



THE METAPHORIC MEANINGS OF TITLES WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED AND HOW FAST CAN YOU RUN AND WHAT THEY MEAN IN THE LIFE AND CONTEXT OF REFUGEES

Devaki Dharmiste

Research Scholar,

University of Mysore, INDIA

Email id: devakiniranthara@gmail.com

Abstract:

The metaphorical importance of two notions, namely the speed of running and the scattering of stars, is investigated in this work within the context of the experience of being a refugee. The conversation digs into the fragmentation and resiliency of refugee life, underlining the beauty and disorder that are inherent in relocation. The talk draws on the rich imagery of dispersed stars to illustrate its points. In a similar vein, the term "running speed" is a metaphor that conveys the sense of urgency associated with escaping and the unrelenting pursuit of safety in the face of conflict. This study aims to shed light on the intricacies of human resilience, hope, and adaptability in the face of displacement by means of an analysis of these metaphors. The purpose of this study is to expand our awareness of the emotional and existential components of refugee experiences.

Keywords: *When Stars, How Fast Can You Run, Refugees*

Introduction:

Metaphors are strong tools that may be used to portray a wide range of feelings and realities within the enormous fabric that is the human personal experience. For example, when we think about the dispersed stars or the swiftness of one's stride, we are able to discover deeper meanings that go beyond their literal readings. When applied to the situation of refugees, these metaphors take on a profound importance, providing insights into the difficulties, resiliency, and hopes of individuals who have been uprooted from their homes. The glimmering lights of the stars make the night sky appear both beautiful and chaotic when they are dispersed over the sky. In a similar vein, the lives of refugees sometimes have the impression of being fragmented, since they are distributed throughout strange areas and are cut off from the stability of their homes and communities. Nevertheless, even in this dispersion, there is a resiliency that shows through, a resolve to brighten the darkness with the glimmer of hope and opportunity because of the fact that it is present. Take into consideration the concepts of speed and motion as well. For how long can a person run? When it comes to refugees, this issue goes beyond the concept of simple physical velocity; it speaks to the sense of urgency that comes with escaping, as well as the undying desire of safety and asylum. The rate of flight is frequently determined by factors that are beyond the control of the person, such as war, persecution, or natural disasters. These factors urge individuals and families towards unknown futures, giving them little choice but to rely on their own resolve to go forward. The purpose of this investigation is to investigate the metaphorical importance of dispersed stars and running speed in the lives of refugees. Within

the context of the difficulties that are now being faced, we investigate the ways in which these metaphors express the experiences of being uprooted, overcoming adversity, and looking forward to a better tomorrow. Alia, V. and Bull, S. (2015) We hope that by looking at things through this lens, we will be able to acquire a more profound comprehension of the human spirit's ability to persevere, adjust, and eventually flourish, even in extreme circumstances. Both "When Stars are Scattered" and "How Fast Can You Run" are titles of novels that discuss the lives of refugees, particularly refugee children, and shed light on their hardships, perseverance, and hopes. Both of these works are influenced by the experiences of refugees Amnesty International (2014)

"When Stars are Scattered":

Both Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed are responsible for the creation of the graphic novel that tells the story of Omar Mohamed's childhood spent as a refugee from Somalia in the Dadaab camp in Kenya. The two writers' collaboration resulted in the publication of the book. The problems that Omar and his younger brother Hassan, who is non-verbal and has special needs, have to deal with in their day-to-day life are shown in this piece. In refugee camps, where objectives and aspirations may appear to be as far away as stars spread across the sky, the term relates to the ephemeral and unexpected nature of life in these camps. In other words, the title shows that life exists in refugee camps. Despite the fact that the book contains examples of hardship, the author places a strong emphasis on the importance of family, education, and perseverance in the face of adversity.

"How Fast Can You Run":

This is a book written by Harriet Levin Millan, which was inspired by the actual experience of Michael MajokKuch, a Lost Boy of Sudan who abandoned his hometown during the civil war. In order to illustrate the sense of urgency and desperation that comes with fleeing persecution, the title makes reference to Michael's trip as he runs away from violence and travels hundreds of kilometers on foot. Since Michael is in the process of reestablishing his life in the United States, the novel delves into topics such as identity, trauma, and displacement. Reflecting on the tenacity and resolve of refugees to live and develop in spite of insurmountable challenges, it is a powerful statement.

