



# When Stars are Scattered

**Jamieson, V. ; Mohamed, O.**

This story of hope and perseverance chronicles the lives of two Somali orphans while in a UN refugee camp. It is an engaging graphic novel that gives readers a first-hand account of the struggle of refugee children. A story of struggle and survival, this novel is suitable for students in Grade 4-9, and lends itself particularly well in classrooms studying government, immigration, refugees, diversity, and world views. Teachers may use this resource for research, to initiate discussions, or for a readers theatre or drama production.

**Collections:** ARC-BC

**Subjects:** English Language Arts, Social Studies  
Grades 4-12

**Evaluation Date:** Aug 2020



[ARC-BC](#)



Social Considerations

# Resource Evaluation

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## CURRICULUM FIT

### Does the resource support BC curriculum?



Extensively

This text supports the Grade 4-9 English Language Arts Big Idea that "exploring stories helps us understand ourselves and make connections to others and the world. " The text also supports the Big Idea for Grade 10-12 Literary Studies that "the exploration of text and story deepens our understanding of diverse, complex ideas about identity, others and the world. " This text supports the Grade 5-6 Social Studies Big Ideas that "immigration and multiculturalism continue to shape Canadian society, " and "systems of government vary in their respect for human rights and freedoms. " It supports the Social Studies 5-12 Curricular Competency for the inquiry process and skills.

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## SUGGESTED CLASSROOM USAGE

This novel could be used as an independent novel, to create a drama production, or used for a reader's theatre. It could also be used as a resource for research projects and discussions on government, immigration, refugees, diversity, and world views.

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## SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Ability/Disability

Omar's brother, Hassan, has an intellectual disability, suffers from seizures, and cannot speak. Omar is overprotective of his brother, which has led to learned helplessness. However, through the support and encouragement of his friend Nimo, he learns to support Hassan in becoming more capable. Omar's friend, Jeri, walks with a limp and is bullied for his disability.

### Belief System

The loss of cultural belief systems and religious ceremonies is explored in a number of poems. The frustration of this loss is evident.

### Do the social considerations support, rather than detract from, student learning?



Moderately

The social considerations support student learning. This novel explores the hardships endured by refugees who are caught between modern conflicts and cultural expectations that are further exasperated by disabilities.



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## GENERAL CONTENT

### Content

**Is the resource engaging?**



Extensively

**Is the content current for the intended curriculum and grade?**



Extensively

**Is the content accurate for the intended curriculum and grade?**



Extensively

**Is the content relevant and important for student broad understandings?**



Extensively

### Audience

**Is the content appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**



Extensively

**Does the resource provide opportunities for creative and critical thinking?**



Extensively

**Is the level of detail appropriate?**



Extensively

**Is the language use appropriate to the emotional maturity and cognitive level of students?**



Extensively

This graphic novel is an engaging first-hand account of the struggle of refugee children in trying to survive and find a better life after being forced from their homes due to war. The content is accurate for multiple grade levels, and provides an approachable and relatable account of a horrific experience.

## TECHNICAL DESIGN

**Does the resource make effective use of the medium?**



Extensively

**Is the resource easy to use?**



Extensively

**Is the location of illustrations appropriate?**



Extensively

**Is the use of font, text size and presentation suitable?**



Extensively

**Are extraneous elements/illustrations kept to a minimum?**



Extensively

The resource is a graphic novel. Font and word bubbles are legible and consistent. Illustrations are clear and contribute to the story. Frames and word bubbles vary in size and shape throughout the story, contributing to reader engagement.

**Does the text show insight into the complexity of the human condition?**



Extensively

**Does the text broaden students' experiences and understanding?**



Extensively

**To what degree is this text stylistically rich?**



Moderately

### Plot description

Two Somali children are orphaned in a UN refugee camp after escaping a civil war that has claimed the life of their father; and they are also separated from their mother. They are provided a guardian by the UN, and the oldest brother begins to attend school. The younger brother is disabled, cannot speak, and suffers from seizures. The story chronicles his experiences through school and growing up in a refugee camp with a disabled brother. He is inspired to become a social worker after an encounter with a UN social worker during a school visit. Eventually, they are selected for asylum in America.

### Genre

- Other
- graphic memoir

### Literary Highlights

- Point of view

### Type

- Autobiography

### Visual Highlights

- Other (specify)
- Autobiography

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## ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

### Reading Level

- At intended grade level(s)

Additional resources that support the novel can be found the author's webpage: <http://www.victoriajamieson.com/educato/>. The resources include audio and video clips that provide further insight into the struggle of refugees.

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## GRADES AND SUBJECTS

### Subjects

- English Language Arts: 4-12
- Socials Studies: 5-12

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## ADDITIONAL INFO

### Copyright

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