

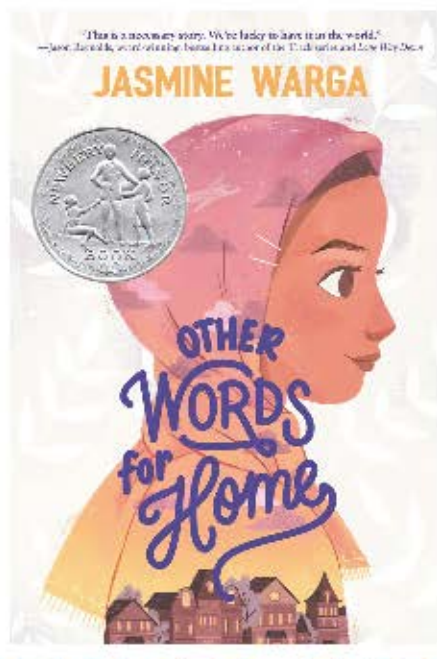
# Reading <sup>with</sup> Relevance

Building Independent Readers and Thinkers

YOUR STUDENT WORKBOOK FOR

## Other Words for Home

A novel by Jasmine Warga



This workbook belongs to:



# About the Book

## Other Words for Home

### Story Summary

***Other Words for Home is a novel told in free verse that explores the story of Jude, a 12-year-old Syrian girl who moves with her mother to live with her uncle's family in Ohio.***

Jude is happy in her hometown, a coastal tourist city in Syria. But as Syria descends into civil war, her parents decide that she and her newly pregnant mother should leave for America, while her father stays behind to tend the shop. Jude's brother, against his parents' wishes, stays to join the resistance movement. In America, Jude's aunt and uncle do what they can to make her and Mama feel welcome, but Jude's cousin Sarah is less welcoming, and Jude struggles at first to fit in at school. Throughout the story, Jude finds friends and learns to believe in herself and be brave, like her brother, while she faces uncertainty at school and prejudice in her new community.

Jasmine Warga is a writer who grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio. *Other Words from Home* is her first novel for middle grade readers; it won many awards, including the prestigious Newbery Honor award. Before becoming an author, Warga was a sixth-grade science teacher. She now lives in Chicago with her husband, daughters, cat, and dog.

### About the Author



# Session 2

## Theme: Bravery

**Guiding Question:** *While we might initially think about bravery as mostly sweeping acts of heroism, Issa and Jude reveal how everyday acts of bravery can also have an impact on our lives and communities. Think about what motivates people to be brave. How can you be brave when you face adversity or witness injustice? What are the ways you have already demonstrated bravery in your own life?*

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### Vocabulary

Write a complete sentence for each of the following vocabulary words. Use the definitions provided to make sure you are using these words correctly!



**deference** (pg. 37): n., humble respect

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**radicals** (pg. 40): n., people who are pushing for complete social or political change

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**lingering** (pg. 40): v., staying around, slow to leave

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### Session 1 Recap

Jude is a 12-year-old girl living in a seaside tourist town in Syria, where she lives with her Mama, Baba, and older brother Issa. She loves watching American movies and dreams of being a movie star. Baba runs a tourist shop, and there is chatter that fewer tourists are coming because of the continued unrest against the current government—this is the beginning of the Syrian civil war. Issa believes that there should be protests and change to the government, which is oppressing its people, but Baba and Mama are focused on the danger and destruction that come with revolution.

# Read pages 37-57



As you read, keep track of unfamiliar words, inspiring quotes, and questions you have.

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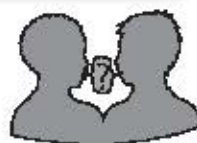
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**Reading Context:** Consider researching some other well-known examples of proverbs.

**proverb** (pg. 43): a short saying that is designed to communicate a piece of truth, wisdom, or advice

## Discussion Questions



Write your response to each question below using a complete sentence.

- Why do the police raid Issa's apartment? How does the police raid change Mama? How does it change others in the family?

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- What does Jude mean when she says she is learning to be "sad and happy at the same time" (pg. 49)?

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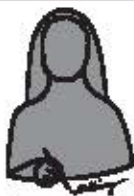
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- What is Baba feeling as Mama and Jude say goodbye? How can you tell?

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Choose one of these prompts to respond to in at least one full paragraph of writing.

SHOWING LOVE

When Jude is ready to leave, Baba is silent but hugs her tight. Jude knows that his tight embrace means that he is going to miss her and Mama. Baba isn't using words, but Jude feels the love in his embrace. In contrast, Issa is much more expressive with his love: he twirls Jude around and tells her he will miss her, offering words of advice for her new "adventure" in America.

How do you show your love for others?

- » Are you more like Baba or more like Issa in the way you express affection?
- » Do you usually tell people how you feel about them? Why or why not?
- » How do the people in your life show you their love?

BEING BRAVE

As Jude leaves for America, Issa tells her to "be brave." Jude is embarking on a whole new chapter of her life and story!

How will Jude need to demonstrate her bravery as she enters a new life in America?

- » Why do you think Issa tells Jude to be brave? What do you think he is worried about for Jude?
- » What do you think Jude's new life in America will be like?
- » What challenges will she encounter that will require her to be brave?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

What are some different ways that communities show their anger and despair about injustice?

What do you think about protest as a tool for addressing systems of injustice? Do you think that protest can inspire positive change?

