Resource list for Companions who have participated in additional training to support children and young people from refugee backgrounds participating in SfG programs.

**Refugee-Related Books and Resources For Children and Young People**

The following books were sourced from:
- Austral Ed Book Supplies from Australia: [www.australed.iinet.net.au/books_from_middle_east.html](http://www.australed.iinet.net.au/books_from_middle_east.html)
- Willesden Bookshop: [http://www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk/sections/section06/section06.htm](http://www.willesdenbookshop.co.uk/sections/section06/section06.htm)

♦ June Allan – Mohammed’s Journey

This is a true story of an Iraqi-Kurdish refugee child and his flight from his home in Kirkuk to the UK. This is the story of Mohammed’s escape from Iraq by bus, on horseback, in an inflatable raft on a raging river and, finally, hiding in a lorry on a ship. It covers his journey from Kirkuk to the Iraq-Iran border, through Iran, into Turkey and then on to England and safety.

♦ Anh Do with Suzanne Do – The Little Refugee

One of Australia’s favourite personalities recounts his family’s escape from war-torn Vietnam in an over-crowded boat, defying pirates and terrifying storms. The story recounts the family’s new life in suburban Australia and overcoming the challenges of having no English language and funny lunches. Laughter helped deal with the difficulties and turn them into triumph for Anh, his brother Khoa and sister Tram.

♦ Bic Walker – A Safe Place to Live

This book contains fabulous illustrations of a true story about a young girl’s journey as a refugee to Australia. She encounters pirates and is rescued by an oil tanker, before waiting in a refugee camp until sponsored to Australia.

♦ Tamar Bergman – Along the tracks

This story recounts the adventures of a young Jewish boy who is driven from his home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in the Soviet Union, is separated from his family, and undergoes many hardships before enjoying a normal home again.

♦ Caroline Castle (in conjunction with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) - For Every Child

For Every Child is picture book which details the 15 most important rights of the child. Each right has a specific illustration in a different style by a different artist around the world. This could lead to a discussion about why people may have to flee from their own country.

♦ Kathryn Cave (in conjunction with Oxfam) – ABC is for World: A Round the World

This alphabet book looks at the daily life of adults and children around the world. Suitable for 5 – 9 year olds, it encouraging a message about basic human rights of shelter, food, water, health and education.
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♦ Czenya Cavouras - Rainbow Bird

Rainbow Bird is a deeply moving children's picture book written and illustrated by 14 year old Czenya Cavouras, who is now in high school. Everyone who has had anything to do with refugees and asylum seekers will want to read this book. It tells the story of a refugee journey from a destroyed homeland to a desolate detention centre and finally, to future of hope. Rainbow Bird is quietly harrowing, has a unique author voice, and is ultimately inspiring and uplifting. (From Australians against Racism - RAR)

♦ Nicki Cornwell – Christophe’s Story

This book tells the story of 8 year old Christophe who flees the fighting in Rwanda to come to England as a refugee with his family. It is about his difficulty settling in to his new home and also about the notion of telling stories and awareness-raising.

♦ Shelley Davidow - The Red Shadow

Miri, a young refugee girl, returns home to her village after the end of the war. The story follows the rebuilding of her village and Miri’s reunification with her brother and, eventually, her father.

♦ Sonja Dechian, Heather Millar and Eva Sallis - Dark Dreams: Australian Refugee Stories by young young writers aged 11---20

"These stories will remind you that these unbearable events did not happen far away, to people we pity from a distance – a view the nightly news, especially now, too easily encourages. These events and histories are carried in the heart and mind of the person next to you, these experiences are with us, beside us..." (Dr Eva Sallis, editor)

♦ Deborah Ellis – Children of war: Iraqi refugees speak

Written five years after the United States and its allies invaded Iraq – but with true democracy still out of sight – Deborah Ellis turns her attention to the war’s most tragic victims: Iraqi children. She interviews more than 20 young Iraqis, mostly refugees living in Jordan, but also a few trying to build new lives in North America. Some families left Iraq with money; others are penniless, ill, or disabled. Most of the parents are working illegally or not at all, and the fear of deportation is a constant threat. The children speak for themselves, with little editorial comment, and their stories are frank, harrowing, and often reveal a surprising resilience in surviving the consequences of a war in which they played no part.

