

# The Boy at the back of the Class

## Lesson 4: Refugees

### Aim

To produce a school magazine article about the plight of refugees by investigating Ahmet's story and taking on the roles of journalists

10. Ahmet's Story

11. The Game of Scrabble

12. Syrah and the Sea

Focus theme for this lesson:

**Refugees**

Themes Explored in chapters

10 - 12:

*Journeys*

*Loss*

*Family*

*War*

Issues to discuss:

*Politics*

*Refuge*

*Integrity*

*The role of journalists*

Skills developed:

*Team Work*

*Organisation*

*Interview Skills*

*Reporting*

*Listening*

*Time Skills*

Expressive Arts Skills:

*Rose Play*

*Hot Seating*

*Presentation*

*Working with TIR (teacher in role)*

**E's and O's:** Refer to Overview

Resources: Group work stations. Camera facilities. Computers. Flip charts. Stationary, Art Materials, Research Materials

Complete task **A** for the following chapter titles, using your knowledge, chapter headings and your summary to decide what is happening in each of the photos:

**War and Missing Pieces**

**The Game of Scrabble**

**Syrah and the Sea**

**'.. think being a reporter and getting to solve mysteries and go on adventures must be the best job in the world.'** Chapter 1, Narrator

**'Sometimes I think everyone likes to believe a lie even when they know its a lie because its more exciting than the truth. And they especially like to believe it if its printed in a newspaper.'** Chapter 2, Narrator

Discuss the two quotes above. Identify the skills you would want from anyone who was a reporter. You are now going to create a news story about Ahmet and his journey as a refugee. You will be taking on the roles of important journalists and reporters in a news team.

**Task 1: Adopting roles as Reporters:** Pupils are gathered and welcomed, as journalists, to the newsroom. The teacher introduces themselves as the editor of a newspaper and tells them that they are going to be producing a special article on the journey of refugees, through the eyes of one refugee boy who has agreed to share his story with them. They do not have long to get the

research done.

The editor explains that there are four main areas to focus on for this article:

1. **Ahmet's Story – with focus on the pictures and the telling of his story**
2. **Ahmet at school – interviews with Ahmet and his friends and teachers**
3. **What is a refugee and why people become refugees**
4. **Refugees in the UK**
5. **Famous people who we know are refugees – and their stories**

The editor then explains that there is a deadline for getting the material to press so that their article is an exclusive. And they must keep to the truth.

**Task 2: Planning the article:** Each group is given their task sheet. They must plan how they will gather the material for their part of the article and who is going to do it. The task sheets and planning sheets are provided. The group decide what each member of the group is responsible for and discuss the tasks. Each person should make sure they know what they are doing and the resources they need. These should be made available as required by the editor.

**Task 3: Gathering the material:**

Each person in the group should then carry out their allocated task. Once collected, the group should get together at an agreed time to share their findings, reorganise if necessary, and make any corrections before presenting to the rest of the News Team.

**Task 4: Editorial meeting:**

Each group presents to the rest of the Team, answers questions, takes on points and submits their final material to the Editor. The material is then transformed into a digital or physical News Article which can be shared with other members of the year group or other classes in the school.

**Task:** The whole class gets together to discuss and agree on their Take-Aways from this lesson, writing them on the flip chart.

**10. Ahmet's story**

'Running away from a war and leaving your home is a very hard thing to do. And it is especially very hard when you have to try and put all the missing pieces of your life back together again, in a place that's new and strange to  
' sleeps in a house – happy as there is a toilet in it and hot water and food...'

**11. The Game of Scrabble**

' .....a smile that shows lots of teeth but which never travels to any other part of the face.'

' ....doesn't surprise me you would want to help....what with your gran having been a refugee too.'

' ....she helped lots of refugees, just like your friend Ahmet, run away from a war too.'

' .....before they all got loads of benefits and houses nicer than ours.'

**12. Syrah and the Sea**

'Sometimes words hang around longer than people, even when you don't want them to!'

