

“Intervening with Displaced Children, Families, Refugees, Immigrants and IDPs- Div 56”



May 17, 2019



Dr. Rebecca Thomley



Dr. Roshan Khatri

Headwaters Relief Organization

Who We Are:

- Collaboration of volunteers

What We Do:

- Support the needs of families and communities after disasters
- Provide public health, psychosocial and medical support
- Disaster debris cleanup and rebuilding (in partnership)

We seek to inspire passion to serve others.

We work to ensure that every volunteer feels valued.

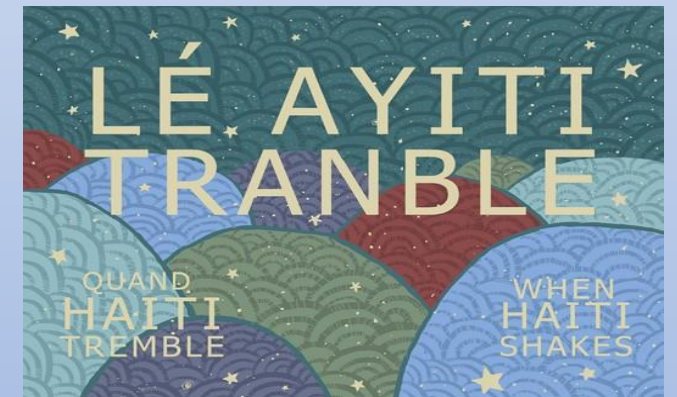
We forge connections between those being served, the team and the community.



Sierra Leone

Brief History

- 2005** Grassroots Response to Hurricane Katrina led to a movement, the River of Hope. Focus is on cleaning and re-building.
- 2007** River of Hope becomes Headwaters Relief Organization with the opening of the mental health resource center. Psychosocial support and tele counseling added.
Expanded nationally in clean up and re- building in response to floods, tornadoes & oil spills.
Mental health support such as the bridge collapse in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2010** First International Response to Haiti Earthquake.
Expanded into public health education and medical support.
First children's book is created.





Haiti

2013 Responded to Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan) in the Philippines as first Responders. **Second book created.**



2014 Assisted children and families and communities in coping with the Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. **Third book created.**



2015 Nepal Earthquake, called as first responder to support NGOs. **Fourth book created.**



2015 Refugee crisis, provided psychosocial and medical support, trainings and public health interventions in Greece. **Fifth book created.** Expanded this work to Jordan.



2017 Responded to Hurricane Maria providing training and psychosocial support in Puerto Rico. **Sixth book created.**



2019 Continued operations in New Orleans, Haiti and Liberia. Initiatives in Puerto Rico, Nepal and Jordan. Current national responses in North Carolina, Nebraska and Texas. **Seventh book in development for Nepal.**



Haiti

APA International Guidelines for Psychosocial Interventions

- Previously worked in emergency settings
- Previously worked outside their own socio-cultural setting
- Basic competence in some of the interventions covered in the guidelines
- Have an understanding of either community psychology or public health principles
- Written invitation from a nation or established international organization to work in the country
- Invited to work as part of an organization that is likely to maintain a sustained community presence
- Focus of work on implementing interventions that provide support to programs on a general level, including the transfer of skills to support communities in supporting themselves



Puerto Rico

Our International Engagements

- First Response
- Training
- Psychosocial support
- Consulting
- Rebuilding/ Construction
- Public Health
- Education
- Medical Support



Philippines



Liberia

Team Considerations

- Size of team- no more than 12 (8 is ideal)
- Multidisciplinary
- Age
- Ethnicity
- Race
- Spirituality/ religion
- Gender
- Cultural representation
- Multilinguals
- Flexibility



Arkansas

Children and Building Connections

Use of play in our work

- Connecting with people of all ages- regardless of potential cultural or language barriers
- *We often start with a group song that is simple and the children can sing along. Head and Shoulders Knees and Toes is an example which also has a teaching component.*
 - *The children are asked to teach us a song as well.*
 - *Communicating that they have something special to show and that we want to learn from them.*
 - *During these activities, the adults pay attention, we encourage them to join in.*
 - *Through simple songs, games and activities we connect not only with the children but the adults and the community at large.*



