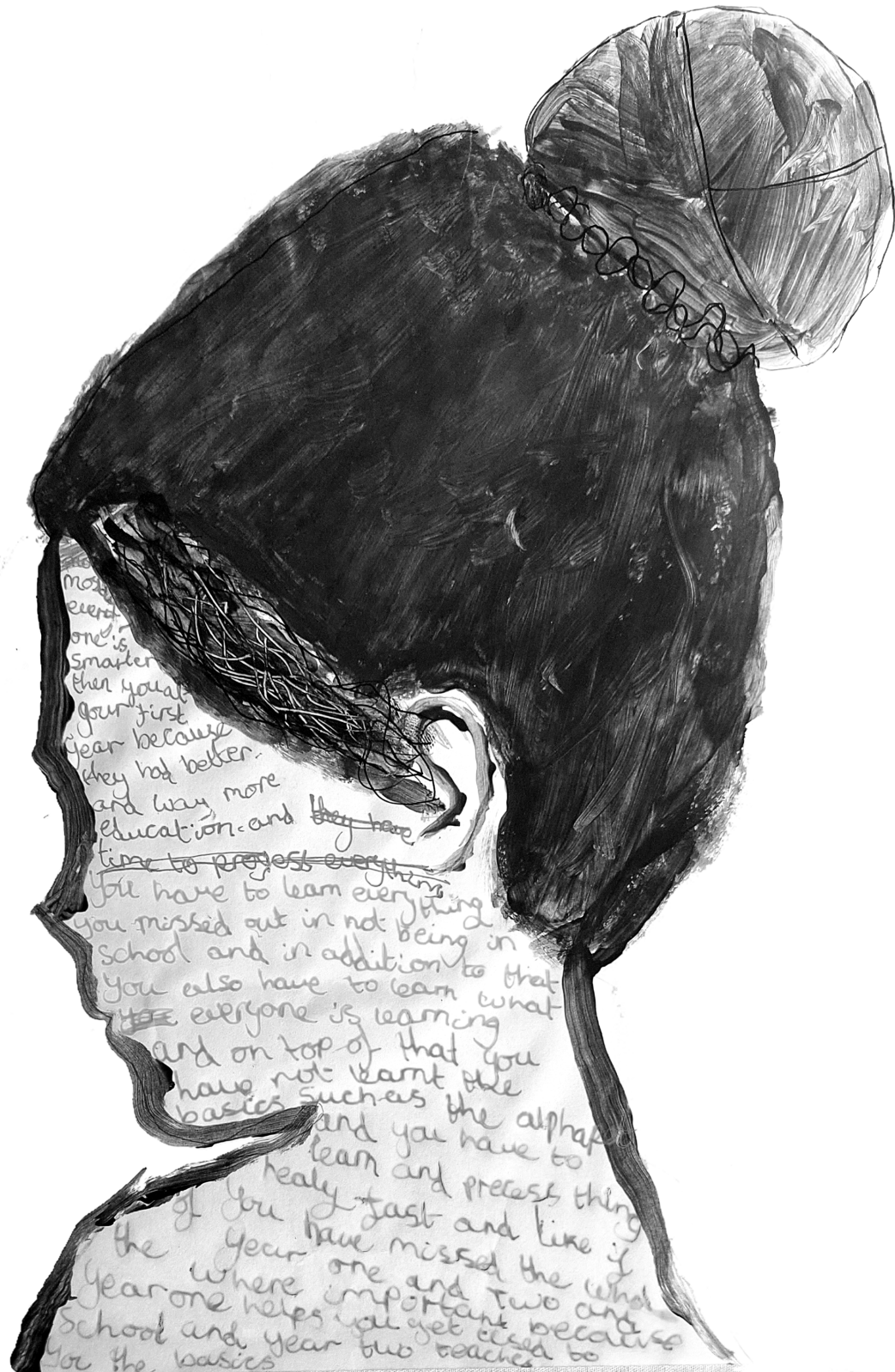


Refugee Stories

Education : Obstacles and Aspirations



Refugee Stories : Education : Obstacles and Aspirations draws on findings from a doctoral research on young refugees' educational experiences in England. The study investigated how young refugee people and their families have encountered the education system while considering the implications of living as refugees in this country.

A desire to communicate research with audiences beyond academia led to the creation of this comic. As an art project, *Refugee Stories* combines critical ethnographic research with art to make refugees' experiences more visual and accessible to the relevant stakeholders and anyone interested in refugees' experiences.

