REFUGEES & ASYLUM SEEKERS
refugees, children in detention, human rights, detainees, Amnesty International

Guide to resources available from NSW Teachers Federation Library
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“This project asked children and young adults to find someone who came to Australia as a refugee and listen to their story. Then they had to imagine it, and in a sense make it their own by writing it.” – Page 3. The stories are in two categories: those written by students in years 6-7 and those written by students in years 10-12. 325.21/WIN


Designed to be used in conjunction with Roads to Refuge kits – see listing for this below. 325.21/ASS


First-hand accounts of those seeking asylum in Australia. 323.631/TYL


“This compelling novel is woven from archetypal stories which make up the tapestry of white settlement in Australia. Economic refugees from Ireland during the potato famine; political refugees fleeing persecution in the Middle East. Their stories are powerfully similar, but also different in significant ways. The latest to arrive seem destined to try hardest, but to be singled out for hard treatment.” Julian Burnside. – Back cover. F/WHE


Stories of 10 of the world's 35 million refugees from an exhibition which travelled Australia. 371.9/BOR


“Through the experiences of refugees from Bosnia, Iraq and Sudan, this research sought to explore the role multicultural community organisations play in creating important informal networks and learning spaces that connect people from refugee backgrounds to the wider Australian community.” – Publisher website. 362.87/MIR


“Dark dreams is an anthology of essays, interviews and short stories written by children and young adults aged 11-20 years. These young writers relate or imaginatively recreate the story of someone who came to Australia as a refugee. This is a unique book in Australia. The stories are the finest of hundreds collected through an unprecedented nationwide schools competition, devised by writer Eva Sallis and run by Australians Against Racism Inc.” – Back cover. B/DAR


“Desert Sorrow gives an extraordinary and important insight into the secret daily life behind the wire of detention centres...an eye witness testament to a phase in Australia's history that has been deliberately hidden.” – Eva Sallis. 325.21/MAN

Face the facts: some questions and answers about refugees, migrants and Indigenous peoples in Australia. Sydney: HREOC, 2005. 305.8/FAC

A small independent project about life, literally on the streets of Cabramatta. A blend of documentary and fiction. Vietnamese-born Van sleeps on the roof of a car park; 17 year old Des sleeps in doorways with his pregnant girlfriend; Tommy, a heroin addict, makes up his mind to kick the habit and get a job. DVD FIN

"Australia is the only country in the world to pursue a policy of mandatory, automatic and indefinite detention without real access to court challenge...Locking them up indefinitely in shocking conditions is a terrible crime." – Julian Burnside (preface). The letters in this book give reveal, with great power the misery heaped on thousands of people who have arrived in Australia looking for help. 325.21/FRO

Juvenile fiction which deals with prejudice and racism. F/HIC

Kit includes book and video. 371.9/INS

“A ten lesson unit adapted from the Kaleidoscope Program for the mainstream classroom of both refugee and non-refugee students. Suitable for years 7-9, this unit is designed to increase students’ understanding of their own cultural background and the diversity of other cultural backgrounds within their classroom. The activities explore identity issues, promote an understanding of emotions and their influence on health, and help develop trust and belonging through inclusive teaching approaches.” – Publisher website. Available for download from: http://www.foundationhouse.com.au/publications.php


Juvenile fiction dealing with conflict resolution. “So pacy that it is difficult to turn the pages fast enough. School Librarian.” – Back cover. Summary: When Kaninda survives an attack on his village in East Africa he joins the rebel army, where he's trained to carry weapons, and use them. But aid workers take him to London where he fetches up in a comprehensive school. Clan and tribal conflicts are everywhere, and on the streets it's estate versus estate, urban tribe against urban tribe. F/ASH


In this book, 35 refugees, all temporary protection visa (TPV) holders, and mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan, talk directly about their quest for asylum in Australia. They provide poignant details of persecution in their home country, their journey to Australia, prolonged periods of mandatory detention and more. 325.21/LEA

Fiction. “Dhurgham As-Samarra’i is a twelve-year-old boy. He has fled Baghdad with his family but becomes separated. This is the story of what befalls Dhurgham as he travels from Iraq to Syria, Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and beyond – and of his growth from a child to adulthood.” – Book jacket. F/SAL

Mobarak Tahiri, a young refugee from Afghanistan, receives a three year Temporary Protection Visa for Australia and with other refugees obtains employment in an abattoir in Young. He learns English and falls in love with an Australian girl, but his visa is due to expire. DVD MOL

No more borders for Josef by Diana Chase. Fremantle: Fremantle Arts Centre Press, 2006.
Orphaned in the Balkans conflict, thirteen-year-old Josef is forced to flee through the forest to the border, ending up in a refugee camp before being rescued by an uncle in Australia. This is an emotionally charged and uplifting story that highlights the resilience of youth in the face of trauma and adversity. F/CHA

“The book examines important critiques of human rights, from feminists and Marxists to cultural relativists and tackles contemporary controversies making headlines. Should rights be sacrificed in the fight against terrorism? What do rights have to say about the misery and injustice caused by corporations? ... This guide for the 21st century examines the emerging terrain of global civil society, covering cutting-edge approaches to activism as well as the tried and true techniques - and their pitfalls.” – Publisher website. 323.BAL


Juvenile fiction dealing with justice and freedom. Sadi and Femi flee Nigeria, but once they reach England, will they be safe? F/NAI


A Maidstone Films Pty. Ltd. production, in association with ABC TV. Broadcast on 10, 17, 24 February and 2 March 2004 on ABC-TV. Study notes available online.

