

# Nour's Secret Library

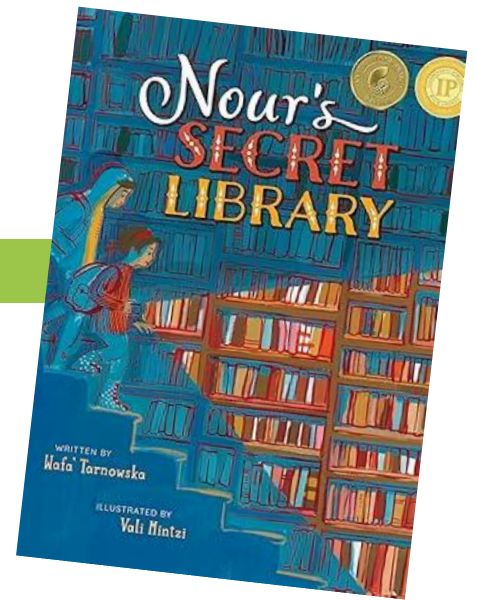
## READ ALOUD GUIDE

Themes: [Oppression & Resiliency](#), [Imagination](#), [Dreams](#)

**Book Brief:** When their Syrian city is plagued with bombings, young Nour and her cousin Amir create a secret underground library, finding hope and escape for the people in their community within its walls. Based on the author's life and inspired by true events, Nour's Secret Library reveals the power of books to heal, transport, and create safe havens in difficult times.

**Author:**  
Wafa' Tarnowska

**Illustrator:**  
Vali Mintzi



## BEFORE READING

**The Cover:** Ask students to make a prediction about the story based on the cover.

**The Pictures:** Take a brief picture walk and ask students what they notice.

**Prior Knowledge:** Ask, "Have you ever wanted to make a "secret society"? Why? For what purpose?"

**Vocabulary:** Frontload Tier 2 words using the accompanying [Vocabulary Guide](#).

**Purpose for Reading:** "As we read, think about how Nour and Amir's original idea changed, and what caused that change."

## DURING READING

Check for understanding & make connections:

- Why did the living and safety situation in Damascus change for Nour & Amir?
- How did Nour & Amir and their friends collect the books for their library idea?
- How did the original "secret society" evolve into a community library?

## AFTER READING

**Our Purpose:** How did Nour and Amir's original idea change, and what caused that change?

**Extending Our Thinking:** Flip that Flop! Using a blank flip flop template off the internet, have students write and illustrate about a time they had an idea for something small (the flop) and how they changed that into something larger, perhaps more inclusive. (the flip). Encourage students to share what they are comfortable with.

If your students enjoyed this book...

- Encourage them to continue to discuss it and refer to it in other lessons and conversations.
- Let them explore more about the topic by reading other books with similar themes, structure, characters, or content.