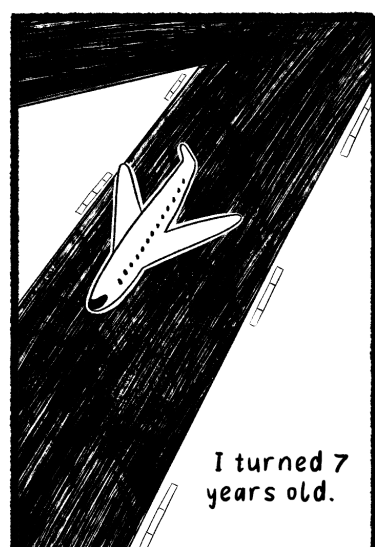
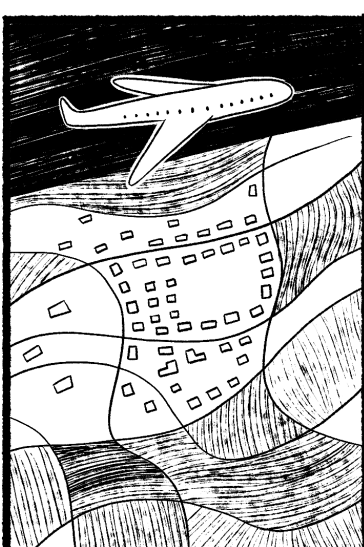
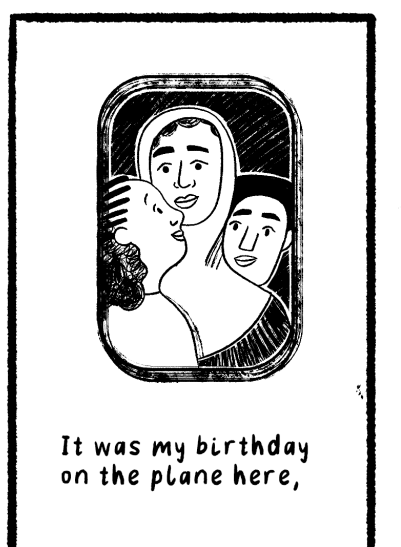
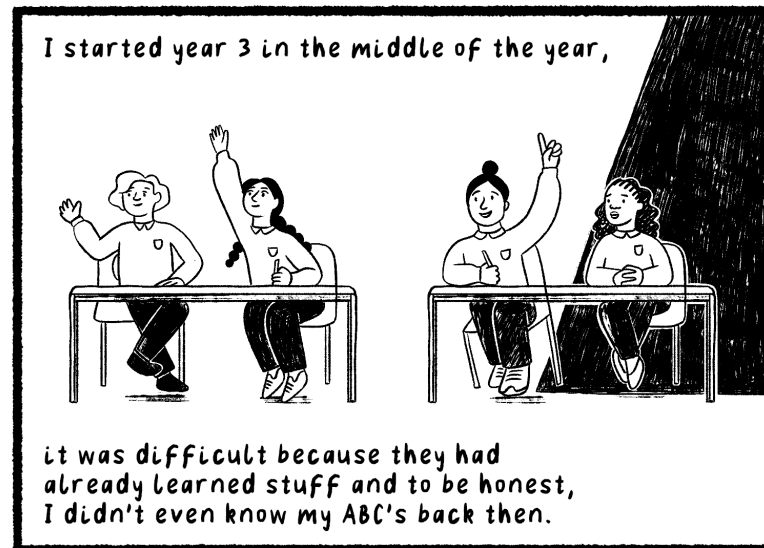
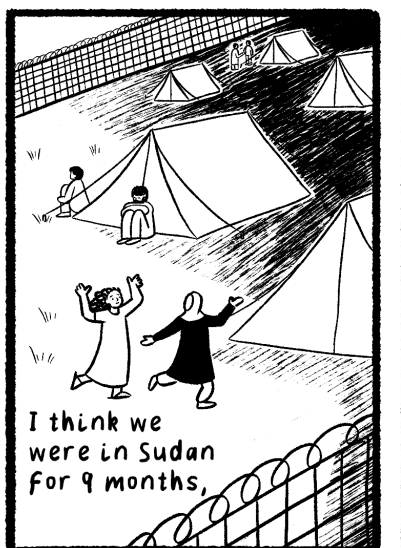
Refugee Stories was sponsored by the University of Bristol's Temple Quarter Engagement Fund.

