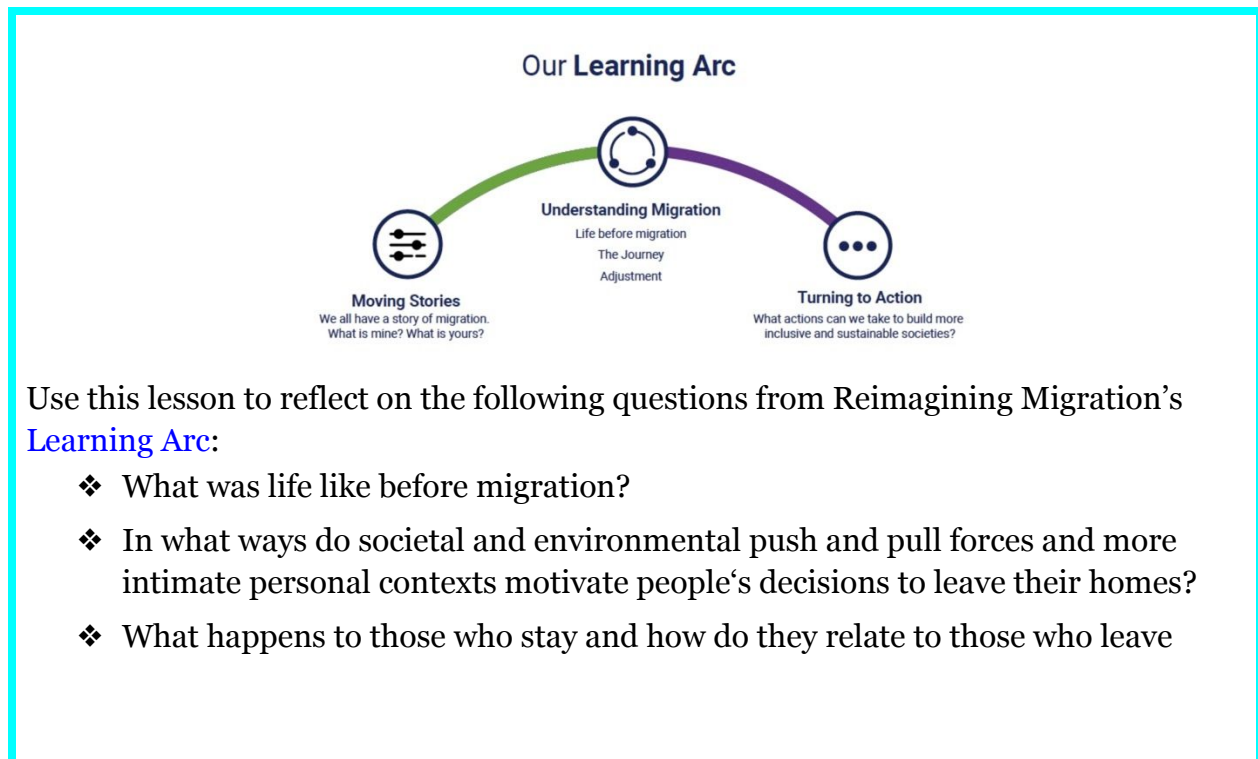




Desperate Journeys with Khaled Hosseini

[Khaled Hosseini](#) is an Afghani-American writer, doctor and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador. Hosseini and his family fled Afghanistan in the 1980s fleeing the Soviet invasion of his homeland forcing his family to seek political asylum in the United States, settling in San Jose, California.



In this 23 minute film, UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador Khaled Hosseini speaks with refugees and their families to help others understand what it means to flee a home and a change of status.



Reflections and Teaching Ideas:

Preview activity:

- Listen to this [NPR interview](#) with Khaled Hosseini on why he wrote his poem *Sea Prayer*.
 - The poem was inspired by the story of the Syrian refugee boy Alan Kurdi. Read and listen more about his sad story [here](#).
 - How personal was this poem for Hosseini? Where do you see similarities with Hosseini's experience and the characters he writes about in the poem?

Viewing activities- As you watch the video, consider the questions/activities below:

- Use [See-Think-Wonder](#) activity to use as you watch the video.
- What are some of the difficulties faced by refugees as they live temporarily in other countries that motivates them to move to Europe?
- One of the refugees interviewed used the word "humiliation" to describe her status.
 - Why do you think she used the word "humiliation" to describe their journey?
 - How did Hosseini connect to experiencing "humiliation"?

Post view questions:

- What did he share about seeing refugees in other countries?
- Compare the choices made by those in the video to choices your family has made in relationship to migration?
- What emotional impact does being a refugee have on humans?

- What is a refugee? Research the [1951 refugee convention](#) to better understand the definition of refugees and the obligations of nations that signed on to the convention.

- Understanding why people leave their homes can develop empathy. Have students watch the video, read an article, listen to a podcast or analyze art that speaks about the journey of refugees.
 - Have students use *Project Zero's* [unveiling stories](#) to help them create an understanding of the multiple layers of adding meaning to one's journey.

Turning to Action

How can we take action toward more inclusive and sustainable societies?

Extension:

Ask students to discuss how governments can create a more welcoming environment for refugees as they are temporarily staying in their country.

What can you do to help refugees and/or newcomers feel more welcome into your community?

Let's explore the three "whys" from Project Zero:

Why does this matter to me?

Why does it matter to my community?

Why does it matter to the world?