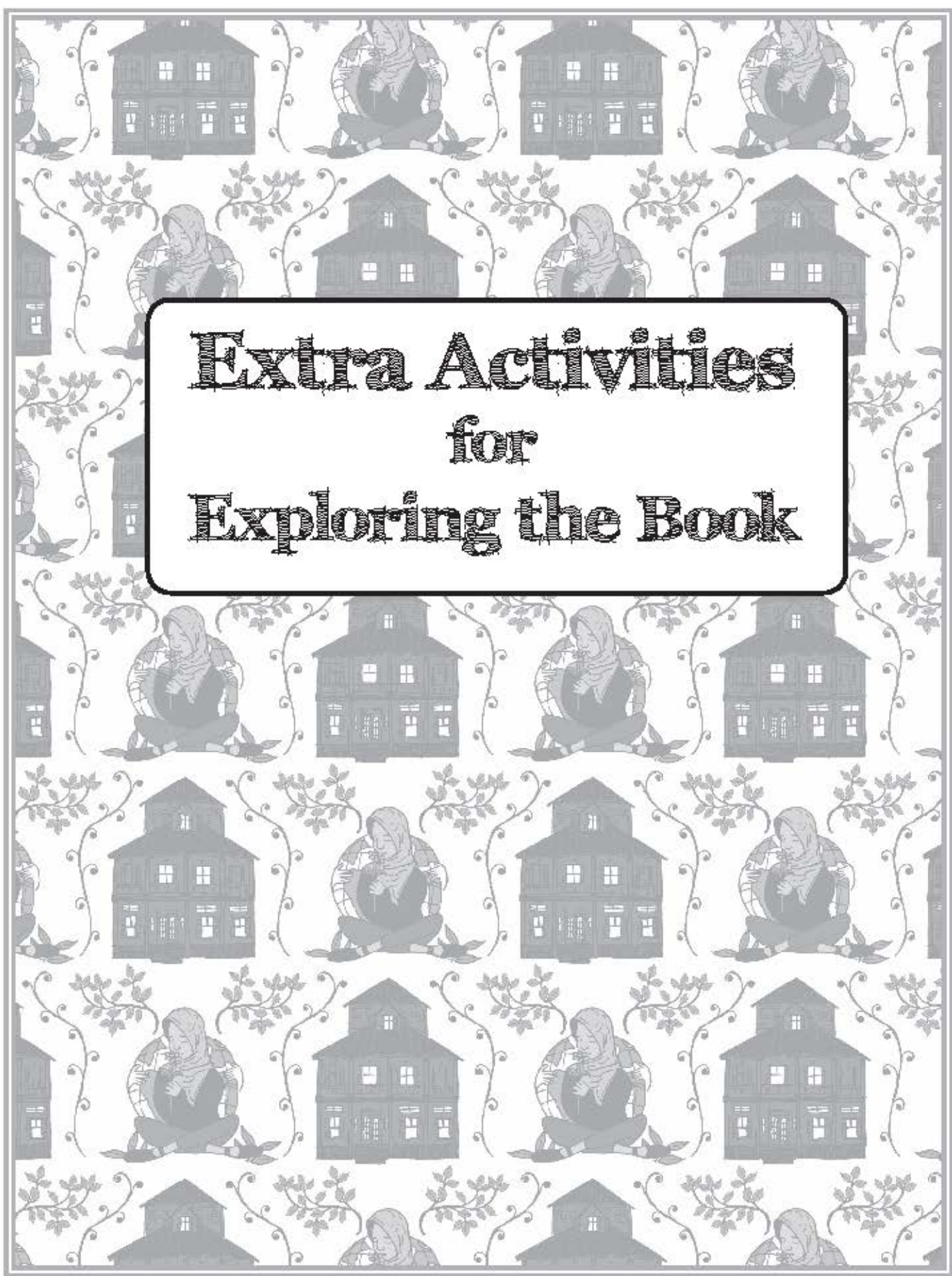
Why do you think people remain silent in the face of injustice? What are they afraid of?

How do YOU respond when you witness injustice?



Issa and his parents have conflicting ideas about the role of protest in bringing about change in Syria: Issa believes that protest is a powerful, necessary tool for improving their nation, while his parents worry about the instability and risks associated with speaking up against their government. Today's activity asks you to explore your own feelings about these two different perspectives on protesting. What do you think is the role of protesting in achieving a more equitable society?

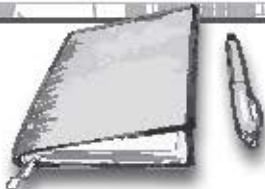
## Protesting for Change



**Extra Activities**  
**for**  
**Exploring the Book**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



## 8-10 WORDS ABOUT IDENTITY

What feelings, sights,  
sounds, or images pop  
into your head?

# *My Identity Poem*

Make up a short phrase or sentence for each of the words on your list.

*Other Words for Home* uses prose, a type of poetry, to tell Jude's story. Poems can communicate big, expansive, complex, and even contradictory emotions, and serve as a powerful form of self-expression. Today's activity gives you the chance to write your own poem about identity. First, quickly brainstorm a list of 8–10 words that pop into your head when you think about identity. Let your mind wander—what feelings, sights, sounds, and images pop into your head? After you've created your word list, let each word inspire a short phrase or sentence. Together, these phrases will form a poem! Don't worry about rhyming or making a perfect poem—just think about the idea of identity, and see where your self-expression takes you!

## **Poetic Expression**