♦ Alwyn Evans – Walk in My Shoes

Aimed at secondary students, this book tells of an Afghan refugee, Gulnessa, who struggles to establish a life for herself and her family in Australia. They are confined in a detention centre for asylum seekers, and forced to prove their refugee status.

♦ Victoria Francis –Letters to Grandma Grace

An African refugee family’s experiences in their country of asylum are told through letters from the children to their Grandma Grace. The letters illustrate the difficulties and hardships they face in adapting to their new home.
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♦ Morris Gleitzman – Boy Overboard

Morris Gleitzman writes of Jamal, who just wants to play football, but with a sister defying Taleban curfews and parents running an illegal school, his problems escalate until the whole family must flee Afghanistan in search of refuge in Australia. Serious themes and dilemmas are presented with a large ration of humour and morals derived from the beautiful game: namely, never give up!

♦ Katherine Goode – Jumping to Heaven

Children from Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Herzegovina, Iraq, Sudan, and Vietnam who have come to Australia to escape persecution are given a voice in this collection of short stories compiled from interviews with refugees. Written for a more mature youth, the stories evoke the sad, scary, thought-provoking, and sometimes amusing experiences of children and families who have displayed extraordinary courage and hope. This collection offers insight that seeks to bridge the gap between refugees and their new host communities, and gives youth a global perspective on the refugee experience. It is recommended for children over 13 years.

♦ Armin Greder – The Island

This book is a metaphorical account of the way in which prejudice and fear create artificial barriers between people which they use to exclude others in order to ‘protect’ themselves. It offers reasons for why refugees exist and why detention centres and refugee camps have become so prevalent throughout the world.

♦ Rosanne Hawke – Soraya the Storyteller

Aimed at upper primary students, this story tells of 11 year old Soraya. Soraya is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan living under the shadow of Australia’s former temporary protection visa system. As she adapts to life in Australia, she is haunted by both her father’s absence and the fear that she may have to return to Afghanistan. To console herself, she begins writing stories.

♦ John Heffernan – My Dog

My Dog is a very moving, understated story in picture book format suitable for 8 – 12 year olds. Seen through the eyes of a young boy, it tells of the terrible suffering as a consequence of ethnic cleansing in the former Yugoslavia. This book would serve as a moving introduction to discussion on human rights and suffering.

♦ Mary Hoffman – The Colour of Home

This is a fabulous book about the difficulties refugees may face adjusting to a new environment. Hassan feels out of place in a new, cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, then to the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress: the new colours of home.

♦ Clare M. Kemp – My Brother is a Soldier

This story tells of the return of a child soldier to his village in Africa and the problems he faces in trying to reintegrate and lead a normal life.
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♦ Lynn Kramer – Cry Baby

Cry Baby is a story of a young refugee girl who finds herself in a new home after fleeing from war. Zione has difficulty making new friends because the other children see her as different. However, she overcomes this by demonstrating through a heroic act that she is really no different from the other children.

♦ Elizabeth Laird – Kiss the Dust

This book tells the story of Tara and her family as they are forced to flee Iraq because of her father’s involvement in the Kurdish resistance movement. Suitable for 12 – 17 year olds, the story details the plight of a family who become refugees.

♦ Living in Australia Series – Sudanese Australians

This non-fiction book uses a variety of interviews to look into the customs and traditions of the Sudanese people living in Australia.

♦ David Miller – Refugees

In David Miller’s book, two wild ducks become refugees when their swamp is drained. Their journey in search of a new place to live exposes them to danger, rejection and violence before they are given a new home. Their story is told with brightly coloured three-dimensional paper sculptures in this attractive picture book for young children.

♦ Sibylla Martin – On the Other Side of the Hill

In this story, Jacques finds himself in a refugee camp and has trouble making friends with the local children. However, a football match between the children from the refugee camp and the local populations brings the children together.

