

ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



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THEMES

Displacement

Family & Friends

Health & Wellbeing

Refugee experience

Empathy and caregiving

Letting go

Loss and resilience

LEARNING OUTCOME

Children will:

- Understand the emotional and physical challenges faced by refugee children
- Develop empathy for animals and people in distress
- Recognize that love can mean letting go
- Appreciate the strength of community and emotional support

LESSON PLAN

This story helps students reflect on caring for others—humans and animals—and the importance of empathy, healing, and resilience in tough situations. It introduces the refugee experience in an age-appropriate, humanizing way.

Discussion Questions

Before Reading:

- What does the word “refugee” mean? Can people have to leave their homes?

During Reading:

- Why does Faisal pick up the injured bird?
- How does he and his family take care of it?
- What are some signs that Faisal and the bird are both healing?

After Reading:

- Why do you think Faisal didn’t want to let the bird go?
- What helped him make that decision?
- Have you ever had to say goodbye to something or someone special?

Activities:

- Art: Draw a picture of the bird flying away and Faisal watching it with his sisters.
- Writing: Write a short letter from Faisal to the bird. What would he say?
- Discussion: Talk about what home means. Where do you feel most safe and loved?
- Social Studies: Learn more about refugee camps—where are they, and why do people live there?

RELEVANT ZAMASAMA STORIES

- Hammam's World: A boy expresses grief and longing after being displaced through art.
- Feng: A girl finds comfort in music and community after moving to a new place.
- Salma and the Orange Trees: A refugee girl's imagination brings her hope and connection.
- The Artist: A child in Jordan copes with loss and transition through creativity.

RELEVANT SDGS

Applicable SDGs:

- SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 3 is reflected in the family's care for Faisal and the bird, highlighting health support in vulnerable settings.
- SDG 10 is connected to the refugee context and the story's emphasis on dignity and equality.
- SDG 16 appears in the values of kindness, empathy, and peaceful coexistence expressed throughout the story.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Children will gain empathy for the refugee experience and understand that kindness and community help us through difficult times. They will begin to internalize the message of one common humanity, recognizing that children everywhere long for safety, love, and friendship.

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.