

## Y7 MODERN NOVEL: THE BONE SPARROW – KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

### Key Characters

**Subhi** – a 10-year-old boy who was born in a refugee camp in Australia; his family are Rohingya Muslims from Burma (Myanmar)

**Maá** – his mother; she suffers from PTSD

**Queeny** – Subhi's older sister; she protects him, and tries to get a message to the world about conditions in the camp

**Ba** – Subhi's father; Subhi, has never met his father, who is a poet and storyteller

**Eli** – Subhi's best friend; an older boy who also lives in the camp. Eli looks out for Subhi, his 'little bruda'

**Harvey** – one of the 'Jackets' (camp guards); Harvey is kind

**Jimmie** – a girl who lives in the town outside the camp. Her mum died a few years ago.

**Beaver** – another of the camp guards, he is bitter and cruel towards the residents of the camp. He lost an eye in a disturbance and seems to hold this against all residents

**Jimmie's dad** – following the death of Jimmie's mum, Jimmie's dad sometimes struggles to look after himself and the family, but he loves his children

**Jonah** – Jimmie's older brother is fun and protective of Jimmie. He steps in to help look after her and bring her up, although he is not always around so Jimmie spends time alone

**Oto** – a character from Jimmie's mum's stories, he lives in a small village which becomes occupied by soldiers. He is the original owner of the Bone Sparrow necklace

**Anka** – another character from the stories; she is born from an egg and found in a well, and eventually falls in love with Oto. Anka is unable to see and has a lovely singing voice

**Mirka** – an older woman who lives in Oto's village; she organised the villagers into rescuing Anka from the well

**Guntis** – an older man in the village; he isn't as kind as Mirka

**Iliya** – Mirka's grandson is a healer, and he helps Oto escape when the soldiers arrive at the village

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### Key words

- **Refugee** – a person who has been forced to leave their home because of war, persecution, or natural disaster
- **Parallel narrative** – a story structure in which a writer includes two or more narratives linked by a character, event or theme
- **Imagery** – description which creates a picture in the mind of a reader by comparing something to something else
- **Multisensory description**- Use of the senses, such as sight, sound, taste, smell and touch, to describe something (usually setting).
- **Dual perspective**- Two different uses of narrative voice (1<sup>st</sup> person for Subhi's sections, 3<sup>rd</sup> for Jimmie)

### Key concepts

- **Human Rights** – rights and freedoms that every person should be able to enjoy regardless of situation or background
- **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** – a 1948 document setting out fundamental human rights to be universally protected
- **Burma/Myanmar** – South East Asian country bordering India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand
- **Rohingya** – a group of people, predominantly Muslim, who faced persecution in their home country of Burma/Myanmar

### Novel overview

- **Subhi**, a boy is born in a **refugee camp** in **Australia**. His family are **Rohingya Muslims** from **Burma (Myanmar)**
- Subhi lives in a **tent** with many other refugees, including his mother, and his sister, **Queeny**; his friend **Eli** lives in another of the tents.
- He makes up stories about **Night Sea** and the **Shakespeare duck**. He has a vivid **imagination**.
- He has the support of one of the **Jackets** (camp guards), **Harvey**, but has to look out for **Beaver**, who is particularly mean.
- He dreams about one day talking to his **Ba (father)**, who he has never met.
- One night he meets **Jimmie**—an Australian girl who appears on the other side of the wire fence.
- She carries a **notebook** that she's unable to read and wearing a **sparrow** made of **bone** around her neck - both from her **mother** who has died.
- Jimmie strikes up a **friendship** with Subhi beyond the fence.
- He **reads** aloud the tale of how Jimmie's family came to be- the story of **Oto** and **Anka**.
- **Conditions** at the camp become worse and worse and the refugees start to **protest**
- When Jimmie doesn't show up one day, Subhi must be **braver** than he's ever been to try and help her.
- Back at the camp, there's a **fire** and his friend Eli is in **danger**.