

Two Homes in Omar's Heart

A Guide for Teachers and Parents



TWO HOMES IN OMAR'S HEART

by
Ibtisam Barakat

Illustrated by
Mequea Smith



Written by Ibtisam Barakat

Illustrated by Mequea Smith

THEMES

Environment & Conservation

STEAM

Social & Emotional Wellbeing

SUB-THEMES

Displacement & Migration

Family & Friends

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand that people may move to new places for reasons like war, natural disasters, or safety.
- Learn that someone can love more than one home.
- Recognize how to be welcoming and kind to children who are new.
- Reflect on the emotions involved in leaving one's homeland and starting over

Lesson plan

A story-led classroom discussion and creative reflection on migration and belonging. Children engage in role-play and empathy-building exercises to appreciate what it means to move, adjust, and be welcomed.

Learning Outcome

Before Reading:

- What do you think it feels like to move to a new place?
- Have you ever had to say goodbye to a place or people you love?
- What would you take with you if you had to move?

During Reading :

- Where is Omar from, and where has he moved to?
- How do you think he feels in his new home?
- What helps Omar feel better?

After Reading:

- What does Omar learn about having two homes?
- How would you make a new friend feel welcome in your classroom or neighborhood?
- What do you think Omar misses the most from Jericho?

Activities:

- Draw Your Two Homes: Children imagine two places they love—real or imaginary—and draw what connects them.
- Letter to a New Friend: Children write a short welcome note to a new classmate, including things that might help them feel at home.
- Empathy Walk: A simple guided role-play where children imagine arriving in a new place where they don't know the language or customs. How would they want others to treat them?

Expected Outcomes

children will: Feel a deeper empathy for those who have had to leave home due to unrest or hardship. Be motivated to act with kindness toward classmates or neighbors who are new. Learn that migration is a part of human history and many people carry memories of multiple homes in their hearts. Appreciate the richness of different cultural experiences brought by immigrant friends.

Applicable SDGs

- SDG 4: Quality Education
- SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities
- SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG Explanation

- SDG 4: Encourages inclusive learning environments by promoting empathy and understanding.
- SDG 10: Highlights the emotional realities of migration and the need to reduce inequality and bias in host societies.
- SDG 16: Promotes peaceful coexistence and inclusion, especially for children affected by conflict or displacement.

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit initiative that curates children's stories from diverse cultures and lived experiences around the world. It gives children a window into other communities—and a mirror that affirms their own, helping children recognize the shared humanity that connects us across differences. Through narratives that gently challenge biases and broaden worldviews, Zamasama helps children see difference not as a barrier but as a bridge. Through the power of stories, we sow the seeds of pluralism that can grow into a more harmonious world for all.