



# Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

Additional resource 115.A

Engage

Refugees



**Refugee Portraits:** cut into strips with the space on the left for children to draw their portraits. If there are more than 8 children in the group you'll need to print 2 sets of cards.

	<p>My name is Anwar. I used to live in the beautiful ancient city of Damascus in Syria. My family ran a restaurant there. I grew up with my cousins, who lived just down the road. Now I have come to the UK and everything is different – the food, the weather, the television programmes. I miss my cousins – they live in Germany now. My favourite things are football and my Auntie's honey cake.</p>
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	<p>I am called Mariam and I used to live in Eritrea. My father is a journalist and he was taken away to prison because he wrote something the government didn't like. My mother and I managed to escape and come to the UK, where we have applied for asylum. I hope the British Government will let us stay here – it is too dangerous back home in Eritrea. Perhaps one day my father will be able to join us. I really miss him. I like my new school, though, and I am learning to read and write in English. One day I hope I will be a journalist too.</p>
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	<p>My name is Nadia and I have come to the UK with my family from South Sudan. It is very dangerous in our country, with soldiers everywhere. I don't miss all that, but I do miss my friends, and all the games we used to play. I like ball games, and running, and I love drawing and painting, too.</p>
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	<p>I'm called Roza and my family are Kurds from Syria. The government there treated us very badly – we weren't allowed to speak our language or have Kurdish names. Then the war came and things got very bad. We had to leave Aleppo, where my father used to make beautiful hand-made shoes, and we went to Lebanon. When my mother got ill we were told we could come to the UK. I love my new school here, but I really miss Aleppo. It was such a wonderful place, and the countryside in Syria is so beautiful. Luckily my Mum is better now, and she is teaching me and my brother how to cook all the lovely food we used to eat in Syria.</p>
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	<p>I'm called Ali, and we came here from Iran when my Dad got in trouble with the authorities. It was very frightening – I still have nightmares about our long journey out of the country in the back of a lorry. We are waiting to hear if we can stay in the UK, but I know Dad would be killed if we went back. The trouble is, sometimes people in this country don't seem to understand how bad it is. I wish I could see my grandparents again. We talk on the phone, but it's not the same. We used to pick pomegranates on their farm – I can still remember the smell and the taste. One day I'd like to be a farmer – I love being outside – or perhaps a gardener. I like growing things, and I have my own vegetable patch.</p>
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	<p>My name's Ola and we had to leave our beautiful house in Syria when the bombs came. My parents were both doctors there. I'd like to be a doctor one day. Or a musician. Sometimes I think of my old house and wonder if my piano is still there. I hope I will be able to have piano lessons here, too. I like all kinds of music, and dancing. It reminds me of the big family parties we used to have at home.</p>
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	<p>I'm Bilal, and I have three brothers and one sister. We used to live in Afghanistan, but we couldn't stay there. It was too dangerous. Our parents said we needed to find a new home and a new life, so that is why we are here. The thing I like best is riding my bike along the canal. I like playing football too, though I'm not good enough to be in a team. What do I miss? Well, the countryside was wild and beautiful, with mountains. Perhaps I'll go back one day, when it is safe.</p>
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	<p>My name is Hassan and I used to live in Yemen, before the bombing. My family had a business there, selling clothes, but everything burnt down and we had nothing left. We came here because some of our family live in Manchester and they arranged for us to come. It rains a lot here, but I'd rather have that any day than bombs and fighting! I've got friends here now, and we go round to each other's houses after school. I'm even getting used to English food – I especially like fish and chips!</p>
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