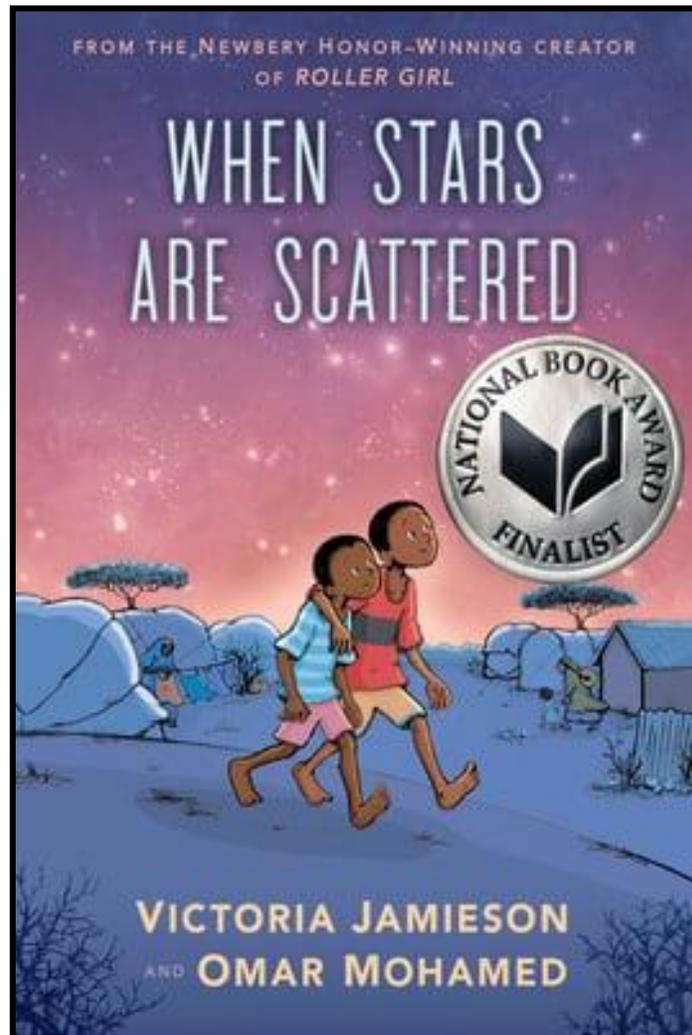


MS 447 School-Wide Book Clubs
Summer Reading 2025



This packet belongs to: _____

In this packet:

1. Introduction to our School-Wide Book Clubs
2. Background information and Pre-Reading Activity
3. Summer Reading and Guiding Questions

1. Introduction: MS 447 School-Wide Book Clubs

Since 2016, MS 447 has had a school community reading program each summer. The purpose of this program is to foster community and friendships, and focus on our school's values. This summer we are going to be reading the graphic memoir ***When Stars are Scattered***. We'll be thinking about how Omar's story connects to our own lives, and how we can use his story to motivate and inspire us. It will be a great way for students and teachers to reconnect after a fun summer, and to kick off another successful school year!



Here's how it will go:

JUNE

- ❖ In Advisories and in grade-wide assemblies, 6th and 7th graders will have an [introduction](#) to this year's book selection.
- ❖ During Orientation for incoming 6th graders on 6/3, students and their guardians will hear the introduction and receive a copy of the book to read over the summer.
- ❖ All students and staff members will receive a copy of the book before summer break.

SUMMER BREAK

- ❖ Read the book. If you like to listen to books, here's the link to a youtube read-aloud video with the pictures: https://youtu.be/s1AiBa2BOfs?si=Nk3BYc-WYYWf-I_V . This video has closed-captions and auto translations.
- ❖ Complete the activities in this packet and bring it to school with you on the second day.

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ On the second day of school (September 5th) everyone will participate in mixed-grade book club meetings. Part of the school day will be frozen so you can meet with teachers in small groups of students from across the school to talk about our responses and ideas about the book.
- ❖ Your book club teachers will ask you to share ideas and any work you complete in this packet, and use it to get to know our students as writers, creators, and thinkers.
- ❖ Each grade will start the year in ELA with a mini-project based on this book.
- ❖ After completing the mini-project, return your copy of the book to MS 447 (unless you bought it and want to keep it), so that it can be used by future students.

