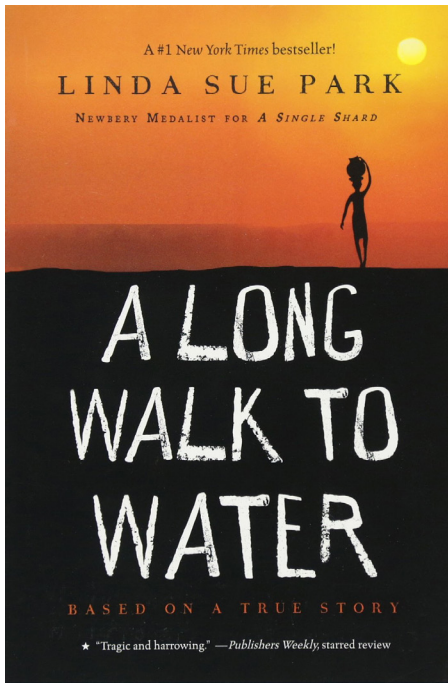


# COMMON GROUND

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FAZAL SHEIKH, 1989 - 2013

## Reading Materials



## A Long Walk to Water

by Linda Sue Park

REVIEWED BY: Tallulah Hutchinson

Tallulah is a sixth grade teacher at Sunnyside Environmental School, who reads this book to her students.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I really liked this book because it showed me what boys like Salva had to go through. Some of the things that he went through were horrific and I don't think I could carry on like he did. He persevered and he came to a new country that he knew nothing about. This book gave me different perspectives on what life is like in Sudan. I have read this book more than 5 times and enjoyed it every time. This book is a good way to understand a life that a lot of people in the US probably can't imagine, I know that before I read the book I couldn't.

## Seeking Refuge

by Issam Smeir, Matthew Soerens and Stephen Bauman

REVIEWED BY: Tim Cowley

Tim moved from Mozambique to Portland with his family in 2016. He is a media specialist and consultant who enjoys using technology to share stories through NewPortlanders.net, his Sick in Africa documentary series, social media channels and more.

### RECOMMENDATION:

This has been an educational resource for me and many of my friends who come from a Christian background and provides an education on what the Bible says about refugees, gives a context for the modern crisis, looks at the common fears that come with refugee migration, helps readers understand what goes in to refugee resettlement and how the church has an unprecedented opportunity to respond in love and compassion.

## What is the What

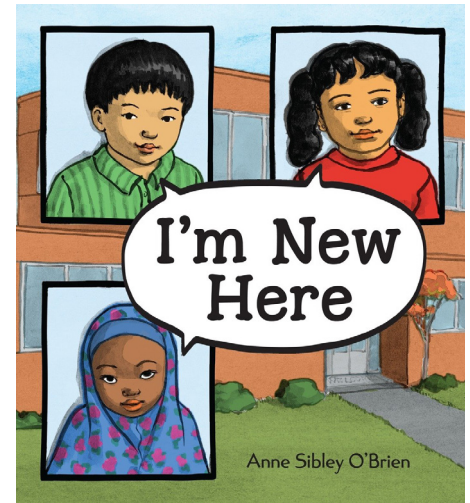
by Dave Eggers

REVIEWED BY: Jessmine Anderson

Jessmine works as a Skills Trainer with refugee minors.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Deng reminds me that I am (and you are) a part of a refugee's story, that their obstacles continue to arise after immigrating.



## I'm New Here

by Anne Sibley O'Brien

REVIEWED BY: Hannah Snyder

Hannah is an elementary school counselor in SE Portland at a school with many refugee and immigrant students.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I bought this book for our school library because its simple message brings hope and connection to our newcomers and sparks empathy in the hearts of their classmates.

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## The Arrival

by Shaun Tan

REVIEWED BY: Chandra Schwab

Chandra has taught in the U.K., China and Belgium. While in Belgium she worked as an English instructor in Brussels teaching many in the recently arrived immigrant population.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I use it in my teaching. The story and artwork give people who have not had a chance to travel outside the U.S. a glimpse of the experiences of confusion that an immigrant or refugee may encounter when coming to the U.S. Because the story does not have words and uses symbols in a mythical landscape, the reader can feel the silence and isolation one encounters when trying to survive in a foreign land.

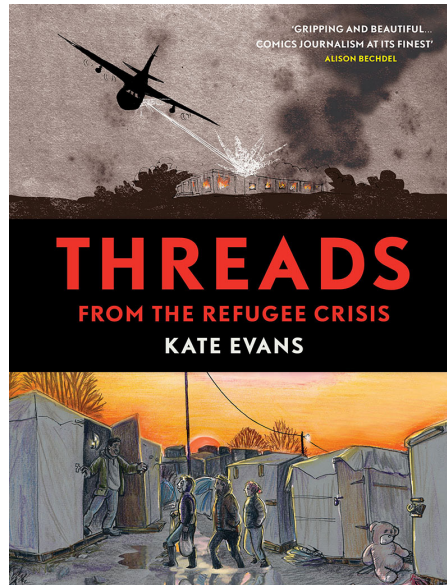
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## Step Across this Line

by Salman Rushdie

REVIEWED BY: Ezekial Hale

I grew up in a ranching family in rural Oregon who works with international students, refugees, and immigrants.