Nepal

Resiliency Building through Storytelling and Children



Nepal

Background

- Story telling is a socio-cultural tool, which can assist children in eliciting their thoughts, recognizing distortions and help them make sense of their world
- Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in disasters
- Children can also play a pivotal role in developing resiliency which is yet to fully be recognized
- Our experiences

Objective

- To encourage coping techniques and build resiliency in refugee children and their communities

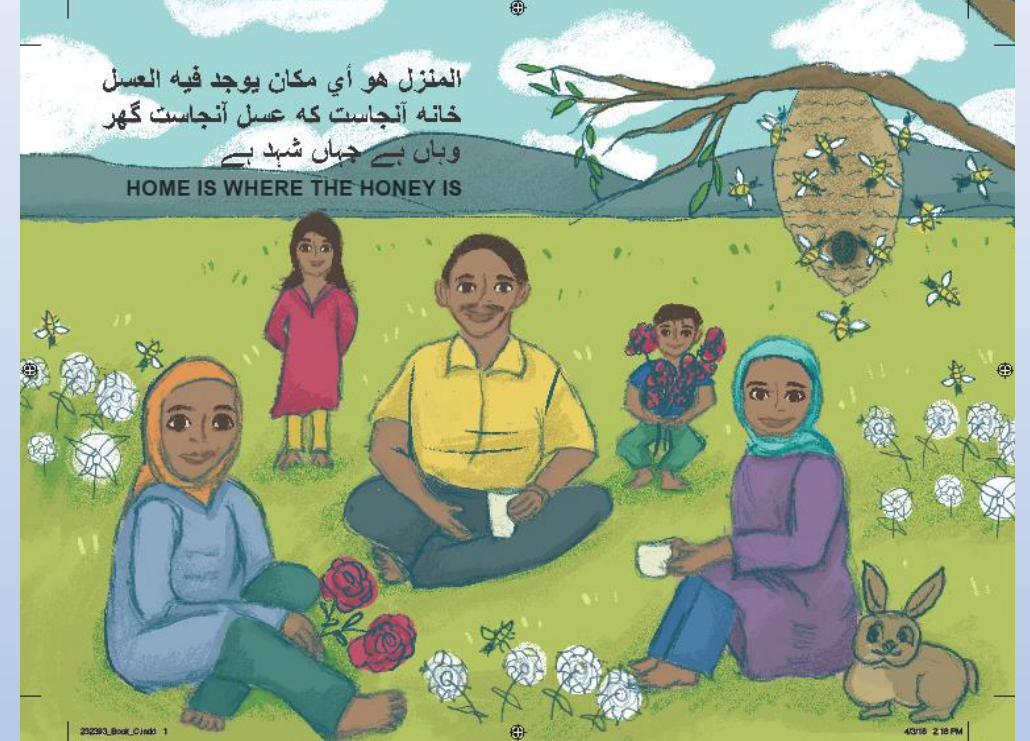
“Home Is Where The Honey Is.”

المنزل هو أين العسل (Arabic)

گھر ہے جہاں شہد ہے (URDU)

