

# GLHRC Refugee Teaching Resource List for 2017 Educator Workshop

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## Lesson Plans Connecting Holocaust and Syrian Refugees

(This document will be e-mailed to participants following workshop to make links accessible.)

**Text to Text: Comparing Jewish Refugees of the 1930's with Syrian Refugees Today** from New York Times

<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/01/04/learning/lesson-plans/text-to-text-comparing-jewish-refugees-of-the-1930s-with-syrian-refugees-today.html>

Text to text comparison lesson using recent NYT article and footage from *The Sharp's War* documentary. Includes primary source newspaper articles from the NYT 1939

**Understanding the Global Refugee Crisis** from Facing History (non-profit)

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/understanding-global-refugee-crisis>

3 lesson sequence including videos and readings on current refugee crisis and the *St. Louis*.

## Lesson Plans on Syrian Refugees

**Refugee Stories: Mapping a Crisis** from Choices at Brown University

<http://www.choices.edu/resources/twtn/twtn-refugees.php>

Focused on human geography and mapping, both with data and an individual refugee story

**Syria: A Children's Crisis** from Oxfam

<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/syria>

The teachers' guide focuses on taking action in the UK, but the teaching resources are excellent and clear descriptions of data and experiences with reflective questions on the United Nations Rights of the Child document and how those rights relate to the experience of Syrian Refugees. Age 11-14, 3 lesson sequence. Language is clear with little challenging vocabulary.

**Teaching about the Syrian Refugee Crisis** from I am Syria

<http://www.iamsyria.org/teaching-about-the-refugee-crisis-and-making-a-difference.html>

Very accessible lesson plans with video that covers background knowledge connecting to American ancestors immigrating and to Holocaust refugees. Definitely has a perspective and emotional content and encourages students to take action.

## ONLINE TEXT RESOURCES

**CNN Reporter's Notebook**

Short article in CNN reporter's voice about a 7-year old Syrian refugee from 2013

<http://www.cnn.com/2013/09/12/world/meast/lebanon-syria-refugees-reporters-notebook/>

**New York Times Magazine: Why is it so difficult for Syrian Refugees to get into the U.S.?**

Article from 2016 about family of Syrian refugees in Aurora, IL. Includes challenges and costs of resettlement. Long with some challenging vocabulary. Thorough picture of the process of resettlement in the US with personal stories and politics included. Lots of discussion topics.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/24/magazine/why-is-it-so-difficult-for-syrian-refugees-to-get-into-the-us.html? r=0>

## **ONLINE VIDEO RESOURCES**

“Carly, a refugee’s story” YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oF1HGfg2bSo>

Fiction, journey, hardship, fantasy but shows hardship/discrimination 7-minute video (Elementary)

**To Be A Refugee** (UNHCR) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpwqK3B2ac8>

8 minutes, Children’s voices: Video of kids explain what it means to be a refugee, Afghanistan to Denmark, Bosnia Sudan, life in a camp (All ages)

**Background Information: TED-Ed video overview of what a refugee is**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bwiSikRsl> (less than 6 minutes)

Lesson materials: <http://ed.ted.com/lessons/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-refugee-benedetta-berti-and-evelien-borgman>

This uses sophisticated animated art under an explanation of refugee definitions and statistics. (Middle/High School – vocabulary)

Lesson page includes

- Short quiz with 5 multiple choice and 3 open-ended comprehension questions
- online guided discussion forum responding to a prompt and open discussion forums.

**Children’s Voices: Animation created by 13 year old Syrian refugees through Save the Children**

Inaam: <http://www.news.com.au/world/syrian-refugee-children-use-animation-to-tell-their-stories-of-living-under-shelling-and-escaping-civil-war/news-story/e81fc55eceb8223403db2a7e3b139a00>

Adib: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-30036730>

Yaroob: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h1myiL0ny8Y>

Sulafa: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gmRz8uZZPc>

(All ages)

**Children’s Voices: Video of children speaking from a Syrian Refugee Camp through UNICEF in Lebanon**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyscRA5CY68>

Visual of what a camp and conditions are like. Slow pace, but powerful for showing life in the camp and the voices of children and parents. Shows school, play, houses, kids talking about their life and fears. 11 minutes (All ages)

## **Online Lesson Resources through UNHCR:**

*Spot the Refugee LEGO Poster*

*There are not working links to the original source of the poster on the UNHCR site. Do a Google Image search for Spot the Refugee to see posters including “How Does it Feel” “What’s Wrong Here”*

