

# Giant Boy By Michael Morpurgo

This week we will be looking at the story of a young refugee boy called Omar who had to flee his home because of a war.



If you have any questions, please contact your class teacher by 2email in Purple Mash.

# Task One

- ▶ First, let's find out what a refugee is.
- ▶ Using a dictionary look up the word 'refugee' and write out what it means.
- ▶ Click here to watch a Newsround clip about a boy called Ali.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/48660079>
- ▶ Using your dictionary definition and also thinking about the clip showing Ali's experience, can you write a few sentences telling me what a refugee is?

Giant Boy is a story about a young Afghani boy named Omar, who is a war refugee. Read the extract below that tells the reader about the life he had to leave behind.

“Where I come from is no longer my home. There was a house and a village I once called my home, in Afghanistan. I had a family of my own once. Not anymore. I don't know anymore what day or month or year it is. My home was a quiet place, in a peaceful town in the countryside. We lived on the edge of town. My father was shepherd, our flock was our livelihood. We never went hungry or thirsty. We were together. We were all happy.

Then the war came to our town. I do not know to this day why the war came. It was on the morning of my tenth birthday, I remember. We heard planes in the sky, and then bombing began. There was no where to hide, nowhere to run. At the end of the day our home was in ruins.”

## Task Two

- ▶ Write a diary entry using adjectives that describe how you would feel if you had to leave your friends and home because of a war that destroyed your town.
- ▶ Include adjectives that tell the reader what it feels like to see your home, school and town bombed and destroyed.
- ▶ Describe what you might see after the bomb fell.
- ▶ Here are some adjectives you might use: frightened, terrified, petrified, scared, angry, humiliated, devastated, anxious, worried.

The diagram shows a handwritten diary entry on lined paper with several annotations:

- Address who your writing to:** Points to "Dear Diary,"
- Topic written in first sentence:** Points to "Today I started my new job at the ice cream parlor."
- Date:** Points to "30th July 2019"
- Write in first person:** Points to "I was excited but very nervous at the same time."
- Write how it made you feel:** Points to "I hope that my manager and the girls who worked there liked me."
- Supporting sentence:** Points to "One of the girls who worked there was called Anne she was awesome. Not sure I liked Sarah, she wasn't very friendly but she only works 2 days a week so I wont see her much. 😊"
- Write honestly:** Points to "Anyway a new day tomorrow, lets hope I can make some tips. Wish me luck!"
- Using emojis/doodles to convey feelings:** Points to the smiley face emoji "😊"
- Future hopes/expectations:** Points to "Wish me luck!"
- Sign off to show the end of the entry:** Points to "Goodnight! Mwah <3"
- Informal / casual style/ slang:** Points to "Mwah <3"

Here's an example to remind you of how a diary entry should look and what to include.

## Task Three

Omar must travel by boat to the UK without his mother so he can be safe. But his boat is shipwrecked, and he ends up in a different country. After having some adventures there, he leaves to find his mother who he believes is in the UK. He travels in a tiny boat and has many hardships but in the end, he reaches England.

This term we have been looking at local and global superheroes.

► Do you think refugees like Ali and Omar are heroes? Give a reason for your answer. Look at the examples below to help you.

I think they are heroes because they come to a new country, with nothing but a determination to make a new life for themselves, which takes courage and lots of hard work.

They are heroes in my eyes because they fight against all the obstacles to succeed.

What do you think? Talk about this with an adult or sibling.