

THE SELECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF FORCED MIGRATION

A Multi-Media Educational Tool

Winter 2021

Visual Storytelling: A Teaching Guide to Children's and Young Teen's Graphic Novels

Target audience: late elementary and middle school (grades 5-8)

Keywords: media, art, diaspora, belonging, personal narrative

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In the whirlwind of words that engulfs the world of academia, graphic novels give us an opportunity to visually engage with migration narratives and experiences. It gives a peek into the cultures and situations that migrants come from, humanizing them in a way that can be lost in other forms of media (photography, news articles, academic journals). Visually seeing cultural symbols and references to important historical events to migrant narratives opens the doors to empathy and curiosity; a desire to connect with other humans emotionally. The visualization of migrants and their stories can help children and young teens engage in and understand a topic that is often spoken about amongst adults, but is treated as an unapproachable and almost taboo topic for children and young teens. Although, migration affects all ages and all communities in one way or another; this may be a fellow peer, a teacher, their favorite clerk at the ice cream shop. Graphic novels can help build empathy for readers, becoming a wonderful tool to start conversations and build the skill set needed to engage with forced migration.

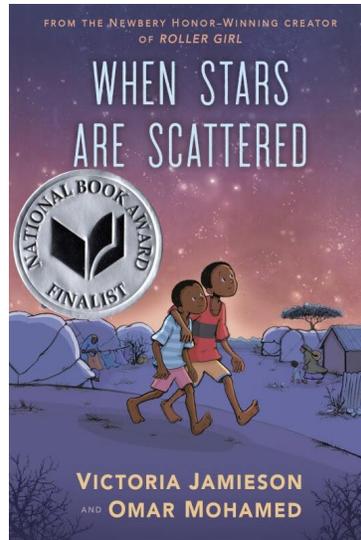
Here is a collection of children's and young teens' graphic novels on stories of forced migration from all around the world. Included are supplementary sources that educators and adults can utilize to teach each graphic novel, such as book trailers, reviews, educational videos on the history and culture that the narrative is based on, and activities that open the door to dialogue.

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CHILDREN



Omar Mohamed and Victoria Jamieson, [When Stars Are Scattered](#) (2020)

- Recommended ages: 9 – 13

Victoria Jamieson, illustrator and co-author, collaborated with co-author and Somali refugee Omar Mohamed to present a touching story based on Mohamed's life growing up in Dadaab Refugee Camp in Kenya. Now, he is living in the United States and is the founder of the non-profit organization Refugee Strong.

“Omar and his younger brother Hassan live in a refugee camp, and when an opportunity for Omar to get an education comes along, he must decide between going to school every day or caring for his nonverbal brother in this intimate and touching portrayal of family and daily life in a refugee camp” ([WorldCat](#))

Supplementary Sources:

- [When Stars Are Scattered | Official Trailer](#) (2020), Penguin Middle School, YouTube video
- [Book Talk: When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson, Omar Mohamed: Read with Val](#) (2020), Read with Val, YouTube video
- [Read, Write, Draw from Home | Omar Mohamed & Victoria Jamieson for When Stars Are Scattered](#) (2020), Penguin Middle School, YouTube video

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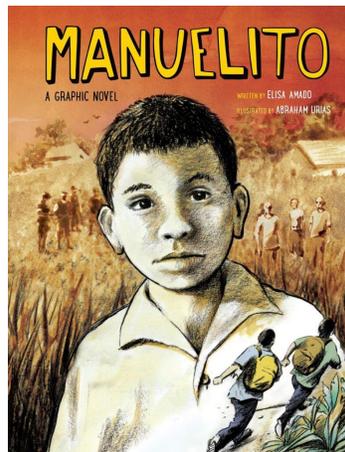
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For Educators:

- [Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, “When Stars Are Scattered” \(2020\), Politics and Prose, YouTube video](#)
- [Victoria Jamieson, “When Stars Are Scattered: Additional Resources,” 2020](#)

YOUNG TEENS



Elisa Amado and Abraham Uriás, [Manuelito](#) (2019)

- Recommended ages: 12 and up

Author Elisa Amado draws from her experiences working with child refugees to write a powerful story to call to attention the dangerous circumstances children refugees are in. Manuelito was illustrated by Abraham Urias, a Salvadoran refugee and designer living in the United States.

