

# ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents

## *Salma and the Orange Trees*



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## THEMES

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Home & Belonging

Imagination & Creativity

Refugee Experience

Trauma & Healing

Social Emotional learning

# LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Understand what it means to be displaced from home.
- Explore the emotional effects of forced migration on children.
- Recognize the role of imagination and art in coping with difficult emotions.
- Reflect on the importance of home, security, and belonging.
- Develop empathy for children living in refugee camps or away from familiar surroundings.

## LESSON PLAN

This lesson uses Salma’s story to discuss the impact of displacement on children. Students will engage in reflective discussions about home and identity, explore the healing power of imagination, and create their own symbolic trees representing things that bring them comfort, safety, and joy.

### Discussion Questions

#### Before Reading:

- What makes a place feel like “home” to you?
- Have you ever missed something or someone deeply?
- Why might some children have to leave their homes suddenly?

#### During Reading:

- How does Salma feel in the refugee camp?
- Why does she start drawing the orange tree?
- What do the trees come to symbolize for her?

#### After Reading:

- What did Salma’s orange trees give her that the camp could not?
- How do imagination and creativity help in difficult times?
- If you had to leave your home, what memory or object would you carry in your heart?

#### Activities:

- Draw Your Comfort Tree: Children draw a tree with objects, people, or feelings that make them feel safe and happy.
- Refugee Awareness Circle: Read real stories of refugee children around the world and compare their emotions and hopes with Salma’s.
- Home in a Box: Create a small box filled with drawings or symbols of what home means to each child.
- Art as Healing: Explore how drawing, painting, or storytelling helps express feelings—especially when words are hard.

## RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- [The Unexpected Friend](#) – Finding kindness and connection in unexpected places
- [Two Homes in Omar's Heart](#) – Exploring identity and belonging as a refugee
- [The Artist](#) – Healing and expression through creativity in times of loss
- [Hamam's World](#) – A celebration of imagination and inner strength
- [Mukand and Riaz](#) – Friendship across borders during the Partition
- [Noon Chai and a Story](#) – Intergenerational memory and storytelling across generations

## RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-being
- SDG 4 – Quality Education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

### SDG Explanation

- SDG 3: The story focuses on emotional wellbeing, especially for children who face upheaval and trauma.
- SDG 4: Art and storytelling are forms of education and healing, especially in crisis settings.
- SDG 10: It gives voice to marginalized children, specifically refugees, and promotes empathy.
- SDG 16: The story invites readers to imagine a world where every child feels safe, heard, and emotionally supported.

## EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will gain insight into the emotional impact of being uprooted and the coping power of memory and imagination. They will express empathy toward refugee children and be encouraged to value and protect the idea of home—for themselves and others.

## ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them.

That's why it's vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.