

ABOUT

the Authors



KAREN LYNN WILLIAMS has written several children's books, including *Galimoto* (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard), *Tap-Tap* (Clarion), and *Circles of Hope* (Eerdmans). Karen has lived in Haiti and Malawi but now lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Karen says, "I had experienced this same sharing of shoes in other cultures where children often do not own a pair of shoes or even sandals. I think the experience extends beyond refugee camps to poor children everywhere."

KHADRA MOHAMMED is the executive director of the Pittsburgh Refugee Center and has worked with refugees in the United States and abroad for more than twenty years.

"I chose to write this book because an 8-year-old refugee girl from Iraq asked me, 'Are there ever stories about children like us?' Refugee children have been forced out of their homes, schools, and countries. In working for many years with refugee children, I saw firsthand the impact of lost friendship and family members," says Khadra.

ABOUT

the Illustrator

DOUG CHAYKA has illustrated several children's books, including *Beekeepers* by Linda Oatman High and *Yanni Rubbish* by Shulamith Levey Oppenheim (both Boyds Mills). His work has appeared in various publications and has been honored by the Society of Illustrators. Doug lives in New York City.

FOUR FEET, TWO SANDALS

Written by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed
Illustrated by Doug Chayka

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0-8028-5296-0 ♦ \$17.00

12" x 9" ♦ 32 pages ♦ Ages 7-10

Full-color illustrations throughout

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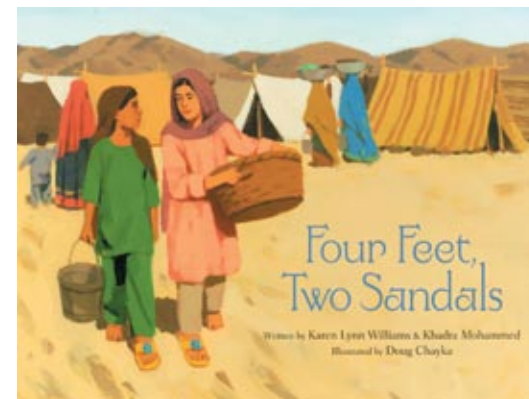
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Karen Lynn Williams and Khadra Mohammed

Illustrated by Doug Chayka



"This poignant story of loss, friendship, and sharing introduces readers to the realities of children growing up in refugee camps."

— *School Library Journal*

THEMATIC CONNECTIONS

- ♦ Middle Eastern culture
- ♦ Problem-solving
- ♦ Friendship
- ♦ Poverty
- ♦ Loss
- ♦ Sharing

Eerdmans Books for Young Readers
Discussion Guide

VOCABULARY

Look up the following terms in a reference book: shalwar-kameez; refugee; Ramadan; relief worker



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE READING THE BOOK

1. Study the picture on the cover of the book. Where do you think this story takes place? What do you think this story is about?
2. What does it mean to be a good friend? Think about a time when you acted like a good friend to someone else. What did you do?
3. Find the countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan on a map. What is the geography like in these two countries? Are there mountains or rivers? Describe the climate of these countries. Use a reference book, such as an encyclopedia, to help you.
4. Think of a time when someone shared something special with you. What was it? What do you have that you can share with others?



QUESTIONS TO REFLECT ON AFTER READING THE BOOK

1. The people living in the camp have to live without many things. From what you have learned from the story, describe what life is

like in a refugee camp. What types of things do you think you could live without if you had to leave your home?

2. Sharing does not always mean that we need to share an item or thing with another person. Lina and Feroza share their sandals. What else do they share? How does this affect their friendship?

3. People who flee their country and home because of fear of persecution are often called refugees. Yet, it is important to remember that such people are unique individuals with their own culture, history, and life story. Keeping this in mind, how might you make such a person feel welcomed in your community? What might you say? What might you do?

4. Lina and Feroza face many losses, loss of home and country and even family members. Think about one loss you have had in your life. How has it changed you? What can you do to help others who have lost something or someone important to them?

5. In the end of the book, Lina and Feroza are separated. Have you ever had to be separated from someone who is important to you? How did that feel? Do you think Lina and Feroza will see each other again? Do you think they have hope for the future? How does hope help someone dealing with a rough time?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write a short story about a time when you helped a friend or a friend helped you. What did you or your friend do? Did the experience change your friendship in any way? Share your story with a classmate.

2. Use library or online sources to research the customs and traditions of people who live in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Find out how people dress, what they eat, and what traditions they practice in these two countries. Record your information in a Venn Diagram. Make sure to complete the entire Venn Diagram, explaining both the similarities and differences between people in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

3. Who in your community could use your help? Identify a group in need. Organize a class effort to help these people. You might collect usable clothing, food, or other objects to donate, for example. Or hold a bake sale, yard sale, car wash, or some other event to raise money to make a donation.

4. Design your own pair of sandals. First, trace the outline of both your shoes onto a piece of construction paper. Then add color and details to your sandals. Cut them out individually. As a class, play a memory game with the sandals. Spread them out on the floor. Mix them up, and turn them face down. Then take turns trying to match them up again.