♦ Sibylla Martin – The Lost Children

The Lost Children recounts the story of how young Ibuka becomes separated from her family when fleeing her home and comes to find herself, along with her younger brother, at a centre for lost children.

♦ Beverley Naidoo – The Other Side of Truth

Aimed at teenagers, this topical novel is set during 1995 in the aftermath of Ken Saro-Wiwa’s execution in Nigeria for alleged political crimes. The Other Side of Truth tackles multiple themes, most importantly injustice, the right to freedom of speech, the complexities of political asylum, bullying and, ultimately, the strength of the family.

♦ Angela Neustatter and Helen Elliot – Refugee: It happened to me

This book features extended interviews with six children and young adults who are refugees or asylum seekers. They came from various countries including Kosovo, Somalia, Afghanistan and Romania. The interviews are carefully constructed to cover both the emotional as well as the practical consequences of their refugee experiences. The aim is not to be sensational but, rather, empathetic and informative. Talking points and black and white photographs are also included.
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♦ Anthony Robinson – Gervelie’s Journey

This is a true story of a young refugee. In 1995, Gervelie was born in the Republic of Congo. In 1997 fighting broke out in her home city and they had to flee to safety. Her father’s political connections mean that they are still unable to return home. This is Gervelie’s story, told using photographs from her own life. At the time of writing, Gervelie and her father were living in the UK, waiting to hear if their case for asylum would be accepted.

♦ Anthony Robinson – Hazmat’s Journey

This story tells of Hazmat from Chechnya, who stepped on a landmine on his way to school. His leg had to be amputated and eventually he and his father came to the UK for expert treatment. As it was unsafe for them to return home, the family sought asylum in the UK. Eventually Hazmat’s mother and sister joined them in London and now the family are learning to adapt to their new life after the horror of living in a war zone. This poignant, and at times harrowing, story reveals the bravery of Hazmat and his family in facing and overcoming their circumstances to start a new life.

♦ Anthony Robinson – Meltem’s Journey

Meltem’s Journey describes as a family flees the Kurdish region of Turkey after Meltem’s father is badly beaten by soldiers. When their application for asylum is rejected in Germany, they undertake a desperate journey to Britain, unable to return to Turkey because of the circumstances of their departure. It takes 9 years for their application to succeed in Britain, but not before many stressful incidents, periods of detention and threats of deportation.

♦ Leon Rosselson – Home is a Place Called Nowhere

Suitable for teenagers, this topical, fast-paced novel deals with issues of discrimination and prejudice against refugees. Amina runs away to London after a crisis in her adoptive family, hoping to track down her mother and to discover the truth about her apparent abandonment. Paul, an older and more streetwise runaway, helps her to make contact with the refugee community. It is by listening to other people and their stories that she comes, finally, to understand her own.

♦ Jill Rutter and Mano Candappa - Why do they have to fight? Refugee children’s stories from Bosnia, Kurdistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka

Most of the testimonies used in this book were collected during a research project about refugee children. The books serves as a valuable resource for teachers, with the issues behind asylum and refugees are brought to life by these children's stories and testimonies.

♦ Allen Say – Grandfather’s Journey

This is a beautifully illustrated picture book suitable for students aged 9 and over. Allen Say’s grandfather made the journey from Japan to the United States when he was a young man and this story beautifully describes through text and illustrations the love that he and his grandson feel for both countries. Many students will relate to the feelings of longing that are captured.
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♦ Cath Senker – Global Issues: Refugees

This information book quotes extensively from mixed-media sources to examine responses to refugee issues in different parts of the world and to debate notions of bias and prejudice. Combining photographs and varied texts in a lively format, it presents real-life case studies showing why people become refugees alongside a range of media viewpoints on their treatment in host societies.

♦ Shaun Tan – The Arrival

This is an extraordinary text-less picture book which tells the story of an immigrant’s journey to a new land where he knows no one and understands very little. Yet on his arrival to the new country, he meets friends who help him and tell stories about how they too came to the new land. Through these stories children can learn about the experiences of a variety of immigrant families.

