

## **HOME Story Time Prompts & Activities | October 2020**

### **Lynden Sculpture Garden**

HOME program: [www.home-at-lynden.org](http://www.home-at-lynden.org)

Recordings and downloads: [www.lydensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time](http://www.lydensculpturegarden.org/calendar/home-story-time)

**Books, English & Arabic edition:** Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey, written by Margriet Ruurs, and artwork by Nizar Ali Badr

**HOME Story Time Readers:** Claudia Orjuela [English reader] and Samaher Aldaye [Arabic reader]

**Art activity by Lynden art educator:** Claudia Orjuela

### **Introduction**

The story is about the journey of a young girl named Rama and her family. Their happy, peaceful life is disrupted by war, and Rama watches as life changes and friends and neighbors move away. Eventually, Rama and her family are forced to leave behind everything they know and love. With only what they can carry on their backs, they go on the difficult journey to find refuge in Europe.

### **Enduring understandings:**

- People want to be free and safe.
- Life can change quickly.
- War is something no child should endure.
- Families have happy times and sad times.

**Activity 1: Let's Share & Reflect!** Questions for further discussion.

1. Why does Jedo, the grandfather, say that they aren't truly free? Why is it important for him that they be free to dance their dances and pray the prayers of their choice?
2. Brainstorm all the freedoms you have where you are living now.
3. Are your daily experiences -at home and school- similar to or different from Ramas?
4. Why is it difficult for Rama and her family to leave Syria?
5. Imagine that Rama was coming to Wisconsin, or where you are currently living, as a refugee from Syria. What things may she need to come to where you live? What helpful tips would you give Rama to help her navigate her new school and make her transition easier?
6. Why did people begin to leave the village? What were they searching for in another place?
7. Imagine that you are someone who can help refugees. How may you find out what their needs may be? In which ways can you provide help?
8. Have you ever moved to a new place — a new country, city, neighborhood, home, or school? What helped you feel welcome in a new setting?