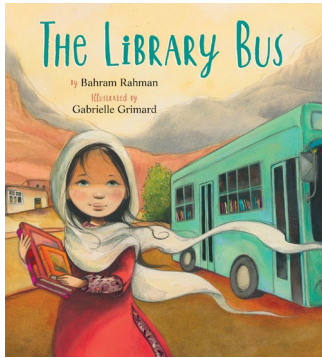




2021 – 2022
Children's Book Award Finalist
Elementary Grade Levels K-2



The Library Bus
Pajama Press



Bahram Rahman
Author



Gabrielle Grimard
Illustrator

Summary

"It is still dark in Kabul, Afghanistan when the library bus rumbles out of the city. There are no bus seats—instead there are chairs and tables and shelves of books. And there are no passengers — instead there is Pari, who is nervously starting her first day as Mama's library helper. Pari stands tall to hand out notebooks and pencils at the villages and the refugee camp, but she feels intimidated. The girls they visit are learning to write English from Mama. Pari can't even read or write in Farsi yet. But next year she will go to school and learn all there is to know. And she is so lucky. Not long ago, Mama tells her, girls were not allowed to read at all." (amazon.com)

Genre

Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Book Conversation

After reading the story aloud, you may use the following questions to prompt a book conversation with students.

- Have you ever been to the library?
- Why do you think Pari's mother had to learn in secrecy as a child?
- What is a refugee camp?
- Do you think that Pari will enjoy school next year?

Florida Statute 1003.42.2 requires that K-12 public school instructional staff teach specific character education, cultural, and historical topics. This book may assist teachers in partial fulfillment of that requirement.

http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/index.cfm?App_mode=Display_Statute&URL=1000-1099/1003/Sections/1003.42.html



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Extension Activities

1. Before reading, hold a turn and talk with the class about what a library is and how it works. Then the students can all jigsaw and explain to each other what libraries are and how the process of checking out a book works.
2. After reading the book, have students create their own covers to a book that they would want to write one day. Then, have all the students hand in their book covers and create a mini class library. Each student can then come up and “check out” a book that one of their classmates made.
3. Before reading, have a discussion with the class about what a refugee camp is, then read. Tell them what a refugee is, and then talk about the things that we see as an everyday occurrence that is a luxury to a refugee. After reading, have the students point out different things that they are thankful for that refugees do not have access to.
4. Have students create a list of words they do not know from the book after reading. Put all of these on chart paper, and then work through defining each one. After each one has a definition attached to it, have the students split into groups and create example sentences using the words they have just learned.

Websites

Meet the Author – https://pajamapress.ca/author/bahram_rahman/

Meet the Illustrator – <https://painted-words.com/portfolio/gabrielle-grimard/>

Read aloud of the book - <https://youtu.be/dALv5OGydsg>

Diversity and Multicultural Features

Author: Grew up in Kabul, Afghanistan, and came to Canada as a refugee

Illustrator: Canadian, female

Character(s): Afghanistan women and children

Setting: Kabul, Afghanistan