Searching for Home: Nasrin’s Journey

Nasrin, Divari, I’ve heard from your father, it’s time for us to leave Sinjar.

Mother, no!

But I don’t want to go!

I know, my love. I don’t want to leave either, but we must. The fighting is coming. We have to go. We’ll go to Canada where we can be with Daddy and Cirvan.

Where are we going? What do we do?

I’m hungry!

I’m tired!

Can we have a break?

I want to sit down!

Quiet, Divari. We can’t stop here. Take my bread. We’ll stop when we’re safe.

I’ll take you all the way to the Fiszkiurur crossing. And then they will take you the rest of the way into Turkey. Everyone must pay up front.

Fiszkiurur? We’re going to Syria? But we want to go to Turkey!

There’s no other way. We must go quickly! The Daesh forces are moving north. Come with me, or you may be caught! This journey will not be easy, but we must leave!

RUN! Stay together!! Follow me!
Nasrin’s Journey

My children and my wife are in Turkey. They are not safe. Can you help our family be together again?

We definitely want to help you, but it will take time.

I miss my bedroom, I miss my garden, I miss my friends.

Three years is forever. I thought we would be with baba* by now.

Baba is a term of endearment meaning dad.

Baba, I miss you! When will I see you again?

Tell us your story.

I hope soon. We’re waiting on the paperwork.

You’ve been so strong.

Keep looking after your brother and mom.

Why aren’t you safe in Iraq?

How did you get here?
IN ORDER TO EMIGRATE TO CANADA, YOU ALL NEED TO HAVE A THOROUGH CHECK-UP.

BUT WE ALREADY HAD ONE WHEN WE GOT HERE!

HUSH, DIVA! WE HAVE TO DO WHATEVER THEY SAY. THIS EXAM IS FOR CANADA.

LIFE IN CANADA IS GOING TO BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU’RE USED TO.

HERE ARE SOME BASIC TIPS THAT WILL HELP YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT’S GOING ON AROUND YOU IN YOUR FIRST FEW MONTHS.

THIS IS FOR YOU. DON’T FORGET ME.

HERE, KEEP THIS.

THIS WAY.

ENJOY YOUR FLIGHT.

WELCOME TO CANADA.

YOU ARE NOW A PERMANENT RESIDENT.

WELCOME TO CANADA.
Choral Voices

Put your head down on your desk and listen to your classmates as they read these quotes. If your teacher taps you on the shoulder, read one of the quotes below to the rest of the class.

1. "Peace cannot be kept by force; it can only be achieved by understanding."
   —Albert Einstein

2. "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark."
   —Warsan Shire

Classroom discussion:
How did it feel to hear these voices? Why is it important to hear them?

- "Mother, no! But I don't want to go!"
- "Quiet, Diyari we can't stop. Here, take my bread. We'll stop when we're safe."
- "My children and my wife are in Turkey. They are not safe. Can you help our family be together again?"
- "Baba, I miss you! When will I see you again?"
- "I miss my bedroom, I miss my garden, I miss my friends. Three years is forever. I thought we would be with Baba by now."
- "In order to emigrate to Canada, you all need to have a thorough check-up."
- "Life in Canada is going to be very different from what you're used to. Here are some basic tips that will help you understand what's going on around you in your first few months."

- "For those I come from, there is nothing more devouring than the feeling of want for home, the feeling of need for home. We are all waiting for a form of transport, a ship, a saucer to carry us out of the too-dark night."
   —Sonora by Hannah Lillith Assadi

- "Taking Mum's hand, I whispered 'Are we really safe, here?'"
   —Walk in My Shoes by Alwyn Evans

- "In the midst of migrants in search of a better life, there are people in need of protection: refugees and asylum-seekers, women and children victims of trafficking…Many move simply to avoid dying of hunger. When leaving is not an option but a necessity, this is more than poverty."
   —António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

- "No human being is illegal. That is a contradiction in terms. Human beings can be beautiful or more beautiful, they can be fat or skinny, they can be right or wrong, but illegal? How can a human being be illegal?"
   —Elie Wiesel

- "To the guys that draw lines and make the borders real
  But then bend the rules when there's more to drill
  Don't turn away the stateless, think of the waste
  If one in 3 refugees is a Lauryn Hill"
   —Shad, hip hop recording artist