When Stars Are Scattered

Both Victoria Jamieson and Omar Mohamed participated to the creation of the graphic memoir When Stars Are Scattered, which they are the authors of. Mohamed, a Somali refugee, and Jamieson created the book based on Mohamed's true experiences as a small child fleeing the violence in Somalia and as a young man growing up in Dadaab, which is one of the largest refugee camps in the world. Jamieson also contributed to the writing of the book. In addition, Jamieson made a contribution to the book that Mohamed had authored. In addition to being presented with a nomination for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the narrative was also honored with the Walter Dean Myers Award for Younger Readers and was released in the year 2020. In addition to that, it was chosen as one of the YALSA Great Graphic Novels for Teens and one of the YALSA Quick Picks for

Reluctant Young Adult Readers. Both of these honors were bestowed upon it by the year. As one of the subjects that are discussed in *When Stars Are Scattered*, the need of maintaining empathy, recognizing one's own capabilities, and finding a balance between faith, hard work, and dreams is one of the topics that is discussed. Within the pages of this book, there is a mention of the 2020 version that was published by Dial Books, which is an imprint of Penguin Random House. 2014 Amnesty International Organization Cautionary notes regarding the content: The narrative and the photographs contain undertones of violence, conflict, and death, as well as references to these things. There are also references to these things.

This narrative is presented in the format of a graphic book, with panels of colored artwork, thinking bubbles, and chat bubbles, as well as narration. In terms of format, it is comparable to that of a comic book. It is recounted from the point of view of the young protagonist, Omar Mohamed, and the story is conveyed in the present tense using the first-person perspective. Omar could not remember anything about his youth, and it is believed that he is around 11 years old. He does not recall anything. His present house is in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya that was formed in 1992 and today provides shelter to hundreds of thousands of individuals who have fled their homes because the conditions or the conflict made it hazardous for them to remain there. His current abode is in Dadaab. As is the case with a great number of other individuals who have found themselves in Dadaab, Omar and his younger brother Hassan are refugees with origins in Somalia. Seven years ago, when they were still little children, they arrived in our country. 2021 publication by Balabanova, E., and Balch, A. At the beginning of the first section of the tale, the two young boys are seen seeking for their mother amid a big gathering of refugees in the A3 block of the camp, which is situated in close proximity to the camp. In light of the fact that they were unable to find her, they returned to their block, A2, where Fatuma, who serves as their guardian, was keeping a watchful eye on them. Below is a list of the days when Omar was present in the camp: Havesan, who is unable to communicate with anybody other than through vocalizations and a single word, Hooyo, is the person with whom he plays football. In addition to this, he waits in queue for food and drink while simultaneously carrying out his job. Although this is the case, Omar is able to understand his brother, and he is glad to learn that Hassan does not suffer from seizures as regularly as he did in the past. A "house" is built out of mud bricks, and modest walls are constructed all around it. It is even possible for them to act as if they had cows and a mattress in their home. Following the conclusion of Jeri's school day, Omar and his friend spend some time playing soccer with a "ball" made of plastic bags. This activity takes place after Jeri has finished his school day. With regard to the English language, Jeri is the one who gives Omar instructions to write his name and count to three. Bauder, H. (2021) When Salan, a community leader who strives to better the situations for refugees, makes the required preparations for Omar to enroll in school, Omar begins to have second thoughts about his desire to do so. When they arrived in Dadaab, they were separated from their mother. He is worried that if he goes to school, a horrible occurrence would take place that will lead him to be separated from Hassan. This is similar to how they were separated from their mother when they arrived in Dadaab. On the other side, Salan is able to convince Omar that his genius is a gift from God and that both Omar and Hassan

might benefit from having an education. He also believes that this could help improve the lives of both of them. Omar is someone who enjoys and places a high value on the time he spends in school. He is able to observe how Nimo and Maryam, two women who are enrolled in his class, exerted a great deal of work in order to accomplish their objectives of achieving first and second place, respectively. They are making efforts to achieve their objective of earning a scholarship to Canada in order to migrate there. As is the case with a great number of other refugees, Jeri has the aspiration of being resettled in the United States of America. However, it seems that getting chosen by the United Nations is one of the few possibilities to make this goal come true. In order to improve his English, Omar stays up late studying and attends additional classes for the purpose of improvement. Hassan has a strong desire to relive the time that they spent together, and he does it by stealing from Fatuma on occasion when she is at school. During the time that Omar is at school, Hassan manages to escape and is then assaulted by bullies. This takes place just prior to the end of the academic term, which is the time when the examinations are planned to take place. J. Bayer's works (2012) In spite of the fact that a test is about to take place, Omar makes the decision to withdraw from school in order to take care of Hassan before the exam. As a result of the fact that her father intended for her to be married, Maryam is compelled to quit going to school. She succeeds in convincing Omar that he should not throw away the gift of knowledge that he has been given. Omar arrives at the realization that she is correct, passes his tests, and is successful in entering middle school as a result of his efforts.

