INTRODUCTION

NASRO FROM DADAAB

In 2013, the film Girl Rising won acclaim for its portrayal of nine girls around the world who pursue their educations in the face of natural disasters, poverty, and social ills like forced marriage and human trafficking. In Brave Girl Rising, another chapter is added to these stories when 17-year-old Nasro, in a refugee camp in Kenya after fleeing violence in her native Somalia, decides that she does indeed have a future, one that will be built upon her efforts to get an education. Brave Girl Rising can be used as a sequel to the full film Girl Rising, in conjunction with other chapters from the full film, or as a stand-alone unit.

The plight of refugees and the response we should make to them are daily topics debated by journalists, by politicians, and by ordinary citizens. The sufferings of Syrian refugees and other displaced persons fill our television screens. But the sheer numbers—68.5 million forcibly displaced people in 2019—can be mind-numbing. Brave Girl Rising examines the lives of a small number of young refugees so that the viewer can comprehend their daily challenges more insightfully.

To help teachers learn about the status of refugees so that they may be better prepared to guide their students, we have created a standards-aligned set of curricular materials, addressing key questions: “Why do people become refugees?” “What are conditions like in a refugee camp?” “What special challenges do displaced girls face?” Essential questions stimulate critical thinking by students and additional resources give them the opportunity to continue their explorations. Problem-based learning activities use collaboration and creative writing to extend student learning.

Students will be engaged by the narrative of one young person’s struggle in Brave Girl Rising, but through this narrative they also gain understanding of and empathy for the millions of people caught up in one of the greatest crises of our time.