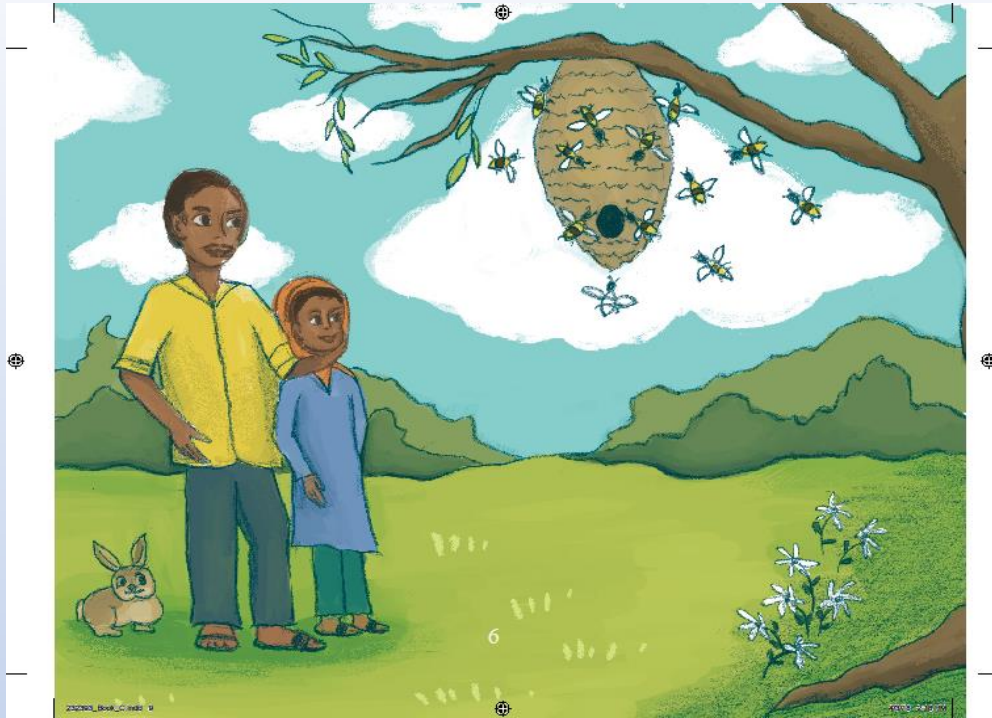
خانه است کہ عسل است (FARSI)

ΤΟ ΣΠΙΤΙ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΕΚΕΙ ΠΟΥ ΕΙΝΑΙ ΤΟ ΜΕΛΙ (Greek)



One of my favorite things is to go on picnics with my family. My mother, father, little sister and brother enjoyed this time together.

We would eat yabraq and my family's special honey.



My father told me the honey tastes good because of the special bees that make it. The bees have all worked together to make honey and a new home

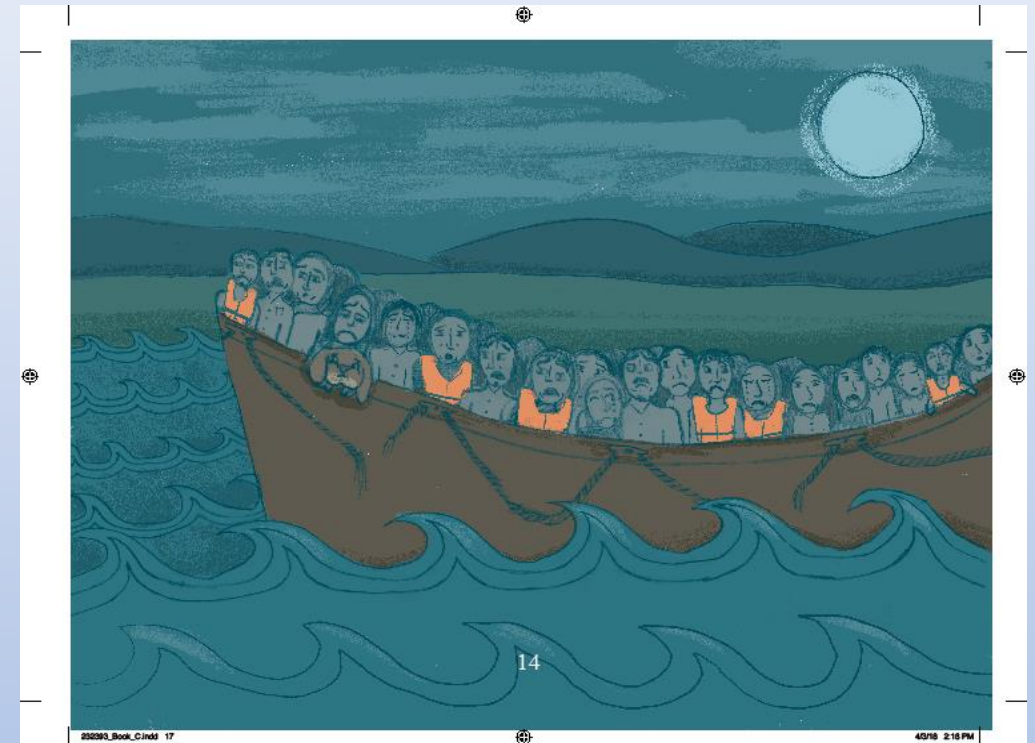


One day my mother and father told my family we had to leave our home because it was not safe. We had to leave fast. I had to leave everything behind, my home, and my friends and even our honey bees. I was very sad.



