

Proposed Core Literature Titles

The following summary is provided by the California Department of Education's "Recommended Literature List", and the top three Google searches of the book title and author name (e.g. When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jameison) that produced a description of the title.

When Stars Are Scattered
Proposed Grade Level: 7



Title: When Stars Are Scattered
Author: Jamieson, Victoria
First Published: 2020

Proposed Grade Level: 7
Lexile Measurement: GN530

California Department of Education, Recommended Literature List:

[When Stars Are Scattered by Victoria Jamieson | Goodreads](#)

Heartbreak and hope exist together in this remarkable graphic novel about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a Somali refugee to the Newbery Honor-winning creator of Roller Girl.

Omar and his younger brother, Hassan, have spent most of their lives in Dadaab, a refugee camp in Kenya. Life is hard there: never enough food, achingly dull, and without access to the medical care Omar knows his nonverbal brother needs. So when Omar has the opportunity to go to school, he knows it might be a chance to change their future . . . but it would also mean leaving his brother, the only family member he has left, every day.

Heartbreak, hope, and gentle humor exist together in this graphic novel about a childhood spent waiting, and a young man who is able to create a sense of family and home in the most difficult of settings. It's an intimate, important, unforgettable look at the day-to-day life of a refugee, as told to New York Times Bestselling author/artist Victoria Jamieson by Omar Mohamed, the Somali man who lived the story.

[When Stars Are Scattered - Wikipedia](#)

When Stars Are Scattered is a nonfiction [young adult graphic novel](#) written by [Victoria Jamieson](#) and Omar Mohamed, illustrated by Victoria Jamieson and Iman Geddy, and published April 14, 2020, by [Dial Books](#). Alongside other honors, the book won the [Walter Dean Myers Award](#) for Young Readers and Bank Street Children's Book Committee's [Josette Frank Award](#)

When Stars Are Scattered follows co-author Mohamed and his younger brother, Hassan, who were born in [Somalia](#) and fled to a [refugee camp](#) in [Kenya](#) when they were toddlers. Although an older woman adopted the brothers, they never stopped searching for their mother. While at the camp, Mohamed was often forced

to choose between his own education and caring for Hassan, who was nonverbal and had seizures. Eventually, they were able to move to the United States.

When *Stars Are Scattered* was generally well-received, including starred reviews from [Booklist](#),^[3] [The Horn Book](#),^[4] [Kirkus Reviews](#),^[5] [Publishers Weekly](#),^[6] and [School Library Journal](#).^[7]

Writing for *School Library Journal*, Steven Engelfried said, "The writing is intriguing and easy to understand. The graphics are beautiful and really bring the characters to the page. Omar's story is important, relevant, and relatable."

Kirkus Reviews wrote, "This engaging, heartwarming story does everything one can ask of a book, and then some."

The audiobook, which has 12 narrators, received a starred review from Booklist, who said, the audiobook "offers listeners an experience of perfection in its storytelling, format shifting, and performance."

When *Stars Are Scattered* was named one of the best books of 2020 by the [Chicago Public Library](#), Kirkus Reviews¹ the [New York Public Library](#),¹ [The New York Times](#), NPR, Publishers Weekly, and *School Library Journal*.

[When Stars Are Scattered: Jamieson, Victoria, Mohamed, Omar, Jamieson, Victoria, Geddy, Iman: 9780525553915: Amazon.com: Books](#)

A National Book Award Finalist, this remarkable graphic novel is about growing up in a refugee camp, as told by a former Somali refugee to the Newbery Honor-winning creator of *Roller Girl*.

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