“Thirteen-year-old Manuelito is a gentle boy who lives with his family in a tiny village in the Guatemalan countryside. But life is far from idyllic: PACs—armed civil patrol—are a constant presence in the streets, and terrifying memories of the country’s war linger in the villagers’ collective conscience. Things deteriorate further when government-backed drug gangs arrive and take control of the village. Fearing their son will be forced to join a gang, Manuelito’s parents make the desperate decision to send him to live with his aunt in America.” ([WorldCat](#))

Supplementary Sources:

- [“Manuelito Book Trailer” \(2019\), Jessica Tessler, YouTube video](#)

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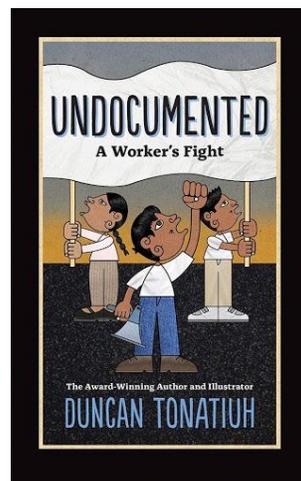
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- Cassandra E. Osterloh, "[Manuelito](#)," Natural Hispanic Cultural Center, Apr 8, 2020
- "[Guatemala Country Profile](#)," *National Geographic Kids*

For Educators:

- "[Why People Are Fleeing the Northern Triangle](#)" (2018), Newsweek, YouTube Video



Duncan Tonatiuh, [Undocumented: A Worker's Fight](#) (2018)

- Recommended Ages: 12 and up

Duncan Tonatiuh was born in Mexico City and raised in San Miguel de Allende. His work is inspired by ancient Mexican art, along with the Mixtec codex. Tonatiuh's goal with creating literature for children is to make contemporary issues accessible to children, while also providing a voice for those he represents within his stories. "Undocumented is the story of immigrant workers who have come to the United States without papers. Every day, these men and women join the workforce and contribute positively to society. The story is told via the ancient Mixtec codex — accordion fold — format. Juan grew up in Mexico working in the fields to help provide for his family. Struggling for money, Juan crosses over into the United States and becomes an undocumented worker, living in a poor neighborhood, working hard to survive. Though he is able to get a job as a busboy at a restaurant, he is severely undercompensated — he receives less than half of the minimum wage! Risking his

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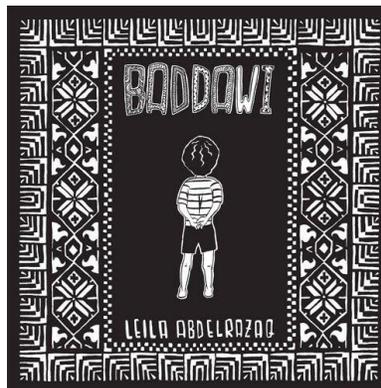
boss reporting him to the authorities for not having proper resident papers, Juan risks everything and stands up for himself and the rest of the community.”
(Amazon.com via [WorldCat](#))

Supplementary Sources:

- [“Undocumented: A Worker’s Fight – Trailer,”](#) (2018), Dreamscape Publishing, YouTube video
- [“Undocumented – A Worker’s Fight \(Read Aloud\),”](#) (2020), 2nd Grade Greenleaf Teachers, YouTube video
- [“The Sound of the Mixtec language \(Numbers, Vocabulary, Sample Text & The Parable\),”](#) (2020), ILoveLanguages!, YouTube video

For Educators:

- [“Undocumented: A Worker’s Fight,”](#) *Anti-Defamation League*, Syllabus
- [“About Mixtec,”](#) Latin American Studies Department, San Diego State University
- [“Codices of the Mixtec,”](#) *Boundless.com*



Leila Abdelrazaq, [Baddawi](#) (2015)

- Recommended ages: 12 and up

Leila Abdelrazaq is a Palestinian author and artist based in Chicago. Her creative works explore themes related to diaspora, refugeehood, history, memory, and borders. Abdelrazaq’s debut graphic novel *Baddawi* was based on her father’s childhood in the 1960s and 70s inside of a Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon.