Summary: “Filmed with unprecedented access over a year, Our Boys follows the lives of five students and their teachers at this cash-strapped government school in Sydney's inner west. Canterbury Boys has a rich mix of nationalities: 90 percent of the boys come from non-English speaking backgrounds, many are refugees or come from disadvantaged homes. Over four episodes Our Boys tells the inside story of today's public education system.” – Back cover. 373.944/OUR


On the day the World Trade Center crumbled, 438 Afghan refugees were awash in a small boat off the coast of Australia, fleeing the persecution of the Taliban regime. They were rescued by the MV Tampa and became the centre of a world media maelstrom. This DVD tells the story of their experience, the new home they found in New Zealand and follows the quest of their families to join them. DVD PAC


“Punished not protected is an educational documentary series in four parts featuring the views of leading Australians and concerned citizens on the effects of government policy on asylum seekers and temporary protection visa holders.” – Back cover. 325.21/PUN


“The kit comprises a guide for early childhood services working with parents from African backgrounds; and a DVD for parents from African backgrounds with young children.” – Publisher website. 649.1/RAI


“Drawing on original archival research, historian Klaus Neumann pieces together the stories of a wide range of people who sought refuge in Australia between the 1930s and the early 1970s, and the government policies that developed in response. He shows the great variety of backgrounds and experiences of the thousands who arrived, legally and by other means, over those four decades. And he reveals the behind-the-scenes debates and decision making that had an enormous impact on refugees and asylum seekers from around the world.” – Book jacket. 305.9/NEU


This book tells the story of Ali Ismail life as a refugee. In Afghanistan, the Taliban have murdered his father, so Ali's uncle smuggles him out of the country to safety – to Australia. But instead of finding freedom, Ali is taken to a detention centre in the outback. For twelve months he waits to find out if he will be allowed to stay. F/SUN

Relearning to learn: advice to teachers new to teaching children from refugee and asylum-seeking families. London: National Union of Teachers, 2002. 371.9/REL


This kit includes [video 26 mins], seven presenter’s notes books, OHTs and two copies of student books. 325.21/ROA


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School’s in for refugees: a model of support for students from refugee backgrounds in education settings [article]. Migration Action Vol XXX, No 1, 2007. DOC 2008-067


Produced from the ‘Show Mercy’ event to help Australians better understand the daily lives, hopes and fears of asylum seekers and refugees. 325.21/SHO


In October 2001 a fishing boat carrying over 400 refugees, mostly from Iraq and Afghanistan, sank in international waters off the coast of Australia, losing around 373 lives. This resource allows students to examine for themselves the circumstances surrounding the event and answer key questions relating to the issues raised. For further information: click here http://www.sievxreader.com/ 325.21/SIN


A compilation of material collected as part of Randwick Girls High School Whole School Anti-Racism Project. 325.21/STO

Sudanese youth in transition: we'll be right, mate! [DVD 40 mins]. Sydney, University of Western Sydney: 2008.

“This DVD is designed to assist young Sudanese people as they begin the journey from high school to vocational training, higher education or employment in Australia.” – Publisher website. DVD SUD


“This report is a brief summary of the observations made by the Human Rights Commissioner and staff of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The report includes: an overview of observations and recommendations arising from the inspections; a series of general observations relevant across all the immigration detention facilities; additional observations specific to individual immigration detention facilities.” – From introduction, page 4. 365.0869/AUS


Describes proven effective approaches for the education of pupils from refugee communities. 371.82/RUT

The truth hurts: facts and stories about ‘boat people’ and ‘asylum seekers’. Sydney: Centre for Refugee Research, UNSW, 2002. 325.21/TRU


In October 2001, a fishing boat carrying over 400 refugees sank in international waters off the coast of Australia, losing 373 lives. 325.21/UNT


Picture book. Based on real events, Ziba came on a boat is the moving story of a little girl whose family has lost almost everything. This picture book takes us on her journey to make a new life, far from home. F/LOF

WEBSITES

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP) Research Centre – Fact Sheets

Fact sheets produced to assist AMEP teachers with information on areas of professional concern such as pronunciation, teaching issues and teaching strategies.


Education and refugee students from southern Sudan. Profile from the Victorian Foundation for Survivors of Torture, 2005.


Refugee Week 2008 Resource Kit

The Refugee Week Resource Kit, from the Refugee Council of Australia, contains ideas, information and background on refugee issues, facts and information.

The kit can be downloaded from this website: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.au/newsevents/refugeeweek.htm