pakistan and then to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting, months of dread. Will they ever be reunited with their father; will they ever find a home?



Boy Overboard by Morris Gleitzman, 2002

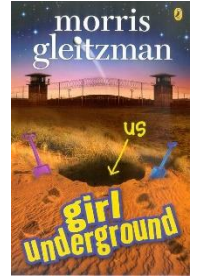
Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. First, they must face landmines, pirates, storms, and assassins. Can Jamal and his family survive their incredible journey from Afghanistan, and get to Australia? Sometimes, to save the people you love, you have to go overboard.



Afghanistan Fiction & Non-Fiction

Girl Underground by Morris Gleitzman, 2004

Bridget wants a quiet life. Including, if possible, keeping her parents out of prison. Then a boy called Menzies makes her an offer she can't refuse, and they set off on a job of their own. It's a desperate, daring plan - to rescue two Afghani 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?



The Ink Bridge by Neil Grant, 2012

Omed is a boy from Afghanistan. After making an enemy of the Taliban on the day the Buddhas of Bamiyan are destroyed, he undertakes a perilous journey to seek asylum in Australia. Hector is a grieving Australian boy who has given up on school and retreated into silence. Their paths meet at a candle factory where they both find work.



Borderland: A Trilogy by Rosanne Hawke, 2003

Jaime Richards was brought up in Muslim Pakistan, then kidnapped into Afghanistan by the Mujahadeen on her return from Australia. Will she ever find her own place in Australia, or will she forever live in a borderland - the space between two countries and two cultures? Or is the borderland a true place of her own? **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



Soraya: The Storyteller by Rosanne Hawke, 2004

Soraya is a storyteller. The stories from Afghanistan keep her memories alive in Australia, as she starts a new life under the shadow of a Temporary Protection Visa. But it is the ebony horse which flies through her dreams that helps her find a strange land between remembering and forgetting, a land where she can be safe.



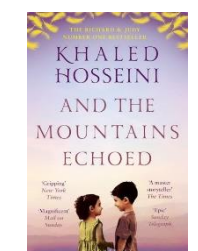
Naveed by John Heffernan, 2014

Naveed is sick of war - of the foreign powers and the Taliban, the warlords and the drug barons that together have torn Afghanistan apart. He's had to grow up quickly to take care of his widowed mother and little sister, making what little money he can doing odd jobs and selling at the markets. When he adopts Nasera, a street dog with extraordinary abilities, he has a chance to help rebuild his country. But will a new friend's betrayal crush his dreams of peace forever?



And the Mountains Echoed by Khaled Hosseini, 2013

Afghanistan, 1952. Abdullah and his sister Pari live with their father and stepmother in the small village of Shadbagh. Their father is constantly in search of work and they struggle together through poverty and brutal winters. Pari and Abdullah have no sense of the fate that awaits them for the events which unfolds will tear their lives apart; sometimes a finger must be cut to save the hand. **For Young Adult Readers**



Afghanistan Fiction & Non-Fiction

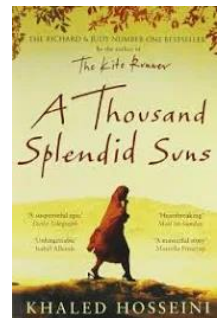
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini, 2013 (Book & film)

Amir is desperate to gain the approval of his father and resolves to win the local kite-fighting tournament. His loyal friend Hassan promises to help him, but this is 1970s Afghanistan and Hassan is merely a low-caste servant who is jeered at in the street, although Amir feels jealous of his natural courage and the place he holds in his father's heart. Neither of the boys could foresee what would happen to Hassan on the afternoon of the tournament, which was to shatter their lives. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



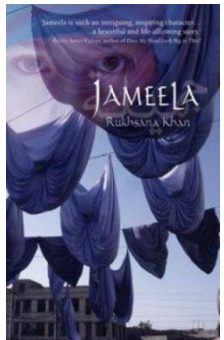
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini, 2007 (Book & eBook)

Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled and bitter Rasheed, who is thirty years her senior. Nearly two decades later, in a climate of growing unrest, tragedy strikes fifteen-year-old Laila, who must leave her home and join Mariam's unhappy household. Laila and Mariam are to find consolation in each other, their friendship to grow as deep as the bond between sisters, as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



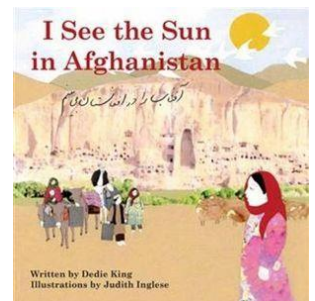
Jameela by Rukhsana Khan, 2010

Jameela lives with her family in a war-torn village in Afghanistan. Life is hard, but when her mother dies, and her father remarries, Jameela has to face a greater horror. To survive she draws on the strong sense of self that her mother gave her. A story inspired by real events.