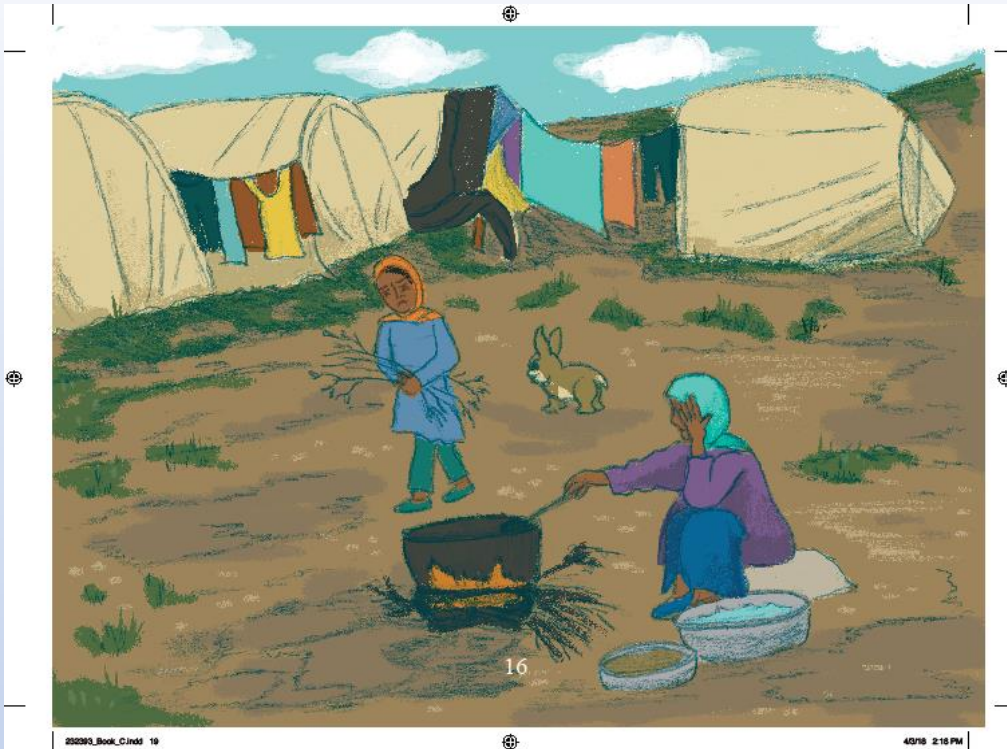


We had to walk so far. I was tired and hungry. Other families were walking too.

