We see the news stories about refugees almost every day. We hear the true but almost unimaginable accounts of families forced to flee their homes, their homelands, their entire lives. While we may wish that our children didn’t have to know about such trauma, the facts are that it’s real and very present — and there are countless children actually living it. Stories can facilitate dialogue and promote healthy communication on this difficult topic, help to foster empathy and understanding, and even inspire young readers to take action to ensure safe and welcoming environments in their own communities.

As the refugee situations worldwide grow increasingly urgent and complex, be proactive about engaging your children in conversations about what it means to be a refugee, and how citizens of all ages can work to make newcomers feel welcome and safe. Remember that children respond to trauma and challenges in different ways, and there is no “typical” refugee or “single story” that represents the myriad experiences children have in these situations.

**Picture Books**
- *What Is a Refugee*? by Elise Gravel
- *Lubna and Pebble* by Wendy Meddour, illustrated by Daniel Egnéus
- *Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush’s Incredible Journey* by Doug Kuntz and Amy Shrodes, illustrated by Sue Cornelison
- *Teacup* by Rebecca Young, illustrated by Matt Ottley
- *Dreamers* by Yuyi Morales
- *My Freedom Trip* by Frances Park and Ginger Park
- *Mama’s Nightingale: A Story of Immigration and Separation* by Edwidge Danticat, illustrated by Leslie Staub
- *The Treasure Box* by Margaret Wild, illustrated by Freya Blackwood

**Middle Grades**
- *Kiki and Jacques* by Susan Ross
- *One Good Thing About America* by Ruth Freeman
- *Saving Hanno* by Miriam Halahmy
- *When Stars Are Scattered* by Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy

**Young Adult**
- *Enrique’s Journey (The Young Adult Adaptation)* by Sonia Nazario
- *We Are All That’s Left* by Carrie Arcos
- *Outcasts United: The Story of a Refugee Soccer Team That Changed a Town* by Warren St. John
- *Bamboo People* by Mitali Perkins
- *Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina* by Michaela DePrince and Elaine DePrince
- *A Time of Miracles* by Anne-Laure Bondoux, translated by Y. Maudet