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“Baddawi is the story of a young boy named Ahmad struggling to find his place in the world. Raised in a refugee camp called Baddawi in northern Lebanon, Ahmad is just one of the thousands of Palestinians who fled their homeland after the war in 1948 established the state of Israel. In this visually arresting graphic novel, Leila Abdelrazaq explores her father’s childhood in the 1960s and ’70s from a boy’s eye view as he witnesses the world crumbling around him and attempts to carry on, forging his own path in the midst of terrible uncertainty.” ([Goodreads](#))

[Find at your local library](#)

Supplementary Sources:

- [Tasbeeh Herwees, “The Graphic Novel ‘Baddawi’ Looks Back at Life in a Palestinian Refugee Camp,” Vice, Dec 5, 2015](#)
- [Exhibition showcases Palestinian embroidery \(2016\), AP Archive, YouTube video](#)
- [Showcase: The journey of Palestinian embroidery \(2016\), TRT World, YouTube video](#)

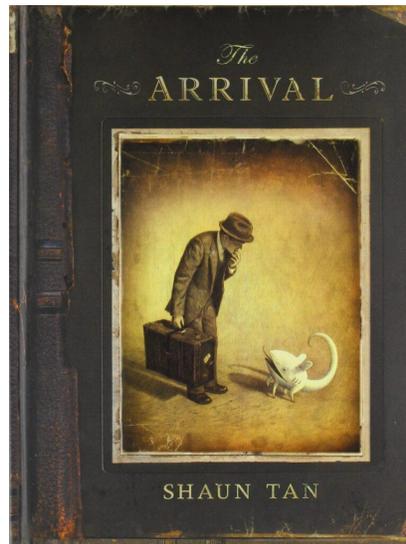
For Educators:

- [“Leila Abdelrazaq, Baddawi” The Arab Comix Project, 2016](#)
- [Abaki Beck and Sarah K, “Palestinian Justice,” POC Online Classroom, Syllabus](#)
- [The Language of Palestinian Tatreez Embroidery \(2019\), The Jerusalem Fund & Palestine Center, YouTube video](#)
- [Alex Mangles, “Stitching Out a Life in Graphic Memoir,” Los Angeles Review of Books, June 8, 2015](#)

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Shaun Tan, *The Arrival* (2006)

- Recommended ages: 12 and up

Shaun Tan is an artist and children's book author from Perth, Australia. His books often explore social and historical subjects through dream-like imagery. Tan was inspired by his own interest and questions regarding "belonging," finding or losing it. A mix of being vaguely aware of Aboriginal displacement and his own identity as half-Chinese pushed this curiosity and questions of "where are you from?" and "where do your parents come from?" along with the notion of belonging.

"The Arrival is a migrant story told as a series of wordless images. A man leaves his wife and child in an impoverished town, seeking better prospects in an unknown country on the other side of a vast ocean. He eventually finds himself in a bewildering city of foreign customs, peculiar animals, curious floating objects and indecipherable languages. With nothing more than a suitcase and a handful of currency, the immigrant must find a place to live, food to eat and some kind of gainful employment. He is helped along the way by sympathetic strangers, each carrying their own unspoken history: stories of struggle and survival in a world of incomprehensible violence, upheaval and hope." ([Shaun Tan](#))

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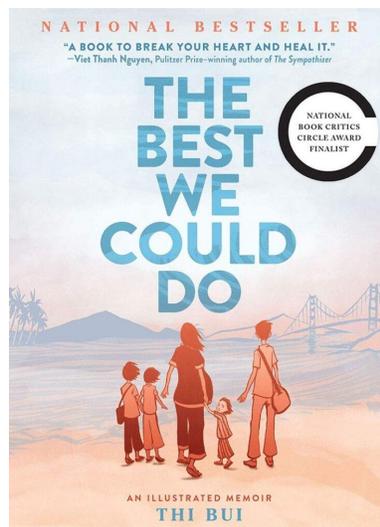
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Supplementary Sources:

- [“*Shaun Tan – The Arrival Animation*,”](#) (2013) Frederik Vorndran, Vimeo video
- [“*Shaun Tan*,”](#) *We Are Playgrounds*

