



Colour of Home

By Mary Hoffman

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Hassan feels out of place in a new cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somali home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombassa, the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress - the new colours of home.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2-Hassan, a recent immigrant from Somalia, is homesick on his first day of school in America. Though the teacher is nice and the children are friendly, adjusting to a new culture, especially a different language, is a struggle. When the teacher distributes art supplies, Hassan discovers a way to communicate. He paints two pictures—one to share the story of his life in Somalia, and another that depicts his hope for a bright future in his new home. Readers gain a realistic child's perspective on what it is like to be forced to emigrate from a war-torn country. The sensitively told story also demonstrates the value of art therapy in helping children to make the transition to a new environment. Littlewood's impressionistic watercolor illustrations, many of them spreads, beautifully convey Hassan's sadness, fear, and ultimate happiness. A title that will spark classroom discussion.

Ajokei T. I. Kokodoko, Oakland Public Library, CA

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From [Booklist](#)

PreS-Gr. 3. The author of the popular picture book *Amazing Grace* (1991) tells another moving story here of an immigrant kid in the classroom. Hassan's Muslim family was driven from their home in Somalia by the violent civil war. On his first day of school in America, everything looks gray and strange and he can't speak English. Then in art class he paints a picture of the happy home he remembers before the soldiers came to his village. When he paints a second picture of the nightmares that haunt him--the flames and bullets that killed his uncle and drove his family out--his teacher brings a Somali interpreter to translate for him, and he tells her his refugee story. Littlewood's beautiful impressionistic watercolor paintings reveal the child's memories of his African village: the warmth and light and then the terror. After that there's the flight, and the pictures do a great job of expressing Hassan's sense of dislocation in a gray, unfamiliar place, until, finally, he sees the bright colors of his school and his new home. *Hazel Rochman*

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Review

Hasaan feels out of place in a new cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colours of the war he and his family have fled. Hoffman's intelligent book tackles a highly topical and controversial theme in a sensitive, non-patronising way.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Will Guertin:

Reading a reserve can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book consequently. There are a lot of reasons why people enjoyed. First reading a book will give you a lot of new data. When you read a publication you will get new information since book is one of several ways to share the information as well as their idea. Second, reading a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fiction book the author will bring that you imagine the story how the people do it anything. Third, it is possible to share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Colour of Home, you could tells your family, friends in addition to soon about yours publication. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a publication.

Lisa Christopher:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or go to the outside with their household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent their free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity here is look different you can read a book. It is really fun to suit your needs. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Colour of Home it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more easily to read this book through your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book provides high quality.

Chris Walker:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside together with friends, fun activity together with family or just watching TV all day long. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by reading a book. Ugh, ya think reading a book can definitely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It alright you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Mobile phone. Like Colour of Home which is getting the e-book version. So , why not try out this book? Let's find.

Nancy Byrom:

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