

"When I just came to America I used to cry in front of my classmates. I used to just put my head down and cry," admits Belize Munezero, 14. Belize is a refugee from Burundi, central Africa. After having escaped the civil war there, she resettled in Atlanta. She is now a new student at Lithonia High School. Belize fits the definition of "refugee" used by the US Committee for Refugees. She fled to a different country because of a fear of discrimination based on race, religion, nationality, social group, political opinion and armed conflict.

At the beginning of 2003, there were an estimated 10.3 million refugees worldwide according to the UNHCR (United Nations high Commissioner for Refugees). That means that there is a new refugee every 21 seconds, says Amnesty International, and the number is sharply rising. They come from different parts of the world, including Somalia, Bosnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Sudan. Many of these refugees are teenagers who attend schools such as Clarkston High School, where at least 52 countries are represented. Teen refugees must learn to adjust in the American schools while coping with the fresh memories of life in the refugee camp.

"I saw a lot of tents, misery and crying. It was muddy and very sad," says Shpresa Aliu, a 13- year-old Albanian refugee who is now a seventh-grade student. "There were like 300 people there, and more people were coming. There was only one store of food." Shpresa lived in the refugee camp for five months.

"I remember everything. I remember poor people with nothing and they didn't have any work. It was really hard because people were dying without food, and people were going back to their country in spite of the horrors there," says Fouad Saleh. He left his country, Iraq, when he was five and lived in a refugee camp in Syria for nine years before joining Clarkston High School in the United States.

"There is a feeling of hopelessness," explains Bryan Hudson, 16." We constantly have to deal with a situation where we have no choices." All teen refugees interviewed say no one leaves a refugee camp with the same attitudes they had come in with.

In refugee camps, the complete desperation provokes people to use creativity, stretching their imagination to bring relief to the gloomy atmosphere. "I remember some kids just playing. We tried to make things fun," recalls Shpresa. Belize has similar memories. "Every Saturday we would play drums. We hated what was going on in the country so we would try to make it happy."

I. COMPREHENSION (15pts)

BASE ALL YOUR ANSWERS ON THE TEXT

A. Are these sentences true or false? Justify (3pts)

- Belize felt happy when she first arrived in America.
.....
- Nowadays there are more refugees in the world than in 2003.
.....
- Shpresa and Fouad Saleh spent the same period of time in refugee camps.
.....

B. Answer these questions (3pts)

- How old was Fouad Saleh when he left his country.
.....
- How do refugees cope with the difficult situation in the camps?
.....

3. Why do you think Belize used to cry in front of her classmates?
.....
.....

C. Complete the following sentences (2pts)

1. The refugees' conditions of life in the Syrian refugee camp were so hard that
.....
.....
2. Clarkston High School is one of the American schools which many.....
.....

D. Find in the text words or phrases which mean the same as: (4pts)

1. inequity (par 1):
2. all over the world (par 2):
3. continuously (par 5):
4. the same (par 6):

E. What do the underlined words in the text refer to? (3pts)

1. there:
2. We:
3. it:

II. LANGUAGE (15pts)

A- Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words from the list (3pts).

1. Many European countries import raw.....from Africa.
a- goods b- materials c- services d- customs
2. Scientists have been warning against the hazardous.....of pollution for many years.
a- targets b- effects c- nerves d- needs
3. The government hopes that free.....will improve the economy of the country.
a- Target b- trade c- evidence d- party

B- Give the correct form of the words between brackets (3pts).

1. The two parties failed to reach an agreement because of their wide (ideology)..... differences.
2. The trip was exciting. However, the (long).....of the journey exhausted us all.
3. Girls in the countryside couldn't have benefited from education without the government's (assist).....

C- Rewrite the sentences beginning with the words given (3pts).

1. Najib didn't stay in the refugee camp because he didn't have a job there.
If.....
2. Houda didn't apologize to her father. That was a mistake, I think.
Houda should.....
3. Many employers are still recruiting children.
Children.....

D- Put the verbs between brackets in the correct tense (4pts)

Morocco authorities (to be).....interested in developing the tourist industry for many years. Last year 7.5 million tourists (to visit).....Morocco. Another 8 million (probably / to come).....next year. Government officials hope that by the year 2012 the number of tourists (to reach).....10 million.

E- Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words from the list (2pts).

who - whose - where - which - whom

The United Nations.....was established soon after the Second World War is an organization.....goals are to solve conflicts among nations and keep peace in the world.