For Educators:

- [“*Shaun Tan*,”](#) *Scholastic*
- Shaun Tan, [“*THE ARRIVAL*,”](#) *ShaunTan.net*
- David Matthews, [“*THE ARRIVAL | Shaun Tan*,”](#) *David M*, Jan 1, 2013
- Joni R. Bodart, [“*Booktalk for The Arrival by Shaun Tan*,”](#) *Scholastic*
- Mengyan Wang, [“*A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: The Arrival*,”](#) *Vanderbilt.edu*, Syllabus



Thi Bui, [“*The Best We Could Do*”](#) (2017)

- Recommended ages: 13 and up

Thi Bui was born in Vietnam and came to the United States in 1978, fleeing from Southeast Asia at the end of the Vietnam War. Her work often is focused on political and social issues, such as immigration, war, and intergenerational trauma. Her debut novel *The Best We Could Do* portrays her family’s journey from war-torn Vietnam.

“This illustrated memoir is about the search for a better future and a longing for the past. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement

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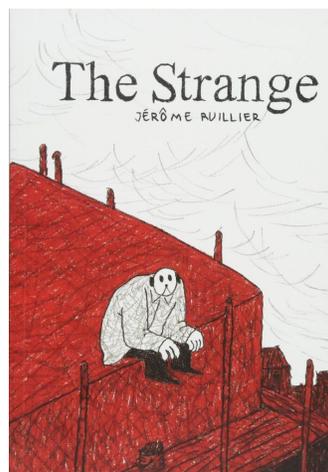
has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family’s daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s, and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui’s story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent—the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love. Despite how impossible it seems to take on the simultaneous roles of both parent and child, Bui pushes through.” ([Goodreads](#))
[Find it at your local library.](#)

Supplementary Sources:

- [“Welcome from Thi Bui, author of “The Best We Could Do” for UO Common Reading”](#) (2018), UOregon CommonReading, YouTube video
- [“Introduction to Thi Bui’s “The Best We Could Do,”](#) (2019), MultiDoc8404, YouTube video
- [“The Best We Can Do – Interactive Reading with Thi Bui,”](#) (2017), Asian American Writers’ Workshop, YouTube video

For Educators:

- Amyaz Moledina, [“Mobility and Migration in Graphic Novels and Graphic Journalism,”](#) *Challenging Borders*, July 4, 2019
- [“Thi Bui,”](#) UCLA



Jérôme Ruillier, [The Strange](#) (2016)

- Recommended ages: 14 and up

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Jérôme Ruillier was born in Madagascar in 1966. He studied Decorative Arts in Strasbourg, France. Ruillier is a children's book illustrator and author of several graphic novels including, *Le Coeur Anvil* and *Les Mohamed*, which were based on personal accounts and interviews.

"The Strange follows an unnamed, undocumented immigrant who tries to forge a new life in a Western country where he doesn't speak the language. The story is deftly told through myriad viewpoints, as each narrator recounts a situation in which they crossed paths with the newly arrived foreigner. Many of the people he meets are suspicious of his unfamiliar background, or of the unusual language they do not understand. By employing this third-person narrative structure, Jérôme Ruillier masterfully portrays the complex plight of immigrants and the vulnerability of being undocumented. The Strange shows one person's struggle to adapt while dealing with the often brutal and unforgiving attitudes of the employers, neighbors, and strangers who populate this new land." ([Goodreads](#))

[Find at your local library](#)

Supplementary Sources:

- Alex Dueben, "[All of Humanity: A Conversation with Jérôme Ruillier](#)," *The Rumpus*, Sept 26, 2018
- "[Three Minute Thought: Mikhail Bakhtin on Polyphony](#)," (2019), Flicker Theory, YouTube Video

For Educators:

- Brittany Murray, "[Foreign, Strange, Singular, Exceptional: An Interview with Jérôme Ruillier](#)," *EuropeNow*, Oct 29, 2019
- Janine Joseph, "[The Graphic Novel That Captures the Anxieties of Being Undocumented](#)," *The Atlantic*, July 31, 2018
- "[Quentin Tan | Representing the Polyphony of Tongues in Literature](#)," (2019), Fries Center for Global Studies, YouTube video