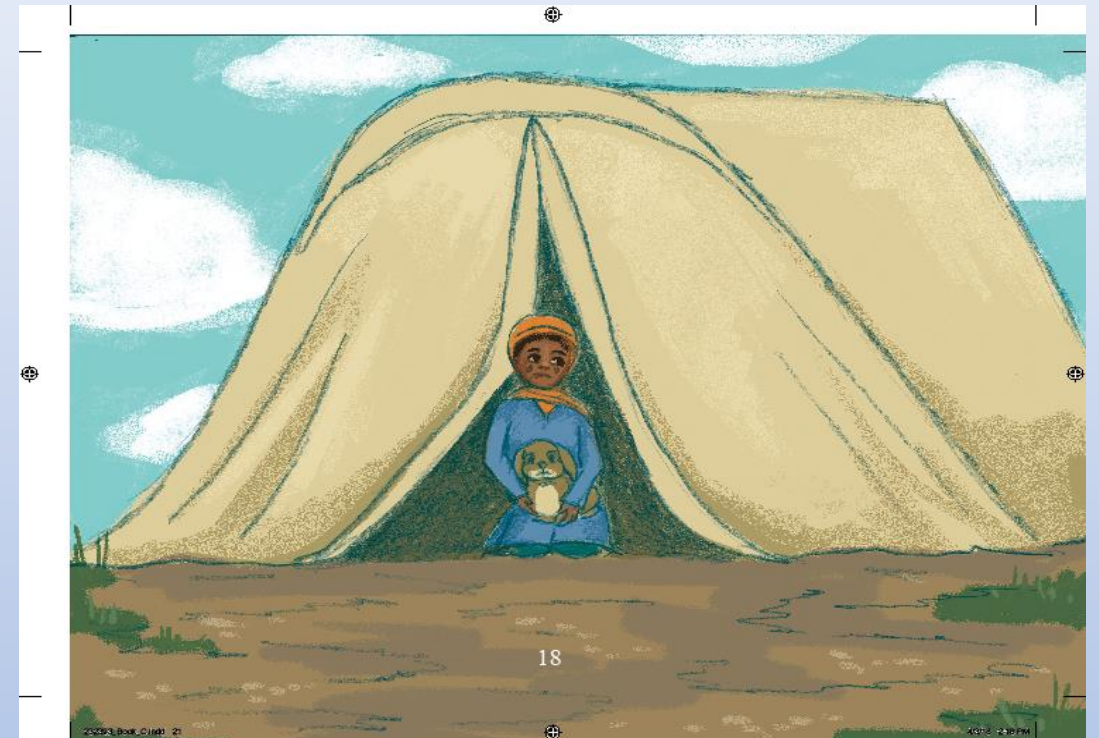


In the middle of the night, my father woke us up and told us we had to get on a boat. My sister and brother and even my mother were crying. I was so scared. I don't even know how to swim.





When we got off the boat, we went to a big camp. People kept talking to me, I didn't understand what they were saying. There were so many different people. I just wanted to go home. I wanted to go on picnics with my family again and have our special honey. I wanted things to go back to the way they were before.

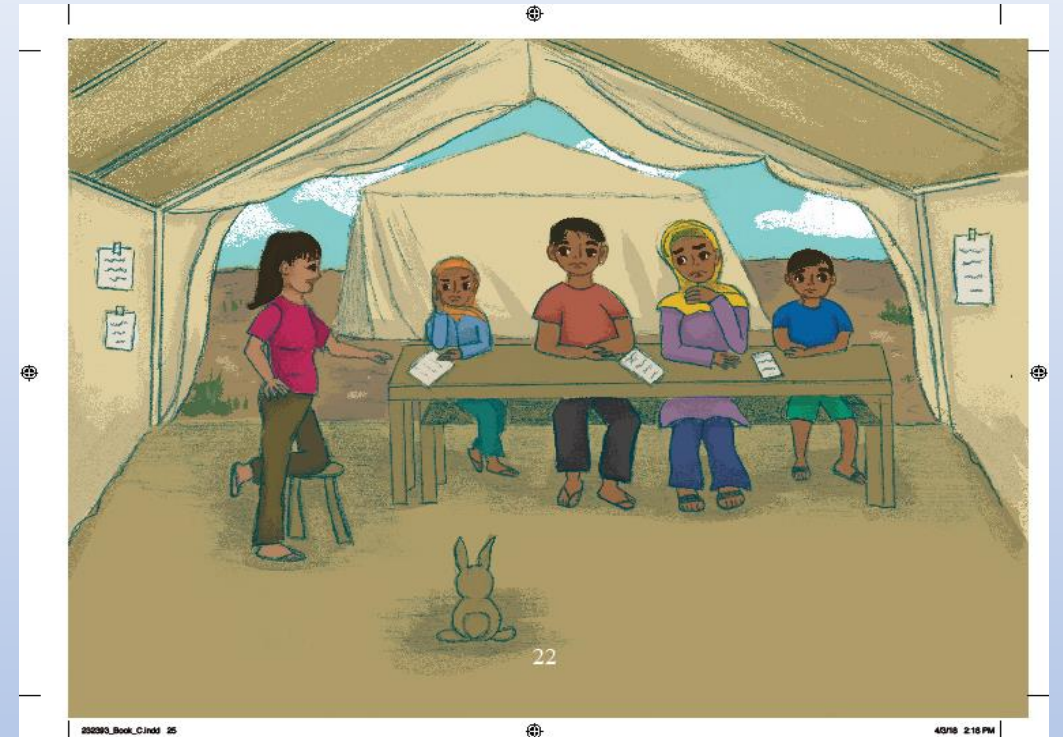


Sometimes my stomach hurt. Sometimes my head hurt. Sometimes I felt like it was all my fault. Why did everything have to change?