- Jáfia Naftali Câmara

Doctoral Researcher
School of Education
University of Bristol

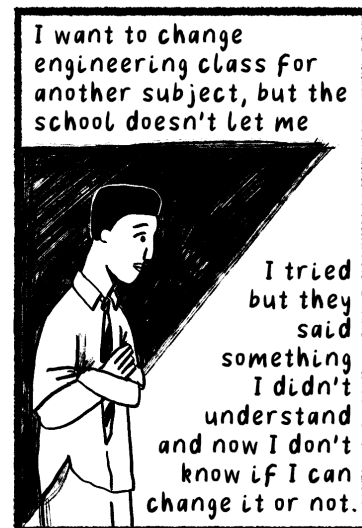
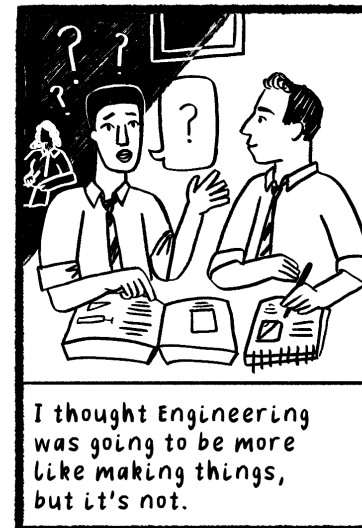
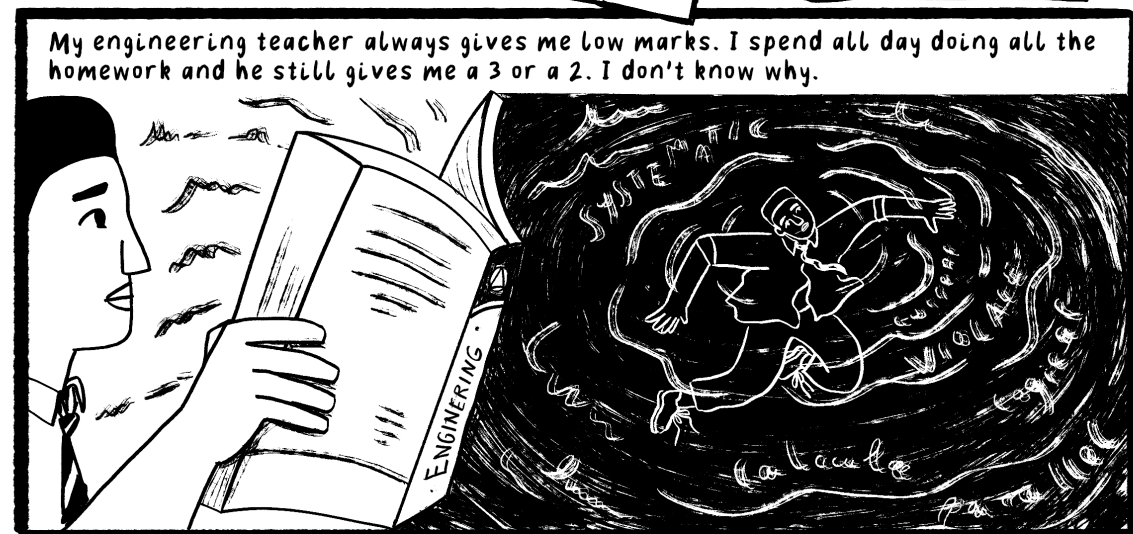
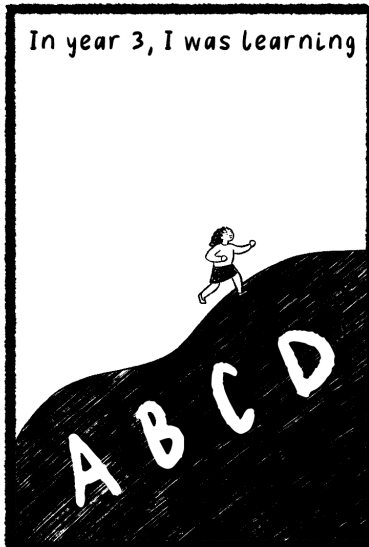
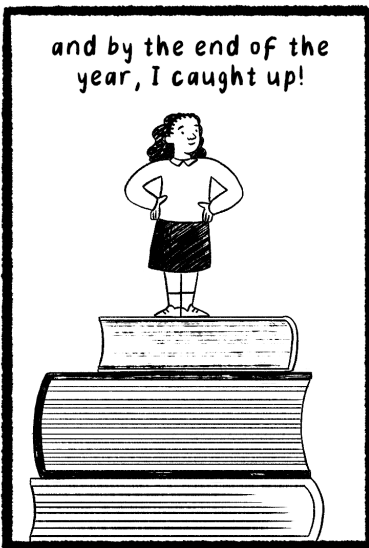
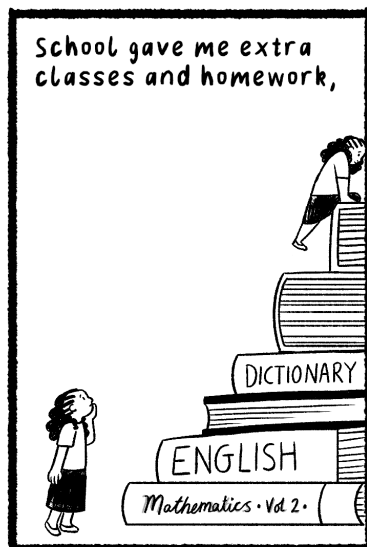


These drawings are made by the young people involved in the research project. Temesghen and Olivia Sarah





No one spoke to me in Arabic after I left Sudan so I lost it.
I wish I could keep speaking it.



