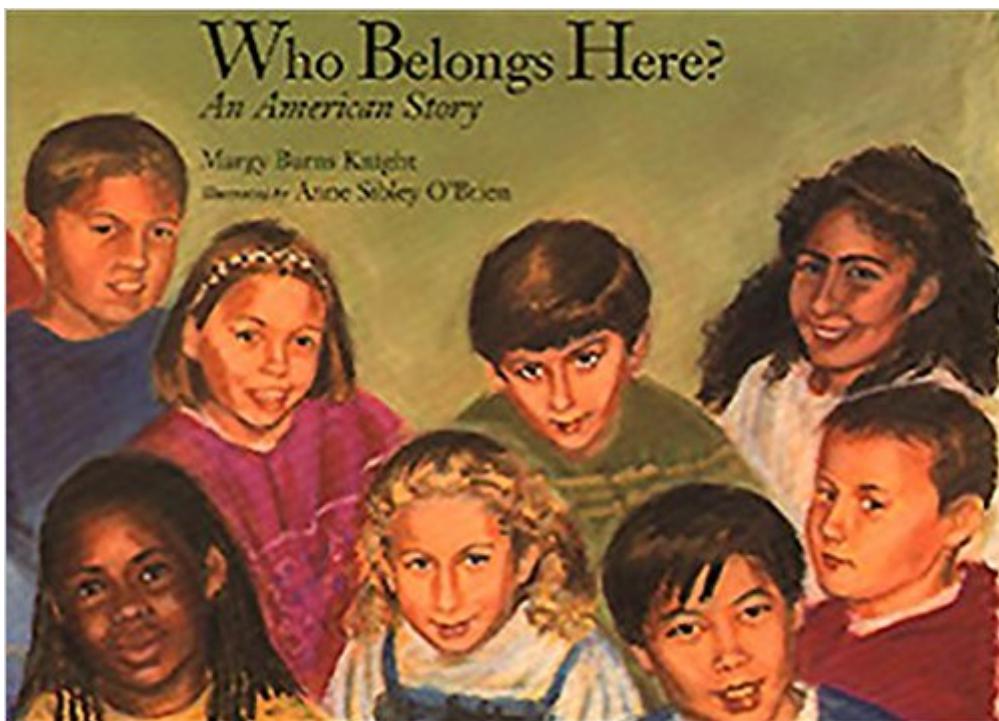


The book was found

# Who Belongs Here?: An American Story (2)



## **Synopsis**

120,000 copies sold! Who Belongs Here? tells the story of a boy who, having been forced to flee his war-torn country, struggles to be accepted by his new classmates in the U.S. Some kids think he should go back where he belongs, but what if everyone whose family came from another place was forced to return to his or her homeland? Who would be left? Long an anchor text for school units on immigration and tolerance, Who Belongs Here? is now renewed in look and content. Teaching compassion for recent immigrants while sharing the important contributions made by immigrants of the past, this story is more relevant now than ever. In this probing, plain-spoken book, based on a true story, Margy Burns Knight and Anne Sibley O'Brien, author and illustrator of the acclaimed "Talking Walls," invite young readers to explore the human implications of intolerance. Anecdotes relating the experiences of other refugees and their contributions to American culture play counterpoint to Nary's tale, all enlivened by O'Brien's full-color pastels. A compendium at the end of the book offers more detailed information about Pol, Pot, Ellis Island, and other topics in this text. Who Belongs Here? will lead to discussions about The effects of war on children and families, Refugees and relocation processes in the U.S., Cambodian culture, U.S. History and attitudes towards immigration, Bullying and intolerance, Conflict-resolution skills, Color throughout.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1010 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Tilbury House Publishers; 2 edition (May 22, 2018)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0884486397

ISBN-13: 978-0884486398

Shipping Weight: 1.7 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.2 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #898,945 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #92 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Emigrants & Immigrants #851 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Bullies #3689 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Emotions & Feelings

Age Range: 8 - 13 years

Grade Level: 2 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Following their well-received Talking Walls , Knight and O'Brien again team up for an affectionate if didactic exploration of connections among people world-wide. This time the message is filtered through the experience of Nary, a Cambodian refugee who immigrates to the U.S. with his grandmother after the death of both parents. Hostility toward immigrants and the impetus to work for change are explored. The central question, "What if everyone . . . whose ancestors came from another country was forced to return to his or her homeland? . . . Who would be left?" signals the book's design as a vehicle for discussion. The text itself pairs Nary's story with italicized information on immigration to the U.S. This strategy is only intermittently effective; younger readers may not be capable of making the conceptual jumps both Knight and O'Brien require, while older readers may chafe at the picture-book format. These limitations notwithstanding, the volume provides strong starting points for ongoing explorations of multicultural themes. Ages 7-13. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 3-5-Drawing on her experience as an ESL teacher, Knight introduces the fictional character Nary, a 10-year-old boy from Cambodia. Accompanying his story of leaving his homeland and settling in this country is a parallel text, set in italics, that expands some of the ideas presented. Sometimes it provides background information on U.S. immigration or history; at other times it serves to stimulate discussion, particularly on such topics as intolerance and prejudice. Notes in the back give additional material on individuals (Pol Pot, Dith Pran, Dolores Huerta) and concepts introduced earlier. Three-quarters of each double-page spread is covered with brightly colored, impressionistic pastel illustrations. Unfortunately, the texts do not blend well. Nary's story is choppy; the italicized portions are often superficial and not always relevant. For information strictly on Cambodian immigrants, consult Nancy Graff's Where the River Runs (Little, 1993).Diane S. Marton, Arlington County Library, VACopyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Product received as advertised would do business with seller again, Thanks

This book would work as a great discussion stimulator with older elementary school children. The fictional story of Nary, a young Cambodian refugee, is mixed with facts about immigration, citizenship, and other cultures. Young students may not be able to make the jump required to connect the story with the facts with the illustrations, but older students should not have a problem

with this. The overall effect, though, is of disconnectedness. This won't be a book read for its story, though the story is an important one with themes teachers may want to use in their classrooms like immigration, multiculturalism, racism, tolerance, and refugees.

Nary, a young refugee from Cambodia, is the subject of the book *Who Belongs Here?* Through narrative and illustrations, the story of Nary's escape from the Khmer Rouge and his resettlement, first in a Thai refugee camp and later in New York City, is told. Accompanying each part of the story is a running commentary on both how and why people immigrate to the United States. This story deals sensitively with the difficulties Nary faces and with the joy he experiences upon being accepted in his new community. This book would work well for young children, who might focus on Nary's story, and with older children, who may use Nary's experience as a way to study immigration history and the process of immigration.

*Who Belongs Here* is not as well known as Knight's other books probably because it is of controversial nature. But books such as this gem are perhaps the most important in our culture today. While the concepts in the book may go over the heads of younger children, an introduction to taboo topics at an early age will prepare them to face realities as they grow. This, of course, depends on personal opinions about immigration and racism issues and how they should be addressed, but the story in this book can be used even through the high school years to allow students to look at the situation from an angle of a foreigner. We, as citizens of a conglomerate country, should thank Knight for bringing such a story to light.

This 20+ yr old book is out of date and out of touch. It is irresponsible to use children to perpetuate bias. This is a narrowly focused book that is less than subtle about its messages.

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