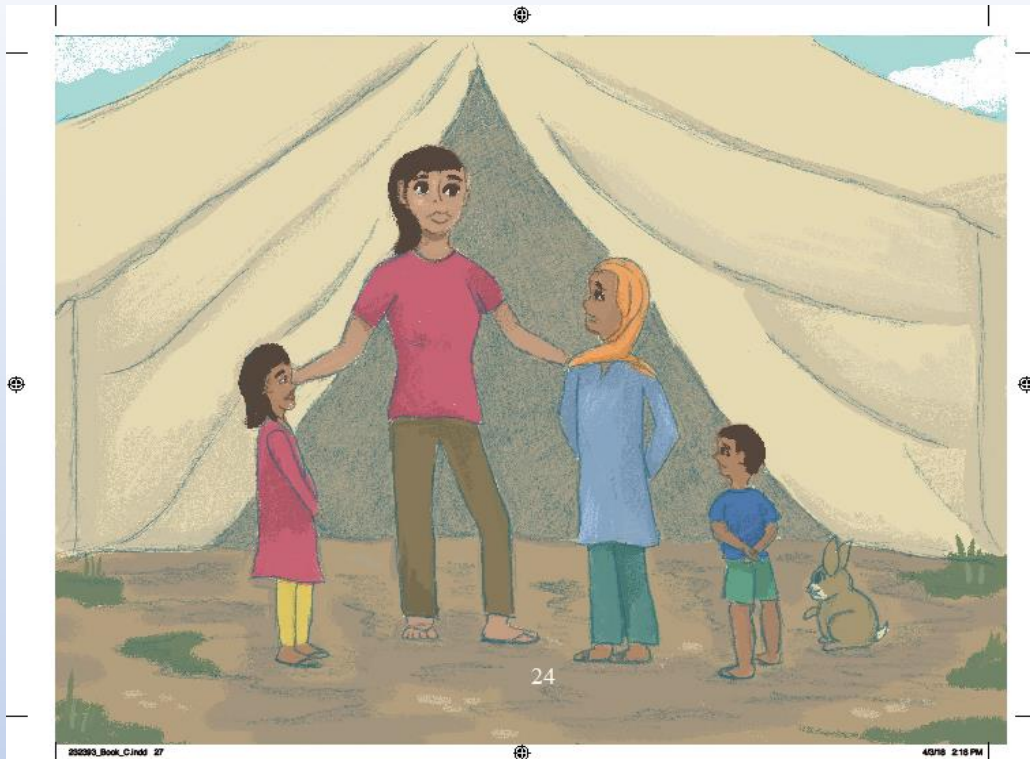


I couldn't sleep at night. I was afraid. I woke up with bad dreams. My brother and sister couldn't sleep either. We all cried.