Brief introduction: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/getinvolved/teachingtools/4693568e2/lesson-plans-ages-9-11-human-rights-refugees-refugee.html>

Complete discussion questions for all four posters: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/getinvolved/teachingtools/46a755202/lego-poster-teachers-guide.html>

Lesson for grades 6,7,8: in depth

<https://www.learningtogive.org/units/refugees-todays-society/what-refugee>

*Geography and Refugees Lesson, ages 9-11*

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/getinvolved/teachingtools/4651bc192/lesson-plans-ages-9-11-geography-refugees.html?query=lesson%20plans>

*High School Lessons on Refugees with Literature*

<http://www.unhcr.org/45f173012.html>

Unit plan for three lessons on using literature to examine the refugee experience. Uses a poem by Berthold Brecht and a short essay by a refugee. Teaching resources are not easy to find under the UNHCR website organization, but links are still good and searching will find them.

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/getinvolved/teachingtools/45f550652/lesson-plans-ages-15-18-language-literature-depiction-refugee-experience.html?query=lesson%20plans>

## **Simulation Games**

**Passages** from UNHCR

<http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/passages-game.html>

Booklet available for download. This is a classroom interactive game, not online. Students participate in some short, simple exercises to build empathy with the experiences of refugee, then more complex simulations as a “Family” to overcome various obstacles refugees face. (Think *Oregon Trail* for refugees, but simpler.)

**Time to Flee** from Amnesty International

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/activity-pack-time-flee#.WID3D1MrJEZ>

Scenario to read to students (recommended for ages 11-16), then they decide what to do and what to take as they flee.

**Syrian Journey: Choose your own escape route** from the BBC

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-32057601>

Online simulation game, also with video clips of refugees and stories. Series of choices with information on the routes refugees take and what conditions are like along the way.

**Against All Odds** from UNHCR

<http://www.playagainstallodds.ca/>

Teacher page: <http://www.playagainstallodds.ca/teachersupervision/us/index.html>

Online simulation game. Looks like a graphic novel/video game animation which may be appealing to secondary students. Very graphic (EX: sound of being struck and blood droplets on paper during interrogation if you answer against the government). Difficult to move through different activities, some more violent than others. Would need to

be thoroughly explored before giving to students. Web facts resources have lots of personal stories and resources. It may be advisable to use these without the simulation.

## **General Resources:**

### **United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)**

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2ZDAoIMGP3m9tAgniNEYw>

Website: <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/>

The Teaching Resources section of the website <http://www.unhcr.org/en-us/teaching-about-refugees.html> has links to other resources, but not their lesson plans. To find those, search the UNHCR site with “Lesson Plans 9-11” or “12-14” or “15-18” depending on the age of your students.

### **British Red Cross Video Diaries**

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/What-we-do/Refugee-support/Refugees-true-stories/Video-diaries>

Teenage and young adult refugee stories from Britain

### **Understanding the Syrian Refugee Crisis: A Resource Packet for Educators, from World Affairs Council**

[https://www.world-affairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Understanding-the-Syrian-Refugee-Crisis\\_Full-Version.pdf](https://www.world-affairs.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/Understanding-the-Syrian-Refugee-Crisis_Full-Version.pdf)

Published 2015, Lots of links with table of contents and categorized by type

### **REFUGEE BOOKLIST SITES**

[http://www.colorincolorado.org/node/35483/books\\_\(by\\_region\)](http://www.colorincolorado.org/node/35483/books_(by_region))

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/booklist/refugee-experience-books-children>

<http://www.colorincolorado.org/booklist/refugees-books-middle-grades>

<http://www.whatdowedoallday.com/childrens-books-about-refugees/>

<https://humaneeducation.org/blog/2015/14-childrens-books-refugees/>

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/children/booklists/408/>

<http://www.readbrightly.com/books-to-help-kids-understand-what-its-like-to-be-a-refugee/?ref=PRH847BEB4A30&aid=randohouseinc34287-20&linkid=PRH847BEB4A30>

<http://stackedbooks.org/2015/10/stories-about-refugees-a-ya-reading-list.html>

<http://www.amightygirl.com/blog?p=9981>

### **EDUCATOR RESOURCES**

Article about using literature about refugees

<https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/sep/08/fiction-refugee-crisis-gillian-cross>