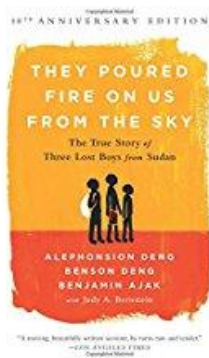


White Bear Lake United Methodist Church

The Refugee Experience

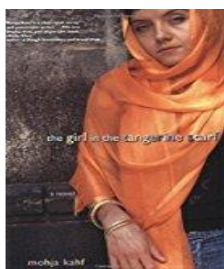
Books for Adults



Find it on the library shelf at:
13 Aja

They Poured Fire On Us From The Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys From Sudan. Benjamin Ajak. 2005. Nonfiction. [Sudan]

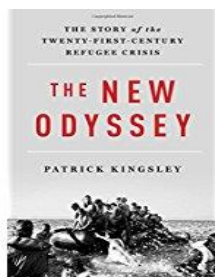
The Deng brothers and their cousin Benjamin were all under the age of seven when they left their homes after terrifying attacks on their villages during the Sudanese civil war. In 2001, the three were relocated to the U.S. from Kenya's Kakuma refugee camp. Arriving in this country, they immediately began to fill composition books with the memoirs of chaos and culture shock collected here.



Find it on the library shelf at:
1 Kah

The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf. Mohja Kahf. 2006. Fiction. [Syria]

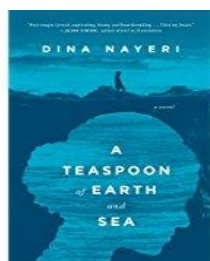
Beautifully written and featuring an exuberant cast of characters, **The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf** charts the spiritual and social landscape of a Syrian Muslim girl in middle America, from five daily prayers to the Indy 500 car race.



Find it on the library shelf at:
13 Kin

The New Odyssey: The Story of the Twenty-First-Century Refugee Crisis. Patrick Kingsley. 2017. Nonfiction. [General]

Patrick Kingsley puts an indelible face on the overwhelming disaster of Middle Eastern refugees. From the starving migrants who push through sandstorms with children strapped to their backs to the criminals who prey on them, from the smugglers who dangerously stretch the limits of their cargo space to the volunteers who uproot their own lives to hand out water bottles—what emerges is a kaleidoscope of humanity in the wake of tragedy.

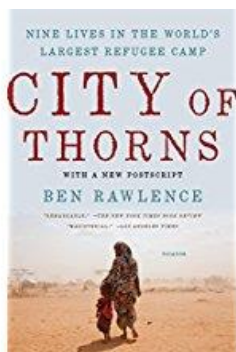


Find it on the library shelf at:
1 Nay

A Teaspoon of Earth and Sea. Dina Nayeri. 2012. Fiction. [Iran]

Growing up in a small village in 1980s Iran, eleven-year-old Saba Hafezi and her twin sister Mahtab are captivated by America. So when her mother and sister disappear, leaving Saba and her father alone in Iran, Saba is certain that they have moved to America without her. But her parents have taught her that “all fate is written in the blood,” and that twins will live the same life, even if separated by land and sea. As she grows up in the warmth and

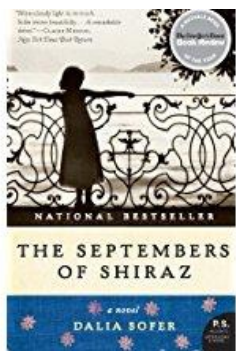
community of her local village, falls in and out of love, and struggles with the limited possibilities in post-revolutionary Iran, Saba envisions that there is another way for her story to unfold. Somewhere, it must be that her sister is living the Western version of this life. And where Saba's world has all the grit and brutality of real life under the new Islamic regime, her sister's experience gives her a freedom and control that Saba can only dream of.