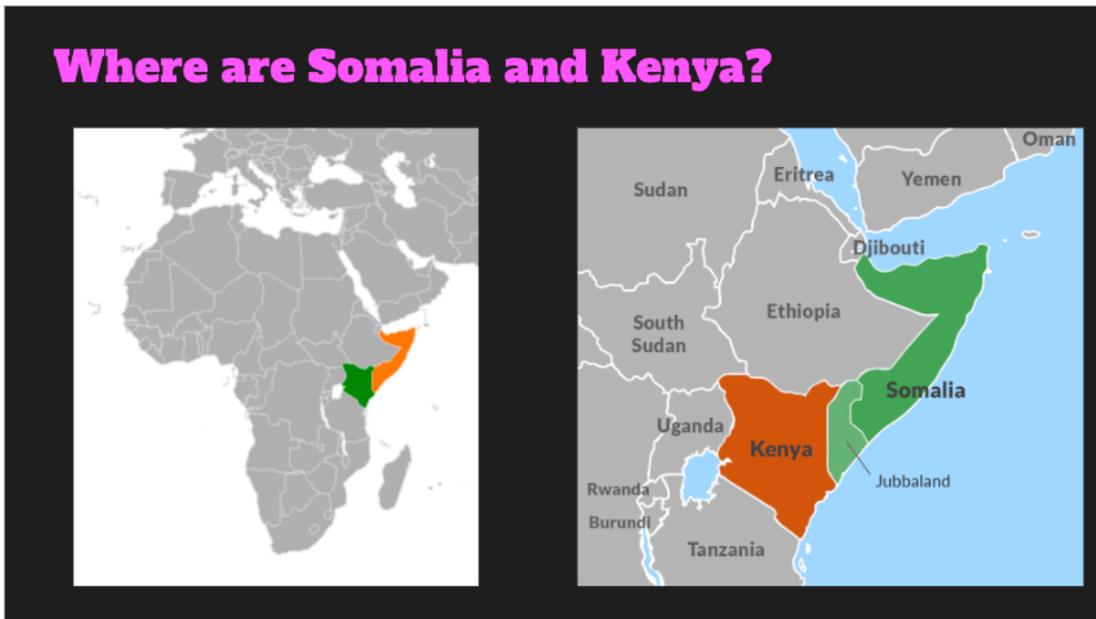
2. Background information and Pre-Reading Activity

Complete this section before you read the book.

Look at the maps below. Answer these questions:

1. Why do you think refugees from Somalia sought safety in a camp located in Kenya?

2. Name the countries that border Somalia and Kenya.



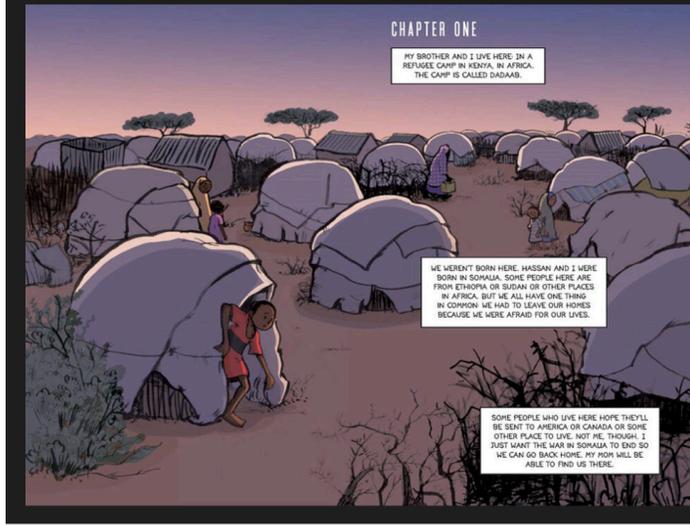
Refugee: *Noun.* A person who has been forced to leave their country in order to escape war, persecution, or natural disaster.

The Dadaab Refugee Camp

The Dadaab Refugee Camp was once the largest refugee camp in the world.

It was started 30 years ago to help people who were fleeing the civil war in Somalia.

Currently, it has 426,822 refugees living there.



Many of the characters in *When Stars are Scattered* are refugees. Write a sentence that shows you know the meaning of the word "Refugee":

Directions: Read each statement and circle **agree** or **disagree**.

1. People are either happy or sad. It's impossible for someone to experience happiness and sadness at the same time. AGREE DISAGREE
2. Teachers, parents, friends, and events in the world are the biggest factors in determining success. An individual has very little control over their future. AGREE DISAGREE
3. It is possible to stay connected to friends and family even when they are far away and you don't see them. AGREE DISAGREE
4. People must be biologically related to be a family. AGREE DISAGREE
5. I have nothing in common with refugees. AGREE DISAGREE

3. Summer Reading and Guiding Questions

It's optional to write your answers to these questions, and we hope that you'll think about them as you read. Writing your thoughts on post-its or in a notebook improves memory, and it will make your book club discussion more interesting if you do it!

Part 1. Think about these questions after you read **Part 1** (p. 4–113):

- ❖ Who are Omar's friends and family? What makes them true friends and family?
- ❖ What is life like in the refugee camp?
- ❖ What does Omar want most in life? What complications prevent him from having this?

Part 2. Think about the questions below after you read **Part 2** (p. 114–219):

- ❖ Reread the statement, "In a refugee camp, everything can change... and nothing can change." What does this mean? Find examples in Part 1 and Part 2.
- ❖ How does Omar experience both heartbreak and hope in Part 2? Think of examples from Part 2 to support your answer.

Part 3. Think about the questions below after you read **Part 3** (p. 221-end):

- ❖ In "A Poem of Stars," Maryam writes "...We are not one star, we are millions. Not one background, but millions." What does this mean? Both within and beyond *When Stars Are Scattered*, why is this important for readers to understand?
- ❖ In Part 3, Omar and Hassan are finally going to be re-settled. Despite losing so much along the way, how did they achieve this?



What was your favorite scene in the book?

Draw a picture, write a poem, or write a paragraph to share during the book club meeting in September!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying most of the page below the text. It is intended for a student to draw a picture, write a poem, or write a paragraph about their favorite scene in the book.