

Home from Home

Background Story



Use Resource Sheet B flag sheet to symbolise the family's story: they felt torn apart by war, were suddenly separated from their home, they felt abandoned and isolated, yet they are valued and wanted. Remember to print the sheet back to back.

Tip - keep the UK flag hidden from view till the end of the background story.

Show the Syrian flag, using Resource Sheet B.

Six years before this photo [on slide 8] was taken, the Alnabulsi family lived in Syria.

Slowly start ripping the flag sheet in half.

Fighting and bombing was a part of daily life; their community and life was slowly being ripped apart. But they did not know if they should leave or stay.

One day the decision was made for them as a bomb landed on their building.

Quickly finish ripping the sheet.

They felt like they had been ripped in two. They had no choice but to get out straight away. They had time to grab one thing - their children. They had no food, no clothes, no toys, no passports, no medicine and no money. They had no home and no country. They were now refugees.

Slowly scrunch up the paper as you continue telling the background.

Syria was not a safe place to live any more. For six years they were refugees. Life was hard. It was difficult to get work. It was hard to get medicine. It was challenging to get enough food. The children rarely managed to go to school. They had no proper home.

At one point the safest place they found to live was in the middle of a roundabout. They felt like rubbish.

'Throw away' the paper and pause.

But they had not been forgotten.

Slowly pick up the scrunched paper and look at it.

Finally there came a day when their lives started to smooth out again.

Unfold and smooth out the paper, still hiding the flag.

They had informed the United Nations High Commission for Refugees what had happened to them and had asked for help. Finally a day came when they received an invitation.

Click to reveal the invitation.

They were invited to come to a new country to live. Finally they felt wanted and valued. Their new home was to be...

Finish smoothing the paper and show the UK flag.

...the UK.

Click to reveal the destination.