

## Salih

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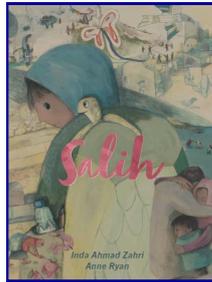
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Like a turtle, Salih carries his home on his back. He must cross a raging sea in search of a safe home. Salih paints his happiest memories and sends them as messages in bottles.

Will someone find them and understand? Will Salih find a new home?



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### Themes:

- Refugees
- Displacement
- Home
- Empathy and kindness
- Diversity

### Discussion Questions:

*Discuss student responses to the ideas, characters and viewpoints in the text:*

- What does displacement mean?
- What is a refugee?
- Do you know someone like Salih?
- Has this happened to you? Have you been forced to leave your home in an emergency?
- Can you make a connection to Salih's loss?
- Why does Salih carry his home on his back?
- Would he have everything from his home in his bag? Why or why not?
- What is a memory?

### *Inquiry and provocation*

- Discuss the setting of the beginning of the story.
- Is it real or imaginary? How do you know?
- Why do the clouds have sad faces?
- Discuss the gestures and body language of the displaced people heading to the sea.
- Discuss the expressions of the people at the beginning of the book.
- What is the significance of the turtle in Salih's bag?
- What similarities can you make between Salih's feelings and the turtle?
- What do the empty bottles represent?
- Discuss the similarities between the dingy and the shell that Salih floats in across the calmer sea.
- What do you think Salih might be imagining as he sits in his 'shell' boat.
- Use descriptive words to discuss the abstract form of the 'furious waves'.
- Why are there kites on the shore when the boat arrives?
- What does the kite page make you wonder?

### Activity:

- Salih and his friends all painted pictures of their favourite things and put them in bottles. Paint a picture of some of your favourite things and make a display in the classroom.