WORKSHEET 5/Yusra



International Day of Peace

The 2017 U.N. Peace Day Theme:

Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All

This theme is based on the TOGETHER global campaign that promotes respect, safety and dignity for everyone forced to flee their homes in search of a better life.

Read details about this campaign here.



The United Nations Department of Public Information has launched a new animated video on the dramatic story of Yusra Mardini, a young refugee from conflict-torn Syria who achieved her dream to compete in the 2016 Olympics.

Yusra Mardini, A Young Refugee, Finds Safety in Her New Home

My name is Yusra. I used to be just like you. I had many friends, I went to school, and I loved to go to the pool in my hometown in Syria. My coach said if I worked hard enough, I could make it into the Olympics one day. Then the war came, and everything changed. I couldn't swim, or meet with my friends as often as I wanted. My life was in danger.

I had to escape Syria. My parents finally agreed that my big sister Sara and I could travel to Turkey. It was hard to leave my family behind, but I had no choice. If we made it to Europe my parents and little sister would follow. We needed peace.

In Turkey, we boarded a boat to Greece. Then disaster happened. My sister and I jumped into the water, trying to pull the boat to shore. For more than three and a half hours we gave everything we had. We couldn't give up. Most of the people in the boat couldn't swim. They needed us. We all made it to Europe alive.

Suddenly I was a refugee. I had to rely on the kindness of others. Borders were closing across Europe. We didn't know where to go or what to do. We finally arrived in our new home Germany. I was safe. I wanted everything to be normal again. I wanted to swim. So, I started practicing again. My coach helped me achieve my dream to swim at the Olympics. I may not have won a gold medal but I won something far more important: my dignity. My name is Yusra, I am a refugee who found the strength to re-build my life with support from my new community. I am proud to stand for respect, safety and dignity for all people fleeing violence. Together we can help others.

Choose from the text the appropriate sentences and write them below the pictures. Then put in each square number indicating the progress of the story.