In the second half of the story, which takes place two years after the first section, Omar and Jeri begin to speculate about what the future may hold for them. As residents of Dadaab, Omar and Jeri have aspirations of becoming social workers for the United Nations (UN) and teachers, respectively. However, their future prospects are bleak because they are unable to return to Somalia due to the ongoing civil war, and they are also unable to leave the camp because they do not have the same rights as Kenyans. Both of these circumstances make it difficult for them to achieve their goals. According to Omar, the camp is more like to a prison than it is to a home. He gets this sense. Omar is informed by his buddy Abdikarim that the United Nations has selected his family to be relocated in the United States. Abdikarim is the one who conveys this information to Omar. since of this, Omar feels irritated since he believes that his circumstances are unfair. After a period of time during which Omar is preoccupied with school and chores, he suddenly and unexpectedly learns that he and Hassan are set to attend an initial interview with the United Nations in order to be considered for relocation. In addition to getting himself and Hassan dressed in clean clothes, Omar goes through the processes of training himself to say what he would say to the people who are conducting the interview. Fatuma and his brothers make their way to the United Nations office the night before, where they sleep just outside the doors of the building. In the course of the interview, Omar tells the tale of how, when he was only four years old, his father was killed by armed men in Somalia while he was working in the fields. The incident occurred when Omar was in Somalia. Omar's mother has not been seen by any of them since that time when they last saw her. Specifically, she gave him the instruction to accompany Hassan to the apartment of a neighbor. Omar is able to communicate his feelings over the situation in

which he is unable to ascertain whether or not his mother is still alive. He describes how he and Hassan accompanied their neighbors by strolling beside them as they made their way to Dadaab in order to assist them in their escape. Omar is advised by the person conducting the interview that he will not be able to acquire any new information if he is subjected to more interviews for a period of about two months. In spite of the fact that Nimo learns that she and her family are going to go to Canada, Omar does not gain any essential information about the matter. Eventually, Omar comes to the idea that Maryam is expecting a child. This revelation comes about as Omar's feelings of resentment toward the harsh nature of his predicament continue to grow. When Omar sees her huge tummy, he realizes that he is not the only one who has dreams that have been destroyed. He is not the only one who has feelings of disappointment.

It has been four years since Omar and Jeri have attended high school, but in Part 3, they finally enroll in high school. Omar is just about to graduate from high school, and he is presently 17 years old. He is anxious that he will not be able to find anything that satisfies him as a refugee, and he periodically loses faith and excitement in his ability to discover something that matches his needs. His spirits are lifted by the presence of Jeri, which aids him. The agony that Fatuma experiences as a result of the loss of one of her newborn goats due to famine prompts Hassan to go away without him. Fatuma's goats were born and died of starvation. During his travels across Dadaab, Omar comes across him living with a family that is known for their kind and welcoming nature. When they return to Fatuma, Omar learns that the United Nations has finally requested a second interview. This news comes after a lengthy period of time. 2014 Citation: Cederberg, M. When Omar was 13 years old, he answered questions during interviews and filled out his applications for resettlement with a tone that was more collected and anchored in reality. This is in contrast to the tone he uses now, when he is a young adult. The news that he and Hassan are able to move to the United States of America comes to him after a period of time has passed. On account of the fact that Omar has resided in Dadaab for such a considerable amount of time, it is challenging for him to split ways with the individuals he loves about, such as Fatuma, Jeri, and Maryam. Nevertheless, Omar is well aware that he and Hassan cannot afford to pass up this opportunity under any circumstances. They board an aircraft and fly from Kenya; as Omar stares out the window at the stars in the night sky, he nurtures the hope that he will be able to find happiness and a brighter future in the United States.

WHO IS A REFUGEE?

According to Article 1A of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, a person is considered to be a refugee if they meet the following criteria: is outside his or her country of nationality or habitual residence; has a well-founded fear of persecution because of his or her race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group or political opinion; and is unable or unwilling to avail himself or herself of the protection of that country, or to return there, for fear of persecution.

WHY DO REFUGEES NEED PROTECTION?

The governments of each nation typically ensure that its citizens are protected from bodily harm and that they are able to exercise their fundamental human rights. According to Clough Marinaro, I., and Walston, J. (2010), there are circumstances in which persons may be exposed to such severe violations of their human rights that they are compelled to leave their homes, their communities, and their families in order to seek refuge in a different country. This happens when governments are either reluctant to take action or because they are unable to do so. Protecting the rights of refugees and ensuring their physical protection are both responsibilities that fall under the purview of the collective international community. This is due to the fact that refugees are not allowed to receive protection from their home nations by definition.

