

Bibliography of Selected Glencoe Public Library Books by or About Refugees

Cast Away: True Stories of Survival from Europe's Refugee Crisis, by Charlotte McDonald-Gibson

“In her first book, McDonald-Gibson, a journalist experienced in covering the European Union, examines the last five years of the refugee crisis in the Mediterranean. . . This book will be illuminating for every reader who wants to better understand the human side of a complex, wrenching issue”. –Publishers Weekly

City of Thorns: Nine Lives in the World's Largest Refugee Camp, by Ben Rawlence

“In 2010, Ben Rawlence, then a researcher for Human Rights Watch, visited the refugee camp of Dadaab on the eastern Kenyan border, home to 300,000 people, many of whom had fled the chronic civil war in Somalia. The next year, he returned for what would be the first of seven long visits to follow the lives of nine of its inhabitants and to watch the camp grow until it became the largest refugee settlement in the world, more town than camp, with its own hospitals, cinemas and soccer teams, occupying an area the size of New Orleans.” - New York Times

Dear World: A Syrian Girl's Story of War and Plea for Peace, by Bana al Abed

“Eight-year-old Alabed delivers a gripping first-hand account of the war in Syria, which began when she was three and led to her creating the now-famous Twitter account that brought her story to the world. This memoir, written with the help of her mother, Fatemah, provides striking detail and a plea for the world's help.” – Publishers Weekly

Family Separation and the U.S.-Mexico Border Crisis, by Laurie Collier Hillstrom

“Hillstrom explores policies at the U.S.-Mexico border that call for families to be separated and children to be detained. The sometimes distressing, but dispassionately presented material is organized into four sections: an overview (of

U.S. immigration generally); notable events, impacts, and profiles (of a pediatrician and politicians Stephen Miller, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Donald Trump, but not of any individuals directly affected by separations), followed by resources and an index.” – Library Journal

The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After, by Clemantine Wamariya

”After the Rwandan genocide in 1994, Clemantine Wamariya became one of those refugees. . . But Wamariya was not “a nice poor African refugee girl,” the authors assert; she was angry, bitter, suspicious of kindness. The war she survived fit no traditional narrative. Neighbors in Rwanda — the innocent civilians — turned on one another with astonishing brutality; the violence may have ended after 100 days, but trauma lingered. The pain and daily humiliations endured by Clemantine and Claire, as they struggled to hold on to their dignity and stay alive, shaped Wamariya’s outlook and choices long after she moved to Chicago to start a new life.” - New York Times

The Last Million: Europe’s Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War, by David Nasaw

“A searching, vigorously written history of an unsettled time too little known to American readers.” - Kirkus

The Latehomecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir, by Kao Kalia Yang

“Yang, cofounder of the immigrant-services company Words Wanted, was born in a Hmong refugee camp in Thailand in 1980. . . By the end of this moving, unforgettable book, when Yang describes the death of her beloved grandmother, readers will delight at how intimately they have become part of this formerly strange culture.” – Publishers Weekly

Learning to Die in Miami: Confessions of a Refugee Boy, by Carolos Eire

“In 1962, Carlos Eire found himself, at age 11, in a refugee camp for Cuban children on the edge of the Florida Everglades, staring at a chicken sandwich. It was a pallid, perfectly bisected square. “Where are the feathers?” he wondered. . . Eire is a tremendously likable narrator, honest about the limitations of memory, always wearing his heart on his sleeve.” – New York Times

On Two Feet and Wings: One Boy’s Amazing Story of Survival, by Abbas Kazerooni

“Abbas and his mother are about to board a plane for Turkey when authorities order her to remain in post-Revolution Iran with his father, Karim; Abbas, at Karim’s insistence, flies alone to Istanbul to stay and apply for a British visa—he is 9. . . Although Abbas’ account can be harrowing, it is told plainly, and these are not, regrettably, uncommon experiences for children, making this both accessible to and suitable for a middle-grade audience.” - Kirkus

Refugee, by Emmanuel Mbolela

“This sobering account of Mbolela’s migration from the Democratic Republic of Congo to Morocco and eventually to the Netherlands connects the dots between neocolonial capitalism, African kleptocracy and wars, and the inhumane treatment of refugees at nearly every step of their arduous journeys.” – Publishers Weekly

Refugee High: Coming of Age in America, by Elly Fishman

“Roger C. Sullivan High School in Chicago has been a landing pad for immigrant and refugee students for a century. . . Fishman does a wonderful job reminding us that even with their myriad, harrowing traumas, these students are kids. They live in the throes of teenage-hood, meaning acne and Rihanna. They are captivated by America’s alluring pop culture, the latest fashions and social media.” – The Washington Post

Rescue Board: The Untold Story of America’s Efforts to Save the Jews of Europe, by Rebecca Erbelding

“Erbelding, an archivist, curator, and historian at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, sifted through almost 19,000 archival documents to tell the story of the War Refugee Board, created by F.D.R. in January 1944 to help save European Jews.” – Publishers Weekly

This Is What America Looks Like: My Journey from Refugee to Congresswoman, by Ilhan Omar

“Minnesota representative Omar debuts with a brisk and forthright recounting of her life story from her childhood in Mogadishu to her first year in office as the first Somali-American, and one of the first two Muslim women, elected to Congress. She movingly details how her family’s comfortable, middle-class existence in Somalia was disrupted by the outbreak of civil war in 1992, and the four years she and her siblings spent in refugee camps before their single father (Omar’s mother died when she was two) won the “golden ticket” of a U.S. visa.” – Publishers Weekly