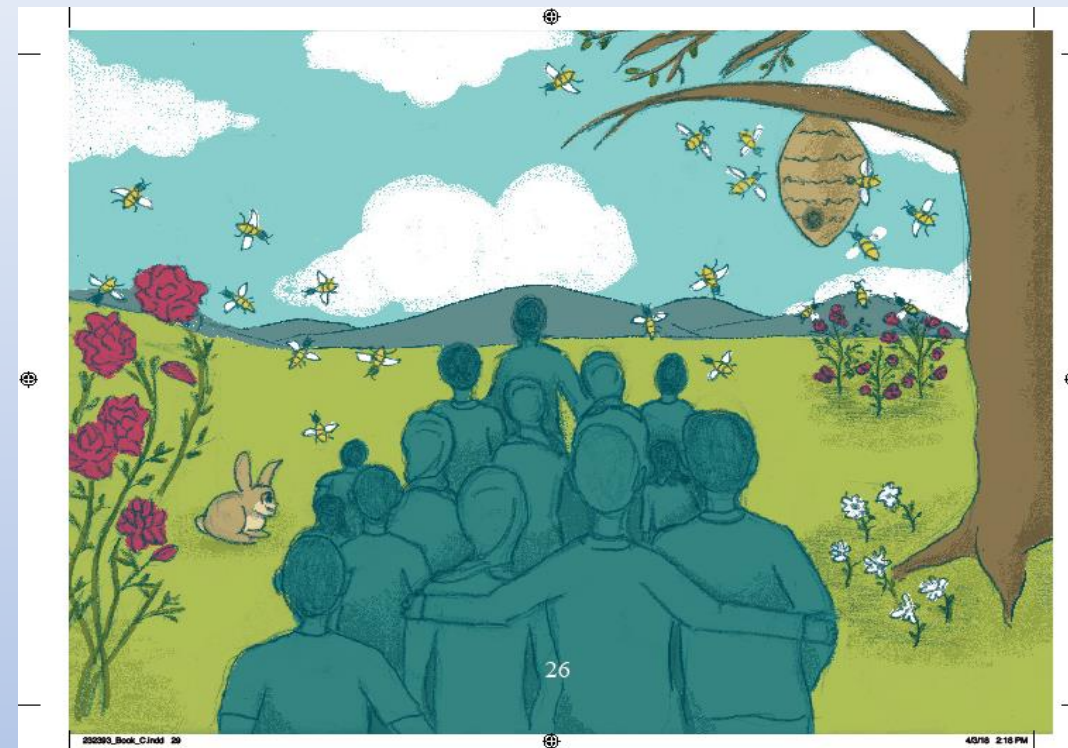


We went to a school to learn a new language. I had trouble listening. Sometimes I would get very angry. I just wanted to be alone.





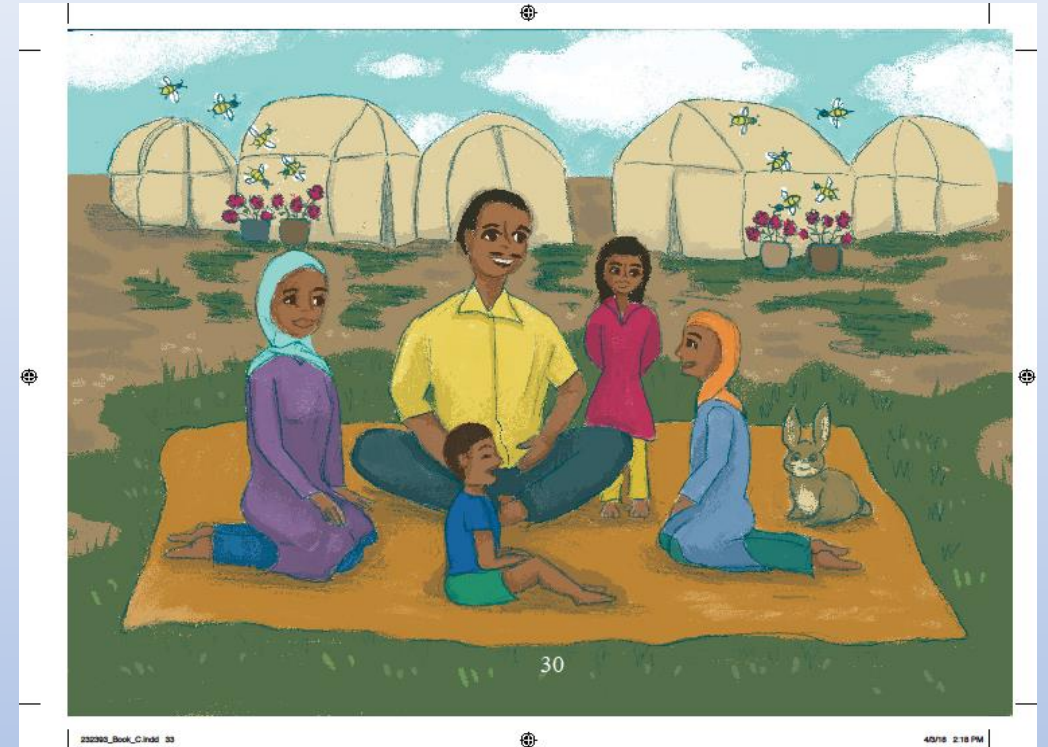
I talked to a teacher about feeling sad and sometimes angry. She told me that these feelings were normal and that lots of the other kids feel the same way and have bad dreams too.



