

# Salma and the Orange Trees

A Guide for Teachers and Parents

## *Salma and the Orange Trees*



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## THEMES

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

STEAM

Environment & Conservation

## SUB-THEMES

Haya Mansour

Home & Belonging

Refugee Experience

# Story Discussion Guide

- 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.

## Learning Outcome

### 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.