## Threads From the Refugee Crisis

by Kate Evans

REVIEWED BY: Alissa Tran

Alissa is an art teacher at Molalla High School and a multimedia artist who resides in SE Portland. She sees both of these roles as means to practice compassion, activism, and empower youth.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The author captures some of the complexities of refugee life in a comic format that is both tender, painful, and accessible. Her illustrations and eyewitness accounts personalize the refugee crisis by illuminating the voices of the people she met while in the Calais Jungle.

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## The Red Pencil

by Andrea Davis Pinkney,  
illustrated by Shane W. Evans

REVIEWED BY: Amy Watts-Padilla

Amy lives in Portland. During 2013 and 2014, she lived in Eastern Chad and worked in the education system of a refugee camp with those displaced from the Darfur conflict.

### RECOMMENDATION:

The series of short prose verses—written from the perspective of a child that is forced to flee her village in Darfur during civil war—create vignettes that illuminate life, loss, and longing before and during displacement. The pages swing from the tragic to the whimsical, showing the layered realities of life in a camp for a child.

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## Red Mud & Rain

Self-published by Wambui Machua

Wambui is a local Portland business Entrepreneur and Philanthropist. Since her arrival to the United States over 20 years ago, from her native home in Kenya, she has educated and served over 1,000 individuals through her cooking school, by teaching traditional African food cooking, hosting dinners, and catering events.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I wanted to bridge my life experiences of living in Oregon and my experiences of growing up in Kenya.

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## Diasporas in Dialogue: Conflict Transformation and Reconciliation in Worldwide Refugee Communities

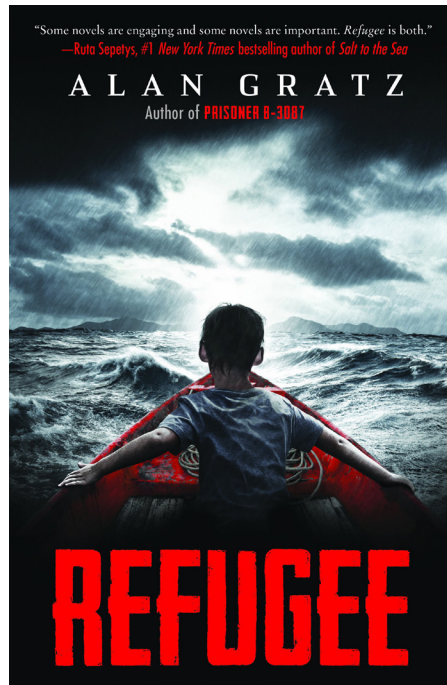
Edited by Barbara Tint

REVIEWED BY: Rhea DuMont

Rhea is a Restorative Justice Specialist in the criminal justice system and an advocate for system change and justice reform. She oversees restorative justice programming and works to inform policy through the lens of restorative justice—ultimately pushing the system to be more trauma-informed and responsive to the humanity of all stakeholders impacted by crime.

### RECOMMENDATION:

We live in a time where the need for deep listening, open communication, and sharing of assumptions and understanding across divergent perspectives is imperative. When refugees arrive in their new home they bring their history and wounds of war with them, and often live side by side amongst their enemies from their homeland. This manual walks readers through a culturally responsive process to engage diaspora communities in the art of intercommunal dialogue, ultimately supporting their effective transition and integration into their new home and building peace through conversation.



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## Refugee

by Alan Gratz

REVIEWED BY: Leisl Wehmueller

Leisl is the Workforce Development Department Manager at the Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization.

### RECOMMENDATION:

Just as the real refugee story is often not an easy story to hear because of the brutal violence or living conditions that many people have endured, this fictional book is not for the faint of heart. For over four years I have heard many stories of escape from horrific situations and each time I am amazed by the resilience and adaptability of these individuals to begin their new life in the United States where they have opportunities to live in safer conditions and provide for their families.

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## The Blossoms of Sixty-Four Sunsets

by Durga Lal Shrestha

REVIEWED BY: Daya Shakya

Daya is a husband, a father, a teacher, a writer, editor, researcher, translator, and a social worker from Nepal. He works to preserve and promote the language of his culture.

### RECOMMENDATION:

I chose this book to show others how Nepalese people express their view on Natural beauty.