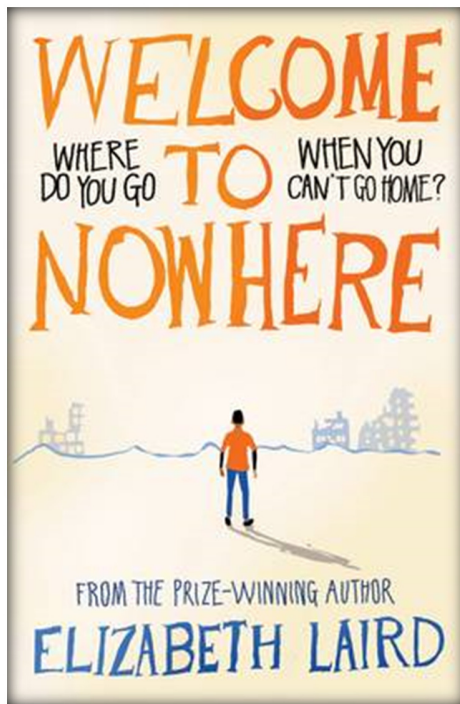


LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of **Welcome To Nowhere** by Elizabeth Laird

Below are the complete reviews, written by the LoveReading4kids members.



Jasmine Morris, age 12

*This book made me feel a range of emotions from disbelief to happiness and all in-between. The story line was touching and I could never put this book down! This book made me feel a wide range of emotions, from shock to happiness and all that comes in between. The storyline really made me realise what really is going on in this world, and I found it hard to put this book down! **I think this may be the best book I have ever read in my entire life, it takes you on a journey, one that is impossible to forget.***

Joshua, age 11

An engrossing tale that's not only action-packed, tense and thrilling, but fully explores the characters and the impact of war upon them.

This is a fantastic story about Omar, a 12 year old boy who lives in Syria. He has a large family, including an older and younger sister and a disabled brother. Omar has a really clear personality; he wants to grow up to be a businessman, although he's not very good in school. He has a job selling postcards to tourists, and has strategies for helping to sell them. But then the country goes to war, and everything changes. The characters feel so real that it is as if you are really there. The author weaves in everything that happens to each family member, from the Dad and his job with the government, as well as the effect on the older sister (who is very studious), his rebellious brother, and his little sister - as well as family dynamics with his mother and grandmother. It's very clever how all the characters interweave with their various problems,

but of course it's the setting that takes over, as bombs start to fall and Omar and his family have to move, and then finally leave the country. This felt real and relevant and compelling. I really wanted to keep reading after the final page, and see what happened to the characters afterwards - although the author's final note was really interesting in helping to understand this. A fantastic story, gripping and full of action but it also helps you understand a little bit of what it might be like there.

www.MinervaReads.com

Cally Evans, age 10

This book was absolutely brilliant and a real page turner. 12 year old Omar lives in the peaceful, beautiful old city of Bosra in the heart of Syria. Then it all change. Omar finds himself caught up in the dangerous world of politics and the start of the Syrian civil war. This book follows his difficult journey to reach a place of safety.

*I would recommend this book to children 10 and up because although it tells the story in a beautiful way it is a bit sad. The book is extremely well written and quite easy to read with lots of description which makes you feel like you are really there. **It taught me lots of things about what it is like to be a refugee and how they live.***

Annie Hyde, age 10 - Red Maid's Junior School

Great characters and exiting plot that deals with a really important political issue; an absolute must read. The story is based on a boy called Omar who lives in Syria. When a war breaks out his family must flee to survive. He has to stay with his family in many different places and move on constantly. At the end of the book they must move to Britain to get some emergency treatment for his baby sister Naida. It ends on a cliff - hanger, which is very powerful.

It had very interesting characters.

*It had lots of factual points but the author has kept it interesting for younger children, as well as the older people who may read it. **It was a real page-turner and I couldn't put it down.***

I would recommend it because the story is a very interesting prospect to write about and because we hear a lot about it on the news and it really feels like

something we connect to a lot in our lives. It also has very interesting characters because Omar's brother Musa has a disability and I think the author chose this character to show how badly people like Musa get treated in places where war and conflict are happening.

You can follow Red Maid's Junior School on Twitter: @redmaidsschool

Dulcie Johnson, age 13

A story about living in a war zone - but through the eyes of someone like me and my friends.

