

## INTRODUCTION

# NASRO FROM DADAAB

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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.

### What’s Inside:

- A **Teacher Guide** provides background information that helps teachers provide context for students viewing the film; applicable Common Core Standards; suggestions for implementation in the classroom; and a film viewing guide for student observations and reflection. Both a one-day and a longer, fuller lesson are provided.
- An **Issue Fact Sheet on Refugees and Displaced Persons** supplies definitions, an overview of the global refugee crisis, and a consideration of the related impacts on families, education, and violence against women. It also describes organizations working to help refugees and provides resources for additional study.
- **Project-based Lesson 1: A Welcome for Refugees** encourages students to think about the problems faced by refugees, including children, in adapting to a new country; students examine ways that they can make a new student feel at home in their school.
- **Project-based Lesson 2: Assuming a Role in Dadaab** is a creative writing lesson that asks students to assume the role of someone involved in the refugee crisis, choose an appropriate format to express that person’s ideas, imagine an audience for their writing, and decide on a relevant topic. The result is a collection of writings that form a mosaic of the refugee experience.

*Brave Girl Rising has been rated PG for thematic elements by the MPAA (Motion Picture Association of America).*