WHO PROTECTS REFUGEES?

The provision of protection for refugees is the primary responsibility that nations are obligated to fulfill. Nations that have signed the 1951 Convention are obligated to provide protection for refugees who are located on their territory and to treat them in line with standards that are recognized universally. This commitment falls under the country's jurisdiction. H. De Haas's 2018 Journal To a large extent, it is the responsibility of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to make certain that nations are aware of their duties to protect refugees and those seeking asylum, and that they take measures to meet those commitments. On the other hand, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is not a supranational agency, and therefore it cannot be considered a substitute for the duties that are carried out by the government. It is for this reason that the stance of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is complementary to that of nations, and it makes a contribution to the protection of refugees by:

- Promoting accession to, and effective implementation of, refugee conventions and laws;
- Ensuring that refugees are treated in accordance with internationally recognized standards of law;
- Ensuring that refugees are granted asylum and are not forcibly returned to countries where their lives or freedom would be threatened;
- Promoting appropriate procedures to determine whether or not a person is a refugee according to the 1951 Convention definition and/or other definitions found in regional instruments;
- Seeking durable solutions to the plight of refugees.

Identity and Displacement:

People who are forced to flee their homes frequently struggle with feelings of dislocation and the difficulty of preserving their identity in strange environments. Throughout these works, the hardships of those who have been uprooted from their homes and communities are

shown. These individuals must navigate unfamiliar situations while simultaneously attempting to maintain their cultural heritage and sense of identity.

Trauma and Resilience:

Most refugees have been through traumatic experiences, whether they were caused by war, persecution, or exile. Individuals who, despite experiencing tremendous adversity, find the fortitude to persist and rebuild their lives are highlighted in these stories, which illustrate the tenacity of individuals. Every, D., & Augoustinos, M. (2017) It is a testament to the strength of the human spirit that they are able to triumph over hardship and discover hope even in the most hopeless of situations.

Education and Opportunity:

It is essential for refugees to have an education because it provides them with the opportunity to become self-sufficient and gain a sense of empowerment. It is a testament to the transformational power that education can have on both individuals and communities that "When Stars are Scattered" depicts the protagonist's commitment to seek education despite the tremendous obstacles that stand in his way.

Humanity and Empathy:

Through vivid storytelling and compelling characters, these books foster empathy and understanding for the experiences of refugees. They challenge stereotypes and misconceptions, encouraging readers to see refugees not as statistics or political issues, but as fellow human beings with unique stories, dreams, and aspirations.

Family and Community:

Both books emphasize the importance of family and community in the lives of refugees. In the face of adversity, family bonds often become even stronger as individuals rely on each other for support and comfort. Additionally, communities within refugee camps or in new host countries provide a sense of belonging and solidarity, helping refugees navigate challenges and rebuild their lives together. Finotelli, C. & Arango, J. (2011)

Integration and Adaptation:

For refugees resettling in new countries, the process of integration and adaptation can be daunting. "How Fast Can You Run" depicts Michael MajokKuch's journey of assimilating into American society while grappling with the trauma of his past. These stories shed light on the complexities of cultural adjustment and the resilience required to thrive in unfamiliar environments. Gitlin, T. (2020)

Hope and Aspiration:

Despite the hardships faced by refugees, both books convey messages of hope and aspiration. Through the protagonists' dreams of a better future and their determination to overcome obstacles, readers are reminded of the power of hope to sustain individuals in even the most

challenging circumstances. These stories inspire readers to believe in the possibility of positive change and to work towards creating a more inclusive and compassionate world for refugees and migrants. Gross, B., Moore, K., & Threadgold, T. (2017)

Conclusion

In conclusion, "When Stars are Scattered" and "How Fast Can You Run" provide profound insights into the lives of refugees, offering poignant narratives that illuminate the challenges, resilience, and humanity of individuals forced to flee their homes. Through vivid storytelling and compelling characters, these books invite readers to empathize with the experiences of refugees, challenging stereotypes and fostering understanding and compassion. They highlight the importance of education, family, community, and hope in the lives of refugees, while also shedding light on the trauma, displacement, and struggles they face. By amplifying refugee voices and sharing their stories with sensitivity and empathy, these books advocate for the rights and dignity of all people, regardless of their background or circumstances. Ultimately, "When Stars are Scattered" and "How Fast Can You Run" serve as powerful reminders of the resilience, courage, and humanity of refugees, inspiring readers to engage with refugee issues with compassion, empathy, and a commitment to building a more inclusive and just world.

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