

## Refugee List 3

1. welt

a raised mark on the skin

*When they pulled his white linen shirt off him, his back was covered with **welts**.*

2. languish

become feeble

*If Cuban refugees were caught at sea with “wet feet,” they were sent to the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, at the southern end of Cuba. From there, they could choose to return to Cuba—and Castro—or **languish** in a refugee camp while the United States decided what to do with them.*

3. evade

escape, either physically or mentally

*But if they managed to survive the trip across the Straits of Florida and **evade** the US Coast Guard and actually set foot on United States soil—be caught with “dry feet”—they were granted special refugee status and allowed to remain and become US citizens.*

4. scoff

laugh at with contempt and derision

*Papi **scoffed**. “It wasn’t US agents. It was hungry Cubans.”*

5. ramble

continue talking or writing in a purposeless manner

*Castro **rambled** on without a script, quoting novels and telling personal anecdotes about the Revolution.*

6. anecdote

short account of an incident

Castro rambled on without a script, quoting novels and telling personal **anecdotes** about the Revolution.

7. instigate

provoke or stir up

*“We cannot continue guarding the borders of the United States while they send their CIA to **instigate** riots in Havana. That is when incidents like this occur, and the world calls the Cuban government cruel and inhumane. And so, until there is a speedy and efficient solution, we are suspending all obstacles so that those who wish to leave Cuba may do so legally, once and for all. We will not stand in their way.”*

8. fugitive

someone who is sought by law officers

*Señor Castillo paused his hammering for a moment, then shook his head. “There’s no room. And we don’t need a **fugitive** on board.”*

9. tarnish

make or become dirty or spotty

*She held out the trumpet. Isabel regretted that its brass was a little **tarnished**, but it was the most valuable thing she owned.*

10. strew

spread by scattering

*Rubble was **strewn** everywhere. Missiles and bombs thudded nearby, close enough to shake loose parts of walls.*

11. jolt

an abrupt spasmodic movement

*With a **jolt** of surprise, Mahmoud realized this kind of thing did happen every day. Just not to them. Until now.*

12. sheepish

showing a sense of shame

*Mahmoud's dad looked **sheepish**. "It doesn't have to be a snowman."*

13. [hysterical](#)

marked by excessive or uncontrollable emotion

*He bopped his nose hard enough to jerk awake, and Ruthie laughed **hysterically**.*

14. [wane](#)

decrease in phase

*It was night, and a **waning** moon peeked out from behind scattered clouds.*

15. [heft](#)

lift or elevate

*Isabel **hefted** the boat to get a better grip and tried to pick up her pace.*

16. [pallet](#)

a portable platform for storing or moving goods

*A rickety-looking raft made out of wooden shipping **pallets** and inner tubes raised a bedsheet sail, and as it caught the wind, the villagers on the beach cheered.*