
HEVAL

Grade Level:

Elementary (K-5)
Middle School (6-8)
High School (9-12)

Heval tells the story of how his refugee family came to the United States, and what he learned along the way..

Resources: [Heval Kelli TEDx talk](#)

Useful teaching strategies that are aligned with the Common Core State Standards:

- Identify and define key vocabulary words: displacement, hopeless, rejection, refugee, compassion, migration, asylum.
- Have students do an activity called "Think-Pair-Share," where they work with a partner to discuss refugees in our society and how we might be able to help.

1. Prior to showing the video above, briefly explain the primary themes of the video. Use some or all of the following questions (include at least one writing prompt). Define hopelessness and rejection, inspiration and acceptance, and discuss how those feelings can affect someone.

- Create a [KWL chart](#) (a chart that highlights what they know, what they want to know, and what they learned).
- Discuss problems that can arise that may lead people to be forced from their homes and out of their countries.
- Discuss the benefits to individuals and community when refugees are accepted and empowered.
- Have students generate questions about what they want to learn and chart those questions in the W sections of the chart.

2. After watching the video, engage students in a dialogue about Heval's family and refugees in general using some or all of the following questions (include at least one writing prompt):

- When did Heval's family come to the US?
 - What was significant about that time, and how did it affect many Muslims?
- Where were they immediately before they came to the US?
 - Why did they leave there?
- What happened when Heval was on the plane to Atlanta?
 - Why was it remarkable?
 - How did it make Heval and his family feel?
 - Why was that so important?
- Where was Heval's family's home?
 - What was life like there for most of Heval's childhood?
- What incident happened that led to them leaving their home?

- What happened to Heval that day, and why?
- What was the ethnicity of Heval's family that made things hard in the Middle East?
- How did Heval's family escape?
- What was life like when they arrived in Germany?
 - How did Heval feel and why?
- Who made a big difference in Heval's life there?
 - What was he like before that person reached out?
- What does "asylum status" mean?
 - What did people on asylum status in Germany have to do to stay in the country?
 - How did asylum status affect Heval's education?
- When Heval had given up hope, who restored that hope?
 - What were those people doing in Germany?
 - What did Heval think of their efforts at first?
- How did Heval's family come to apply for immigration to the United States?
- What were the 3 words that gave them hope again?
 - How long did it take to reach that point?
 - What kind of work did it take?
- Who welcomed Heval and his family to the US?
 - What is so significant about this?
 - What else did the welcoming group do for them?
- Who helped Heval begin his college career?
 - How did they help?
 - Who else was involved?
- What are the differences between how the government treats refugees in Germany and the US?
 - What impact did these differences have on Heval's family?
- What did Heval have to do to support his family?
 - Why?
 - Where did he find work?
- Who reached out to Heval at this time that changed the course of his life again?
 - How were they connected?
 - What task was given to Heval, and how did he respond?
- What organization did Heval found with his mentor?
 - What does this organization do?
- How long did it take Heval to walk the one block between where he was when he first arrived in the US, and where he is now?
- Who does Heval thank for the great life he leads now?
 - What was given to him that was so important?
- Who does Heval say refugees are?
 - What do they have to potential to do?
- What is Heval's brother doing today?
 - What is his mom doing?
 - What does Heval do when he's not working as a cardiologist?
- Where does Heval volunteer?
 - What is special about that community?

- What does Heval ask us to see when we see refugees?

3. Complete the L section of the chart by indicating what was learned. Look back at the questions in the W section to see if those questions were answered or if more information is needed.

Extension Activities

- Organize a service project that advocates for refugees in the United States
 - Research the benefits that our society receives when accepting refugees.
 - What misconceptions are there about refugees?
 - How can we address them?
 - Example data: [Heritage Report Shows Refugees Are Not a Major Threat](#)
 - Compile a list of individual refugees like Heval and explain how they make our country a better place.
 - Example: Heval's organization [Young Physician's Initiative](#)
 - What can our country do to better support refugees?
 - How can your group bring this message to the public?
- Find organizations in your area that support refugees.
 - Organize a fundraiser for them.
 - See what sort of volunteer help they need and organize ways of providing it.

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