

From Far Away

Robert Munsch and Saoussan Askar

Saoussan Askar tells the true story of her family's flight from war-ridden Lebanon. She wrote a letter to Robert Munsch, and together they made her letter into a book.

Audio book read by Munsch: <http://robertmunsch.com/book/from-far-away#>

Primary lesson plan: https://tc2.ca/pdf/T3_pdfs/WelcomingANewcomer.pdf

This lesson plan focuses on the difficulties experienced by newcomers to the school or community, and the actions that students might undertake to help these individuals feel welcome. The emphasis is on helping students tailor their proposed solutions to the particular difficulties experienced by the newcomer. Students begin by matching cards describing familiar problem situations with a corresponding set of cards describing relevant solutions. They then recall their own experiences on the first day of school and listen to the story *From Far Away* by Robert Munsch. Students compare their experiences with those of the immigrant child in this story. Students then list the newcomer's difficulties and list possible solutions for each problem. After developing and applying criteria, students generate three possible solutions and choose the best response to a fictional or actual challenge faced by a new student or neighbour. Finally, students role-play their welcoming action.