

Name:

Day One

Iraqi Children and the War

Part 1: Silent read

→ What was life like for Iraqi children during the war? Read silently.

In the Iraq War, many children were innocent victims. They huddled in their houses as the bombs fell. They dealt with new levels of violence and uncertainty, even after the fighting stopped.

Life changes in countless ways in wartime. Parents who usually provide comfort and stability are suddenly frightened and confused. Because war stops the flow of goods, all kinds of food and household items become scarce. During the Iraq War, many people also lost electricity and water.

War also disrupts health care. As the war dragged on, hospitals closed, and many doctors left the country. Without doctors and basic medical supplies, when infants and children became sick, nobody could help them.

Violence was an everyday concern for Iraqi civilians. Insurgents clashed with U.S. troops in the streets. Theft, kidnappings, and murder were common. About four million Iraqis left the country and became refugees.

Laith was a young Iraqi refugee. His story was included in the book, *Children of War*. Laith was 11 and had recently moved with his family from Iraq to nearby Jordan.

Laith's family fled Iraq after he witnessed a young neighbor being kidnapped in broad daylight. Life was hard in Jordan. In Iraq, Laith's parents had good jobs, but in Jordan, they had to beg for food. Iraqi refugees were often beaten and insulted. "I don't like any of my life here in Jordan, except for being away from the killing," Laith said. "I want to go home."

Source: D. Ellis (2009), *Children of War*. Toronto: Groundwood Books.



Day One

// one minute

Iraqi Children and the War

Part 2: First timed read

WPM _____

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Laith’s family fled Iraq after he witnessed a young neighbor being kidnapped in broad daylight. Life was hard in Jordan. In Iraq, Laith’s parents had good jobs, but in Jordan, they had to beg for food. Iraqi refugees were often beaten and insulted. “I don’t like any of my life here in Jordan, except for being away from the killing,” Laith said. “I want to go home.”	189 205 222 240 242
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Part 3: Comprehension and discussion

How did the Iraq War affect Iraqi children?

Why did Laith’s family decide to leave Iraq and move to Jordan?

Day One

Iraqi Children and the War

Part 4: Phrase-cued reading

- Read the passage **out loud** in phrases to your partner.
- Pause at each / mark for a phrase.
- Also pause at each // mark that shows the end of a sentence.

In the Iraq War, / many children were innocent victims. // They huddled in their houses / as the bombs fell. // They dealt with new levels of violence and uncertainty, / even after the fighting stopped. //

Life changes in countless ways in wartime. // Parents who usually provide comfort and stability / are suddenly frightened and confused. // Because war stops the flow of goods, / all kinds of food / and household items become scarce. // During the Iraq War, / many families also lost electricity and water. //

War also disrupts health care. // As the war dragged on, / hospitals closed, / and many doctors left the country. // Without doctors and basic medical supplies, / when infants and children became sick, / nobody could help them. //

Violence was an everyday concern / for Iraqi civilians. // Insurgents clashed with U.S. troops in the streets. // Theft, / kidnappings, / and murder were common. // About four million Iraqis left the country / and became refugees. //

Laith was a young Iraqi refugee. // His story was included in the book, / *Children of War*. // Laith was 11 / and had recently moved with his family / from Iraq to nearby Jordan. //

Laith's family fled Iraq / after he witnessed a young neighbor kidnapped in broad daylight. // Life was hard in Jordan. // In Iraq, / Laith's parents had good jobs, / but in Jordan, / they had to beg for food. // Iraqi refugees were often beaten / and insulted. // "I don't like any of my life here in Jordan, / except for being away from the killing," / Laith said. // "I want to go home." //

I read the passage in phrases out loud to my partner.