Find it on the library shelf at:
11 Raw

City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp. Ben Rawlence. 2016. Nonfiction. [Kenya]

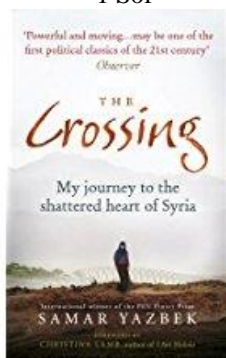
Deep within the inhospitable desert of northern Kenya where only thorn bushes grow, Dadaab is a city like no other. Its buildings are made from mud, sticks, or plastic. Its entire economy is grey. And its citizens survive on rations and luck. Over the course of four years, Ben Rawlence became a firsthand witness to a strange and desperate place, getting to know many of those who had come seeking sanctuary. Among them are Guled, a former child soldier who lives for football; Nisho, who scrapes an existence by pushing a wheelbarrow and dreaming of riches; Tawane, the indomitable youth leader; and Kheyro, a student whose future hangs upon her education. In *City of Thorns*, Rawlence interweaves the stories of nine individuals to show what life is like in the camp, sketching the wider political forces that keep the refugees trapped.



Find it on the library shelf at:
1 Sof

The Septembers of Shiraz. Dalia Sofer. 2007. Fiction [Iran]

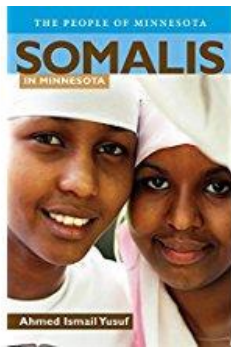
In the aftermath of the Iranian revolution, rare-gem dealer Isaac Amin is arrested, wrongly accused of being a spy. Terrified by his disappearance, his family must reconcile a new world of cruelty and chaos with the collapse of everything they have known. As Isaac navigates the terrors of prison, and his wife feverishly searches for him, his children struggle with the realization that their family may soon be forced to embark on a journey of incalculable danger.



Find it on the library shelf at:
4 Yaz

The Crossing: My Journey to the Shattered Heart of Syria. Samar Yazbek. 2015. Nonfiction [Syria]

Samar Yazbek was well-known in her native Syria as a writer and a journalist but, in 2011, she fell foul of the Assad regime and was forced to flee. Since then, determined to bear witness to the suffering of her people, she revisited her homeland by squeezing through a hole in the fence on the Turkish border. Here she testifies to the appalling reality that is Syria today.

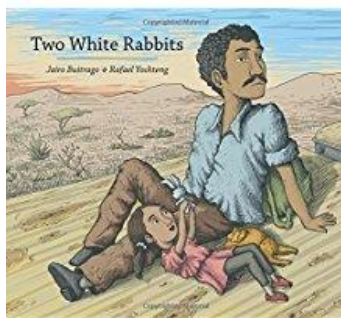


Find it on the library shelf at:
14 Yus

Somalis in Minnesota (The People of Minnesota series). Ahmed Ismail Yusuf. 2012. Nonfiction. [Somalia]

The story of Somalis in Minnesota begins with three words: sahan, war, and martisoor. Driven from their homeland by civil war and famine, one group of Somali sahan, pioneers, discovered well-paying jobs in the city of Marshall, Minnesota. Soon the news traveled that not only was employment available but the people in this northern state, so different in climate from their African homeland, were generous in martisoor, hospitality, just like the Somali people themselves. The diaspora began in 1992, and today more than fifty thousand Somalis live in Minnesota, the most of any state.

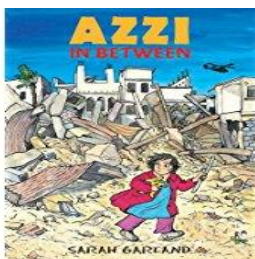
Books for Children



Find it on the library shelf at:
B Bui

Two White Rabbits. Jason Buitrago. 2015. Fiction.

