

March 2020

Picture Story

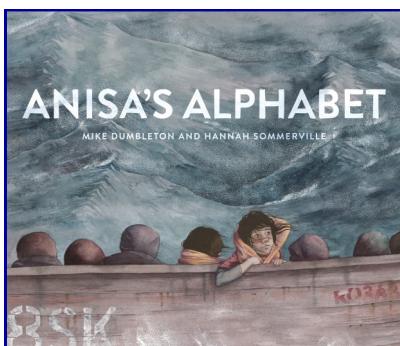
Teacher Notes and Activities

Anisa's Alphabet

By Mike Dumbleton & Illustrated by Hannah Sommerville
Publisher: MidnightSun Publishing
ISBN 9781925227574 SCIS: 1948520
\$24.99

**Picture Book of
the Month**

For many refugees the alphabet represents the start of a new language and a new future, but Anisa's Alphabet is different. A poignant and highly imaginative telling of one girl's story which will appeal to children and adults alike...



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

Themes:

- Refugees
- Hope
- Courage

Discussion Questions:

Before reading the book:

Show the cover of *Anisa's Alphabet* to the children and ask them:

- What can they see? Who can they see? What do they think the characters on the front cover are doing? What do they think the story might be about? What are the most common colours used? Why do you think they were used?
- Ask the children how they think the alphabet might be used in the story. Could they suggest any ideas for how one or more letters of their choice might be used?

After reading the book:

- What were the 2 most frightening parts of the journey for Anisa?
- What would be 3 - 5 words to describe Anisa's emotions at these times?
- What were the 2 most peaceful parts of the journey for Anisa?
- What would be 3 - 5 words to describe Anisa's emotions at these times?
- Why did only Anisa and her mother leave the refugee camp?
- What do you think might have happened to Anisa's father and grandmother after they left?
- What do you think happened to Anisa and her mother in the end?

Activities:

- Make a list of the things you would try to carry with you if you had to leave your home in a hurry, like Anisa.
- Make and use puppets of the characters to retell the story or create variations of the story.
- Work in groups, or as a whole class, to make an alphabet frieze of *Anisa's Alphabet*, with new illustrations for each letter.
- Write diary entries for several events in Anisa's journey.
- Write a journal entry for a child arriving in a refugee camp.
- Draw a picture which would be suitable to replace one of Anisa's drawings in the book.