ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

The materials in this unit plan are meant to be flexible and easy to adapt to your own classroom. However, for students reading the entire book, there are several themes that connect the stories. Students should be introduced to one or more of the following key questions as they begin reading, and keep them in mind as they work through the book:

What rights do all people deserve?

What are the effects of war on children?

How can we empathize with people halfway around the world?

Many of the reader response questions and suggested projects relate to these essential questions. Students are encouraged to ask these questions not only of the characters of the book, but of themselves.

ADDITIONAL LESSON PLANS

Voices of Iraqi Refugees
This curriculum includes lessons for three age groups: K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. The lesson plans are designed to introduce students to the Iraqi refugee crisis.

Discovery Education Unit for “Children of War”
A two-week unit with day-by-day instructions and a focus on world history, sociology, psychology, and media literacy.
http://school.discoveryeducation.com/lessonplans/activities/childrenofwar/

Examining War through a Child’s Perspective
A detailed, thorough unit published by the Yale National Initiative. Includes detailed activities such as dialogue journals and an anticipation guide, as well as suggestions for companion texts and thematic connections.
http://teachers.yale.edu/curriculum/viewer/initiative_06.03.04_u

Center for Middle Eastern Studies – Middle School Lesson Plans
A massive anthology of many different lessons relating to all sections of the middle east. Focus on both language arts and social studies.
http://cmes.arizona.edu/node/638#%286-8%29