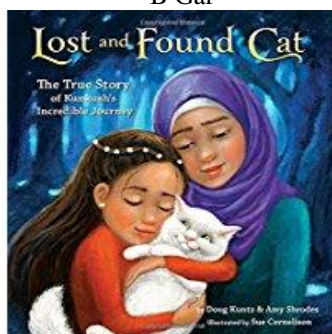
(Ages 5-8) A young girl and her father face challenges together as they move from place to place. They travel by foot and by train and are happy to catch a ride with passersby when they can. Told entirely through the sensibility of the child, the narration informs readers that “the people who are taking us don’t always take us where we are going.” This simple, yet poignant picture book beautifully illustrates the life of one migrating family. Set in Central America or Mexico, it shows the arduous journey north to the United States in search of a better life.



Find it on the library shelf at:
B Gar

Azzi In Between. Sarah Garland. 2012. Fiction,

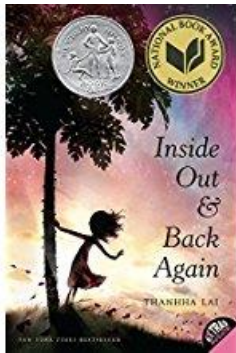
(Ages 6-8) Told in graphic format, with sensitive, lovely illustrations, Garland’s book describes the journey of Azzi and her family from their war-torn homeland to a new country of safety.



Find it on the library shelf at:
B Kun

Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush’s Incredible Journey. Doug Kuntz. 2017. Nonfiction. [Iraq]

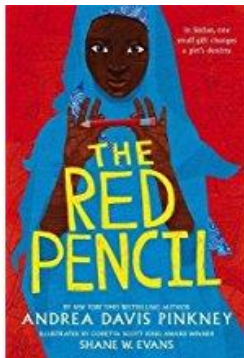
When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can’t bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away. But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos. A few days later, aid workers in Greece find the lost cat. Knowing how much his family has sacrificed already, they are desperate to reunite them with the cat they love so much.



Inside Out & Back Again. Thanhha Lai. 2011. Fiction. [Viet Nam]

Hà has only ever known Saigon: the thrills of its markets, the joy of its traditions, and the warmth of her friends close by. But now the Vietnam War has reached her home. Hà and her family are forced to flee as Saigon falls, and they board a ship headed toward hope—toward America.

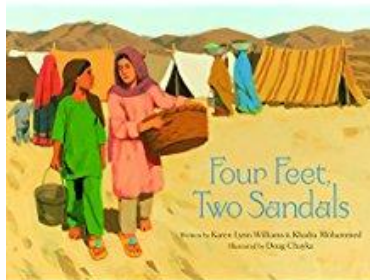
Find it on the library shelf at:
C Lai



The Red Pencil. Andrea David Pinkney. 2015. Fiction. [Sudan]

(Ages 8-120) In this lyrical “novel told in poems, pictures, and possibilities,” 12-year-old Amira’s family life and dreams of going to school are shattered when Janjaweed militants attack her Sudanese village and force the survivors to flee to a refugee camp. Silenced by her grief, the girl’s voice and spirit are slowly restored by the amazing gift of a tablet and a red pencil. A heartening and powerful read.

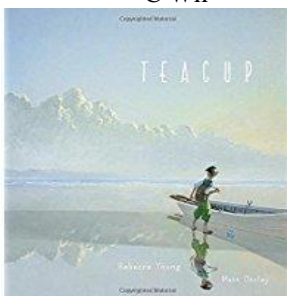
Find it on the library shelf at:
D Pin



Four Feet, Two Sandals. Karen Lynn Williams. 2007. Fiction.

When relief workers bring used clothing to the refugee camp, everyone scrambles to grab whatever they can. Ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly, until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one.

Find it on the library shelf at:
C Wil



Teacup. Rebecca Young. 2015. Fiction. [General]

(Ages 4-9) In this moving, allegorical tale, a young boy searches for a new homeland, taking with him only a book, bottle, blanket, and teacup full of earth from where he used to play. His solo sea journey is fraught with danger, and loneliness plagues him in the dark. In time, a sturdy apple tree grows in his teacup and provides shelter, shade, and food. After the boy puts down roots in a new land, hope and friendship appear on the horizon when a girl with a broken eggcup arrives.

Find it on the library shelf at:
A You