

Refugee Vocabulary List 1

1. sheer- complete and without restriction

*Ruth woke up and screamed. Screamed in **sheer** blind terror.*

2. cower- crouch or curl up

*They **cowered** together on the floor as the shadows picked up Ruth's bed and threw it against the wall.*

3. bureau- furniture with drawers for keeping clothes

*The shadows tore down pictures, pulled drawers from their **bureaus**, and flung clothing everywhere.*

4. dismissive- showing indifference or disregard

*The Brownshirt scowled at the noise and gave the men carrying Aaron Landau a **dismissive** wave.*

5. calico- having patches colored differently and usually brightly

*It took only two tries to get the scrawny **calico** kitten to come out from under the pink cinderblock house and eat from Isabel Fernandez's hand.*

6. refinery- an industrial plant for purifying a crude substance

*With no one to overpay for it, the cane fields dried up, the sugar **refineries** closed, and people lost their jobs.*

7. promenade -a public area set aside as a pedestrian walk

*She stood on the wide **promenade**, where it seemed all of Havana was on display.*

8. intently- with strained or eager attention

*She listened now, **intently**, trying to hear the heartbeat of Cuba in her own music.*

9. artillery- large but transportable armament

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*Mahmoud and Waleed could disappear among the heaps of twisted metal and broken cement, and there were no walls to fall on them if an **artillery** shell went whizzing overhead.*

10. revolution- the overthrow of a government by those who are governed

*Nobody knew a wave of **revolutions** would sweep through the Middle East, toppling governments and overthrowing dictators and starting civil wars.*

11. proverb- a condensed but memorable saying embodying an important fact

*There was an old Arabic **proverb** that said, "Close the door that brings the wind and relax," and that's exactly what they did; while the rest of the Middle East was rioting, Syrians stayed inside and locked their doors and waited to see what would happen.*

12. bristle- react in an offended or angry manner

*Mahmoud had **bristled**. The differences between Sunnis and Shiites was an excuse. These boys had just wanted to beat someone up.*

13. indignation- a feeling of righteous anger

*Mahmoud watched as these two boys attacked the boy with the bread, a boy he didn't even know. He felt the stirrings of **indignation**, of anger, of sympathy.*

14. porter- a person employed to carry luggage and supplies

*No **porters** rushed to help them with their bags.*

15. talisman- a trinket thought to be a magical protection against evil

*The bright yellow Star of David armbands the Landaus wore were like magical **talismans** that made them disappear.*

16. refugee- an exile who flees for safety

*By now, May of 1939, most countries had stopped admitting Jewish **refugees**, or had lots of official applications you had to fill out and file and pay for before they would let you in.*