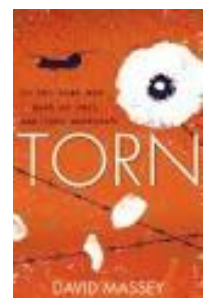
I See the Sun in Afghanistan by Dedie King, Judith Inglese (Illustrator), Mohd Vahidi (Translator), 2014 (Picture Book)

Through the eyes of a child, this story portrays a culture that emphasizes patriarchal family, love of country and fierce loyalty to family and tribe. Although the story takes place against the backdrop of war, it is not political, but a simple story about one day in the life of a young girl. In English and Afghan Farsi.



Torn by David Massey, 2012

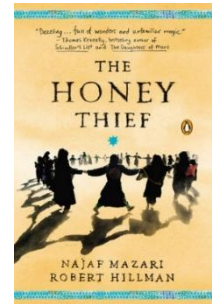
Ellie is a young British medic on her first tour of Afghanistan. When her unit is ambushed, she sees a girl step into the crossfire. But instead of finding her injured, Ellie is led into a mystery linked to a hidden Taliban weapons cache, a bombed-out village-and a mob of armed children. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



Afghanistan Fiction & Non-Fiction

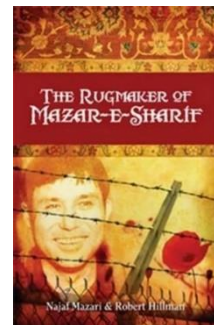
The Honey Thief by Najaf Mazari and Robert Hillman, 1999

The mystery and wonder of Afghanistan come to life in these tales of leopards that sing and bees that sneeze, of horseshoe bats in flights that blot out the sun, and of blackbirds that bring golden apples to earth from heaven. Whether the tale is of beekeepers or kings, this book conveys, in stories of surprising tenderness, the stark beauty of the interwoven lore from a land of bloodshed and brotherhood, of miracles and catastrophes.



The Rugmaker of Mazar-E-Sharif by Najaf Mazari and Robert Hillman, 2011

Traces an Afghani refugee's extraordinary journey - from his early life as a shepherd boy in the mountains of Northern Afghanistan, to his forced exile after being captured and tortured by the Taliban, to incarceration in an Australian detention centre... and finally, to freedom. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



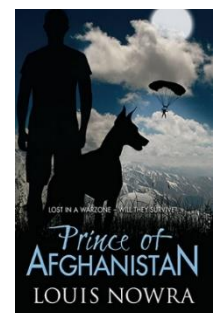
Shadow by Michael Morpurgo, 2010

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



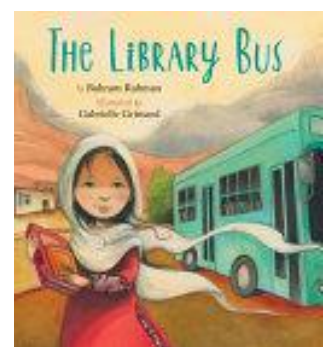
Prince of Afghanistan by Louis Nowra, 2015

Black parachutes fall from the sky - young soldiers, and a dog, on a rescue mission in a remote part of Afghanistan. The mission ends in chaos, and Mark and Prince embark on a perilous journey through enemy territory. Will they make it back to base? All they have is each other. All they can do is survive, today, tomorrow and the next day. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



The Library Bus by Bahram Rahman and Gabrielle Grimard, 2020 (Picture Book)

There are no seats in the library bus —instead there are chairs and tables and shelves of books. And there are no passengers—instead there is Pari, who is nervously starting her first day as Mama's library helper. The girls they visit are learning to write English from Mama. Pari can't even read or write in Farsi yet. But next year she will go to school and learn all there is to know. And she is so lucky. Not long ago, Mama tells her, girls were not allowed to read at all. A touching snapshot of one innovative way girls received education in a country disrupted by war.

