



Class Title: Orange Exploring Culture Through Literature

Teacher Name: Samantha Procopio

Class Day: Friday

Class Size: 18

Class Cost: \$20

Class Fee: \$96

Ages or color group served: Orange

What level is this class: Level 3

Prerequisites: Be reading independently at a middle school level.

Be able to comfortably write a paragraph with complete sentences.

Be willing to participate respectfully in group discussions.

Graduation Requirements: Complete all assigned readings.

Maintain a reading journal.

Submit all major written assignments.
Participate in the final project and presentation.
Contribute to class discussions and activities.

Homework Requirements: Students will have regular at-home work each week that will include reading and written work.

Estimated Time Commitment:

Reading: 1–1.5 hours per week

Writing: 30–60 minutes per week

Class Description:

This course is designed as a core middle school literature class where students will strengthen reading comprehension, analysis, and writing skills while engaging with global voices. We will read three novels — *A Long Walk to Water*, *Inside Out & Back Again*, and *Refugee* — that highlight journeys of resilience and identity across different cultures and time periods. Students will complete weekly reading and writing assignments, participate in class discussions and activities, and demonstrate their learning through essays and a final creative project with presentation.

Week 1:

We will begin *A Long Walk to Water*, learn about Salva and Nya's world, and discuss how setting shapes their challenges.

Week 2:

Students will compare Salva's survival journey with Nya's daily walk for water and begin tracking their growth as characters.

Week 3:

We will focus on perseverance and leadership, looking closely at how Salva changes as the story unfolds.

Week 4:

After finishing the novel, students will connect Salva's story to real-world issues of clean water access and discuss how one person can make a difference.

Week 5:

We will begin *Inside Out & Back Again* and explore how Hà's story is told through verse poetry, looking at imagery and figurative language.

Week 6:

Students will discuss Hà's struggles as a refugee adapting to life in America and write from her perspective to deepen understanding.

Week 7:

After completing the novel, we will reflect on Hà's journey and discuss how her story shows resilience and identity.

Week 8:

We will start *Refugee*, meeting Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, and compare their stories across different times and places.

Week 9:

Students will analyze how suspense and conflict drive the story and make predictions about how the characters' journeys may end.

Week 10:

We will finish *Refugee* and discuss the three characters' stories, pulling out common themes of hope, courage, and survival.

Week 11:

Students will begin drafting a comparative essay, connecting the themes of resilience across all three novels, and will participate in peer review and revision.

Week 12:

We will share creative projects in class, present final reflections, and close the semester by discussing what these global voices have taught us about resilience and the human spirit.