Very sad - but I'm glad I read it. I have been hearing about Syria but I didn't really understand it much - and then I read this book and read about Omar and his brothers in Syria and now I feel I understand more and more about what it like to just be a normal person there and to be in the middle of something really scary and out of your control. You have no other choice than to attempt to escape - it has made me understand the people behind the faces in the Calais "Jungle" and it's made me feel so sad. The story was great and I wanted to know what happened

Emily Kirby, age 12

This book is so good. I hate to admit it, but I originally didn't think it would very good, but I happily admit I absolutely loved it. 'Welcome to Nowhere' is a great way to tell privileged children like me and most children in Britain what it is like in Syria and how terrible it is. It is a very good book I highly recommend it. It is about an ordinary Syrian family and how normal their life was before the war and how you should always look out for family. Eventually they make it to a refugee camp, but before that they had to survive shelling and even a bullet to the arm. The book also explains how they have dreams as well, but they may not come true. They also get ill like everyone else especially in the cold. This book made me really appreciate how lucky I am to live in Britain and have all of the things you need and more!

Mariyya Khan, age 10

I just have one word to say about this book and it's AWESOME. It was probably the best book I have ever read. I think you would love it too. I bet once you read the book you will say WOW.

It is a great storyline. The person who wrote the book is amazing. I have never read a book this good and it actually makes me imagine that I am in the book. It's a sad book but there are happy parts too.

Miyah Smith, age 11

This book was very well written, it was so realistic and a little sad in places, but it was a really good read.

Bethany Urquhart

The book is a very good one. It gives you a good idea of what life would be like if you were a refugee from the war. It has a very clever plot and the story has lots of unexpected twists.

My favourite character is Fuad because he is a funny character and seems to not really know what is going on. I like the way it ends on a cliff-hanger and the way it doesn't just end on an '...and they all lived happily ever after' ending. My favourite part is when they are living on a farm. I think older readers would like it and that both boys and girls would enjoy the story. Overall I think it is a good book.

Jack Saddler, age 11

'Welcome to Nowhere' is a very moving story about Syrian refugees trying to escape the war. It was a very powerful story and everyone should read it - adult and children.

'Welcome to Nowhere' is a very moving story about Syrian refugees trying to escape all the death and destruction of the war going on there. In the story Omar and his family are constantly running into trouble everywhere they go and face many problems on their way to find peace. My favourite character is Musa who is Omar's brother. He has cerebral palsy and despite his own difficulties he shows great bravery, standing up for what he believes is right. I would recommend this book to people aged 10-100 as it raises awareness of the conflicts in Syria. I would rate it 10/10.

Amina Walid, age 10

It IS a bit scary in some parts but rounded up its FABTASTIC. That is

super good BTW. You should definitely read it!!

To me the title didn't sound very promising (no offence to Elizabeth Laird) but I absolutely loved it was very fascinating and I enjoyed reading it I am very glad I got this book to review. I wasn't so sure about reading it at first but then when I started reading it I really got into it. It was a difference type of book from what I'd usually read but that DOESN'T make it any less WONDERFUL!

Ella O'Gorman, age 11

Told from a child's perspective, 'Welcome To Nowhere' gives a fascinating insight into the terrible impact of the Syrian war on the lives of its ordinary citizens, turning so many into refugees.

In the first chapter of 'Welcome To Nowhere', we meet Omar and find out about his family. His older brother Musa has cerebral palsy. He also has an older sister called Eman and two other younger siblings. His father is a government official. They live in Bosra, a vibrant and historical town, but all too soon things start to change and there is growing unrest. The family move to Daraa for their father's work, where Musa gets more involved in political activism placing the whole family in danger. Soon there are demonstrations and many people are killed and then the bombings start. The family have to move again when their block is hit and they go to live on a relative's farm. Their lives are relatively normal but then the war intervenes again and they have to flee as refugees. Life is terrible in the refugee camp and we are given us an insight into the plight of the refugees, many of whom had to leave family behind, good jobs and homes to escape the war and now face an uncertain future. I really enjoyed this book and while it is very sad, it is also uplifting. I loved the Omar looked out for his siblings, especially Musa, as much as he could. I would definitely recommend it.

Romilly Dally-Fitzsimons, age 10

OMG, such a good book and an interesting story!!!!

To be honest it is not one I would have picked up myself, but it was such an interesting story. The book is about a boy called Omar and his family in Syria. His dad works of the government but with the war everything is going wrong for the family and they have to leave their home and live with their grandmother. Omar has an older brother called Musa who has cerebral palsy, Musa is really clever but he gets involved with the protesters fighting against the war. This was a brilliant book, it is not really about war, it's about a family

and it shows that family are the same all over the world. I would definitely recommend this book.