

Children's Books -- Nonfiction

Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees (intermediate – nonfiction)

Author: Deborah Ellis This collection of short interviews with children and young people forced to flee their homeland in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq is full of poignant and sometimes harrowing detail. The children tell their own stories of lives in limbo and uncertain futures as they wait to hear whether any country will offer a more permanent home than the precarious refuge they have found in Jordan and neighbouring states. The book presents a deeply affecting portrait of the social consequences of war and its impact on the human rights of children.

Dia's Story Cloth (intermediate - nonfiction)

Author: Cha, Dia This Hmong American author interprets the embroidered story cloth sent to her by an aunt and uncle from their refugee camp in Thailand; it tells a visual narrative of her people's flight to freedom and life as refugees, and forms a moving tribute to their family history. The whole story cloth and individual scenes from it are reproduced in exquisite detail. An afterword gives background information on historical events and local artistic needlework traditions.

Living as a Refugee: Mohamed's Story (intermediate - non-fiction)

Author: Louise Armstrong Mohamed tells in his own words how he fled Afghanistan with other members of his family during the Taliban's reign of terror, and how, after living precariously in Iran and Turkey, they were granted asylum in the USA. His moving account of adapting to life in a new country is interwoven with information and a more general overview of the plight of refugees, using maps, historical timelines and photographs.

Refugee Camp: Carbino's Story (intermediate - non-fiction)

Author: David Dalton Carbino describes how he left his Dinka village in Southern Sudan at the age of 12 to walk to Ethiopia with other boys, because of the escalating civil war. He spent many years in refugee camps in Ethiopia, the Sudan, and neighbouring Kenya, as other conflicts threatened his safety. His moving personal account is interwoven with maps, photographs, and a factual account of the wars in that part of Africa which created large-scale movements of refugees.

Making It Home (intermediate – nonfiction)

Author: International Rescue Committee Refugee children tell their own stories of having to flee their homes in this poignant account of what it means to be an asylum-seeker. With an introduction by Beverley Naidoo, which confronts today's racism against refugees, this collection gives voice to an international tragedy of displacement, with children from many countries - Kosovo, Iraq, Sudan, Burundi, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Congo, and Liberia - explaining why they became refugees and how they have adapted to their new lives.

One Peace: True Stories of Young Activists (intermediate – nonfiction)

Author: Janet Wilson Celebrates the accomplishments of children around the world who have worked to promote world peace including Kimmie Weeks, a refugee from the Liberian civil war. Kimmie was almost buried in a mass grave. He then went on to establish Voices of the Future, Liberia's first child rights advocacy group.

Global Issues: Refugees (intermediate – non-fiction)

Author: Cath Senker This information book quotes extensively from mixed-media sources to examine responses to refugee issues in different parts of the world and to debate notions of bias and prejudice in their coverage. Combining photographs and varied texts in a lively format, it presents real-life case studies showing why people become refugees alongside a range of media viewpoints on their treatment in host societies.

Why Are People Refugees? (intermediate – nonfiction)

Author: Cath Senker This straightforward information book uses varied texts, direct quotation from first person accounts, case histories and a wealth of photographs, maps and statistics to explain the term 'refugee' and explore the many circumstances that cause people to flee their homelands and seek safety in another country.

Kids Like Me: Voices of the Immigrant Experience (teen – nonfiction)

Author: Judith M. Blohm & Terri Lapinsky 26 young immigrants to America, ranging in age from 10 to 21, tell their own stories of adjusting to life in a new country. Some are refugees, fleeing wars; others are economic migrants in search of better opportunities. Their personal narratives deal with the difficulties they have experienced as well as the satisfactions of negotiating cultures and languages. Included are suggestions for discussions, activities and further research.