

Little Rebels Exploring Social Justice

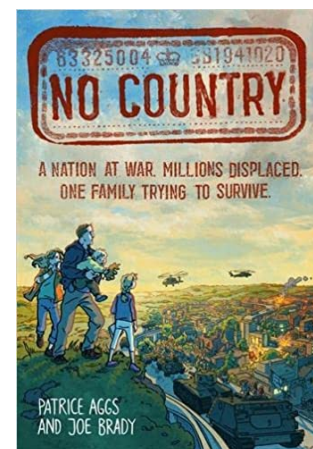
No Country

by *Joe Brady*

illustrated by *Patrice Aggs*

David Fickling Books

Bea and her family are struggling to survive. Civil war rages between an authoritarian state and rebels, a.k.a. 'Free Kingdom'. The Daily Truth spouts fake news; street posters scream, 'Never Question Authority'; supermarket shelves are bare; power cuts are frequent; the military patrol the streets; society is breaking down. In this country, you try to pick your time to run; you become a refugee overnight. Will Bea's family get to safety in time? (Graphic novel).



Shortlisted for the 2022 Little Rebels Book Award

Social Justice Themes: War; Freedom; Inequality; Refugees

Things to talk about

- Bea and her family are forced to flee their country and to become refugees. When you think of refugees, what country do you think they come from? Where is this novel set?
- Look at page 21. What do you think about the title of the publication 'Daily Truth'? How does this front cover compare to what you can see going on in the book? If you want to find out the truth about what is going on around you today, where do you look for information?
- In the classroom lesson Bea has on pages 95-97 the teacher describes a system of ruling a country where just one person is in charge. What is this system called? How is it different from a democracy?
- Taking the graphic artwork as a whole, what underlying mood has the illustrator created? How has she achieved this?
- The author, Joe Brady, said he was inspired to write this novel by "the Syrian refugee crisis and the nativism that followed". What does 'nativism' mean? Do you think many people in the UK have these sort of beliefs?

Activities

- Design two contrasting newspaper front covers. Use the same two or three headlines on both but change the wording so that the meaning is different. You are trying to manipulate the reader to form a certain opinion depending on which paper they are reading.

Extended

- Author Joe Brady has said, "My concern is not that people take democracy for granted, but that they don't see through it when it functions as a smoke screen for deeper injustices". Explore this statement. Does being a democracy automatically mean that injustice or inequality doesn't exist?

For more information about The Little Rebels Book Award visit littlerebels.org