♦ Sybella Wilkes – One Day We Had To Run!: Refugee children tell their stories in words and paintings

This book tells the stories of three children who were forced to become refugees. The children’s stories and paintings are set against background information about Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, which helps to explain why refugees have been forced to flee from these countries. The roles of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children are outlined, and ideas for using this book in the school classroom are also included.

♦ Mary Williams – Brothers in Hope: Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan

Based on true events, this moving picture book tells the story of Garang, an 8 year old Sudanese boy forced to embark on an epic journey across deserts and mountains to Ethiopia and eventually to Kenya after his family and village are overtaken by war whilst he is away tending cattle. He joins a band of over 1000 boys, some as young as 5, who share his predicament. Despite the hardships of a perilous journey and years spent in refugee camps, Garang occupies himself with the welfare of younger boys, seizes any educational opportunity, and never loses hope of a new life in a permanent place of safety.

♦ Benjamin Zephaniah – Refugee boy

This is a powerful novel that tells of Alem from Ethiopia. Alem is on holiday with his father in London. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up to find the unthinkable: his father has left him. The owner of the bed-and-breakfast hands him a letter in which Alem’s father explains that because of the political problems in Ethiopia, both he and Alem’s mother felt Alem would be safer in London, even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, particularly about his mother who has now gone missing.

♦ Hope – Steve Thomas (2008)

Hope is the story of Amal Basry, one of 400 Iraqi refugees on the ill-fated SIEV X, which sank between Indonesia and Australia, killing 353 people. Amal was one of only seven survivors who made it to Australia. Now she fights to reunite her family, and to ensure that this disaster is not forgotten. A Study Guide prepared for secondary students by the Australian Teachers of Media can be found at: http://www.hopedocumentary.com.au/hope/studyguide.htm
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http://www.abc.net.au/longjourney/index_flash.html

Long Journey Young Lives is a documentary about being a young refugee. It's an online interactive documentary which provides an intimate and unique insight into the experiences of child refugees. From the violence and danger of their homeland, to their dangerous journey and subsequent detention in Australia, young refugees present an exclusive account of their experiences as refugees. The documentary also explores the opinions of young Australians on issues surrounding asylum seekers. Australian school children, all under the age of 12, express their views on mandatory detention, being called 'boat people' and 'queue jumpers', and talk about whether Australia has a responsibility to accept refugees. Even though some of Australia’s policies have changed since this was made, it is still interesting and a valuable resource tool.

♦ Lost Boys of Sudan (2003)
http://www.lostboysfilm.com/index.html

This documentary follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa's most vicious civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia.

♦ New Year Baby - Socheata Poeuv (2008)
http://newyearbaby.net/

Born in a Thai refugee camp on the Cambodian New Year, documentary filmmaker Socheata Poeuv grew up in the United States never knowing that her family had survived the Khmer Rouge genocide. In this documentary, she embarks on a journey to Cambodia in search of the truth and why her family's history had been buried in secrecy for so long. The great thing about this movie is the website and all its resources, including background information and discussion questions. See http://newyearbaby.net/downloads/IL-Discussion-Guides.pdf for more information.

♦ Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars (2005)
http://www.refugeeallstars.org/

Sierra Leone’s Refugee All Stars documents a band of six Sierra Leonean musicians who came together while living in a refugee camp in Guinea. Despite the unimaginable horrors of civil war, they were saved and brought hope and happiness to other refugees through their music. Also see the website for background information on Sierra Leone. For more information on the band, go to: http://www.rosebudus.com/refugeeallstars/biography.html


This 10-part television series features UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie. She works with children who have been victimized by long years of civil strife in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and who have had to flee their homes for refugee camps in Tanzania. You can purchase the DVD through the UN Bookshop at https://unp.un.org/bookshop/details.aspx?sku=X3013 or you can access each part on Youtube.
For Part 1, go to: http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/J8Zr_hPylE ;
For part 2: http://www.youtube.com/user/AngelinaJolieUNHCR#p/search/0/bw3-YPFnlUR8