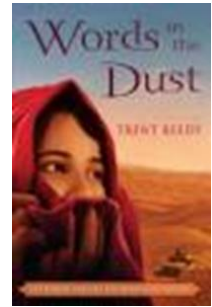


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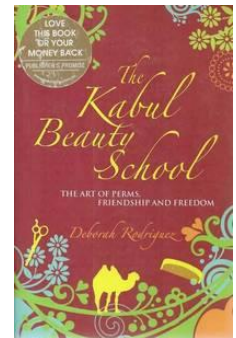
Words In the Dust by Trent Reedy, 2011

Zulaikha hopes for peace, now that the Taliban have been driven from Afghanistan; a good relationship with her hard stepmother; and one day even to go to school, or to have her cleft palate fixed. Zulaikha knows all will be provided for her--"Inshallah," God willing.



The Kabul Beauty School: The Art of Perms, Friendship and Freedom by Deborah Rodriguez and Kristin Ohlson, 2007

Soon after the fall of the Taliban in 2001, Deborah Rodriguez went to Afghanistan as part of a group offering humanitarian aid to this war-torn nation. She soon found she had a gift for befriending Afghans, and once her profession became known she was eagerly sought out by Westerners desperate for a good haircut and by Afghan women, who have a long and proud tradition of running their own beauty salons. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**



The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul by Deborah Rodriguez, 2011

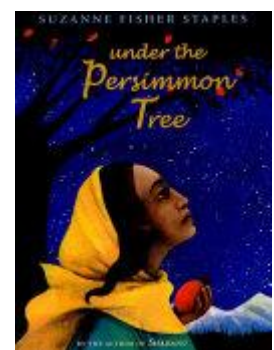
In a little coffee shop in one of the most dangerous places on earth, five very different women come together. SUNNY, the proud proprietor, who needs an ingenious plan - and fast - to keep her cafe and customers safe; YASMINA, a young pregnant woman stolen from her remote village and now abandoned on Kabul's violent streets; CANDACE, a wealthy American who has finally left her husband for her Afghan lover; ISABEL, a determined journalist with a secret that might keep her from the biggest story of her life; and HALAJAN, the sixty-year-old den mother, whose long-hidden love affair breaks all the rules. They form a unique bond that will for ever change their lives and the lives of many others.

Recommended for Young Adult Readers



Under the Persimmon Tree by Suzanne Fisher Staples, 2005

Najmah, a young Afghan girl suddenly finds herself alone when her father and older brother are conscripted by the Taliban and her mother and newborn brother are killed in an air raid. An American woman, Elaine, is also on her own. She waits out the war in Peshawar, Pakistan, teaching refugee children while her Afghan doctor husband runs a clinic in Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan. As the two look to the skies for answers, their fates entwine. Together, they both seek their way home. **Recommended for Young Adult Readers**

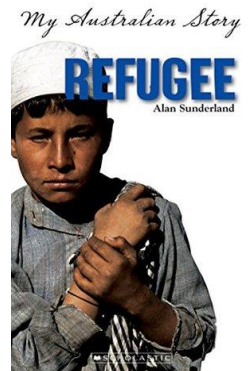




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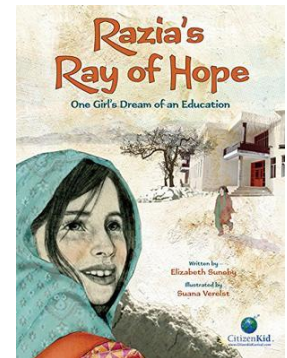
Refugee, the Diary of Ali Ismail by Alan Sunderland, 2006

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. Instead of winning freedom, Ali and his companions are taken to a detention centre in the South Australian outback. For twelve long months, as he waits to find out whether he will be allowed to stay, Ali must endure the hardship and despair of mandatory detention.



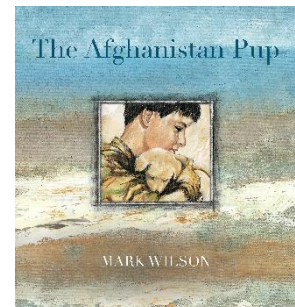
Razia's Ray of Hope by Elizabeth Suneby and Suana Verelst, 2013

Razia dreams of getting an education, but in her small Afghan village, girls have not been allowed to attend school for many years. When a new girls' school opens in the village, Razia must convince her family to let her attend.



The Afghanistan Pup by Mark Wilson, 2014 (Picture Book)

The story of an Afghani schoolgirl fighting for her education, an Australian soldier struggling to survive, and an abandoned Labrador pup who touches the lives of both of them. A moving story of hope and sacrifice in wartime.



Created by Dajo Finlayson and Mia Macrossan



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