



# Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press



**“A lyrical, playful book about immigration, respect,  
learning, and friendship across cultures.”**

— *Kirkus Reviews*

*The Day Saida Arrived*, by Susana Gómez Redondo  
Illustrated by Sonja Wimmer, Translated by Lawrence Schimel  
Published September 2020 | ISBN 9781733121255 | Ages 4–8



# Contents

Before Reading



During Reading



After Reading



## Before Reading

### *Discussion: Making connections to Immigration and Social Justice*

- What is *immigration*?
- What are the different reasons immigrants come to the United States?
- In what ways do immigrants affect U.S. society?
- In what ways is the United States a “nation of immigrants”?
- How does the immigrant experience relate to my own identity?
- What challenges do immigrants face in the United States?
- What factors might a person have to weigh when considering whether to immigrate to another country?
- What might it be like to be faced with this decision?
- What might be some of the greatest challenges and rewards for immigrants to a new country?
- What does it mean to be invisible?
- How do immigrants feel invisible?
- How is immigration looked at today?
- What are some of the stereotypes of immigrants?
- How do stereotypes influence how we look at and understand the world?
- Where do we learn about stereotypes?
- Are immigrants entitled to equal economic, political, and social rights and opportunities?
- What are our personal responsibilities to issues of social justice?
- How should Americans treat immigrants when they come to our country and live in our communities?
- What is *empathy*?
- How are people transformed through their relationships with others?
- How can literature serve as a vehicle for social change?



## Previewing the Book

As a group, discuss the front and back cover illustrations and text. Skim the detailed illustrations in the story and discuss. Identify and discuss the Arabic letters and words on the pages.

Ask students to make predictions about the story.

Read to find out what happens on the day that Saida arrives.

## During Reading

### Think About It

- How do the illustrations enhance meaning and tone?
- What impact do the words in color have on the story?
- Who are the two characters?
- Who is telling the story? (*point of view*)
- What are the traits, motivations, and feelings of Saida and the narrator?
- How do their actions contribute to the sequence of events?
- Where does the story take place? When? (*setting*)
- How does author Susana Gómez Redondo use figurative language?
- Distinguish the literal and nonliteral meanings of words and phrases as you read.
- Identify real-life connections between words and their use.
- What is the problem in the story?
- How is the problem solved?
- What are the changes from the beginning to the end of the story?
- What are the central messages and themes?
- What feelings does the book evoke as you read?
- What lessons can you take away from this book?



## After Reading

### *Discuss or Write About It*

- How does author Susana Gómez Redondo let the reader know that Saida is struggling in a new place?
- Explain how specific aspects of the text's illustrations contribute to what is conveyed by the words in a story.
- How do the illustrations create mood and emphasize aspects of the characters and the setting? Refer to a part of the story.
- What decisions did the characters have to make?
- What caused these decisions?
- What were the consequences of the behaviors of the characters?
- Describe how Saida and the narrator reveal their true selves in the story.
- How does the narrator show empathy?
- How does Saida show empathy?
- How does the power of language build bonds beyond borders in the book?
- What do the girls share?
- How do the characters deal with conflict and change?
- Can you relate to Saida or the narrator in the story?
- What personal qualities have helped you to deal with conflict and change?
- How can the book *The Day Saida Arrived* serve as a vehicle for social change?
- What lessons does it teach?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- Find parts of the story that reveal the themes of friendship, language barriers, immigration, power of language, and empathy.

IMMIGRATION

LANGUAGE  
BARRIERS

FRIENDSHIP

EMPATHY

POWER OF  
LANGUAGE

## Figurative Language

Author Susana Gómez Redondo uses many literary devices in *The Day Saida Arrived*. Read about the different types of figurative language and find examples of each from the book.

- A **simile** compares two things. Similes use the words *like* or *as*.
- **Symbolism** occurs when a word has its own meaning but is used to represent something entirely different. Things, characters, and actions can be symbols.
- **Allusion** is an indirect reference to a person, place, thing, or idea of historical, cultural, literary, or political significance.
- A **metaphor** is a figure of speech that makes an implicit, implied, or hidden comparison between two things that are unrelated but that share some common characteristics.
- **Imagery** means to use figurative language to represent objects, actions, and ideas in such a way that it appeals to our physical senses.
- An **idiom** is a phrase that is understood to mean something different from what individual words of the phrase would imply.



*Compare and Contrast*

Compare and contrast Saida and the narrator. How are they alike and different?

SAIDA	NARRATOR

BOTH





### *Making “Text to Self” Connections*

Author Susana Gómez Redondo uses the power of language and words throughout the book. Think of your own words that fit the following and share with the group:

WORDS THAT ...	ARE ...
Are warm as breath	
Are cold as metal	
Bring together	
Separate	
Awaken laughter	
Tickle when they are spoken	
Feel like a hug	

### *Making “Text to World” Connections*

Why is border an unwelcome word? Find a current event article from world news that explains this idea.

What role does the media play in shaping the public’s opinion on immigration?

Research Morocco, Africa. Create a tourist guide for the country.

Create a welcome packet for students coming to your school from another country.



**Blue Dot Kids Press** inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

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