My teacher said that we can think like my family's special honey bees. If we work together, we can build a new home.



I thought about what my teacher said. I remembered that my teacher told me that bees can't work alone, they need everyone working together or flowers can't grow and grow and the bees won't make honey. When they work together many flowers grow and the honey is delicious.

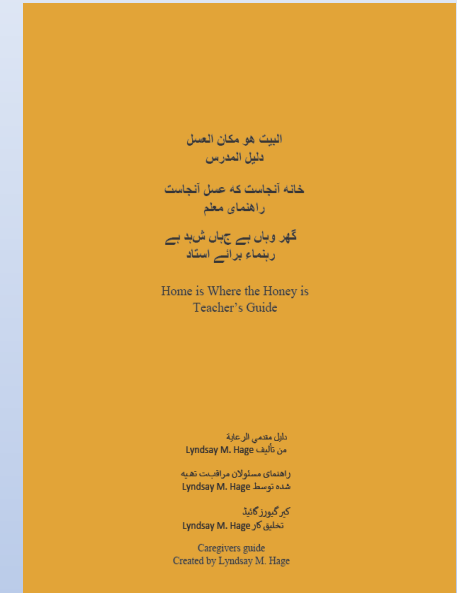
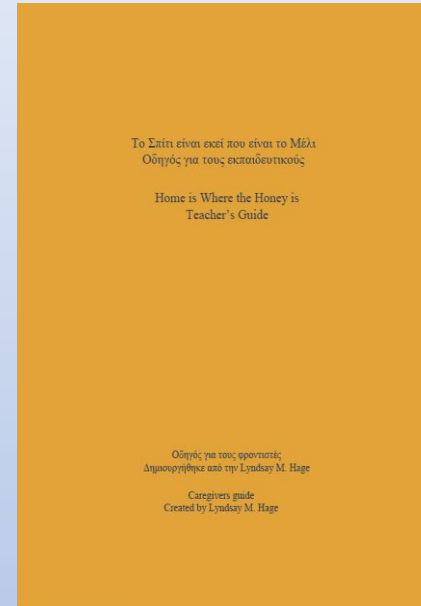


I felt a lot better after talking to my teacher. I told my family that we are just like honey bees. We can make a new life when we all work together. That night I didn't have any bad dreams.



Discussion

- Stories initiate a process of learning and empowerment allowing children to reinterpret a situation of adversity and positively redefine their own experiences.
- These stories also engage their families, teachers, caregivers and their communities in discussion.
- Diligent research on people, animals, vegetation, artwork as well as culture allows to craft close representations for the story.
- Oversight by individuals with the similar cultural background, review from experts in psychology, culture and trauma response is important.



Caregiver guides

Outcome

- This book is designed to be used in a group teaching format and free for distribution by schools, families and communities.
- The positive feedback and demand for additional books has been overwhelming.
- Studies on the impact of these books is underway in Jordan and Puerto Rico.



The Melissa Project

- Home is Where the Honey is, was made in collaboration with women of the Melissa Network, an organization in Athens, Greece that supports migrant and refugee women throughout Greece.
- The founders of the Melissa Network use bees to symbolize the process of establishing new beginnings and producing what nurtures and holds a society together.



Our Work with Unaccompanied Minors

- Moria Camp, Lesvos Greece
- The Melissa Project, Athens, Greece
- Squats, Athens, Greece
- First Elements, Athens, Greece



***Our book “ Home is where the honey is”, was revised to accommodate this group.**

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Thank you

Questions?