As refugees, we have little money.

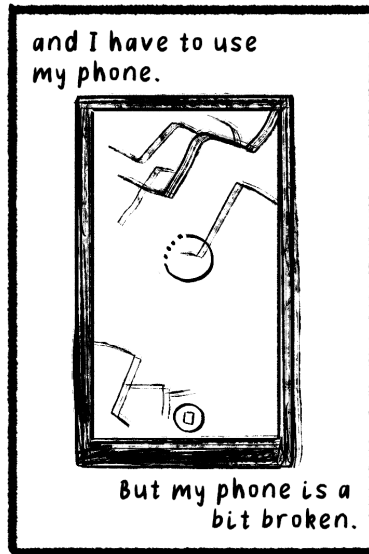


So I don't have a laptop, and my phone is a little old.

During lockdown it was difficult because everything is online, the internet is slow



and I have to use my phone.



But my phone is a bit broken.

In history we only study about Europe. I hope we can study about other countries like Iraq and everything that happened there

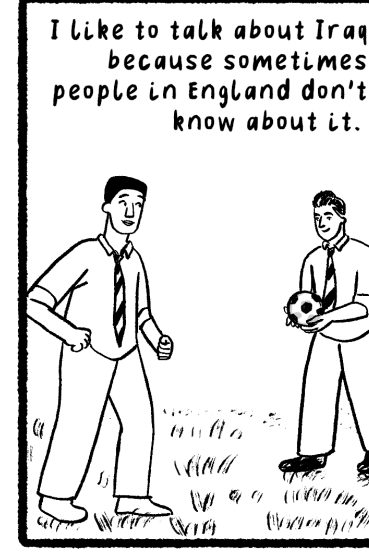


Muhammad

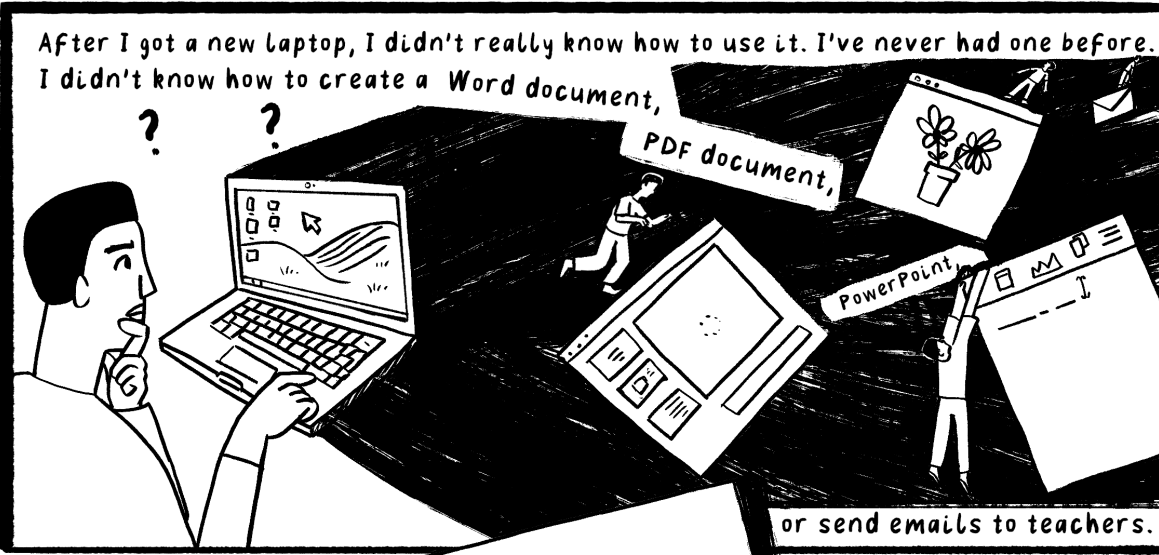
Iraq is my country. I like to be here, but I miss Iraq.



I like to talk about Iraq because sometimes people in England don't know about it.



After I got a new laptop, I didn't really know how to use it. I've never had one before. I didn't know how to create a Word document, PDF document, PowerPoint, or send emails to teachers.



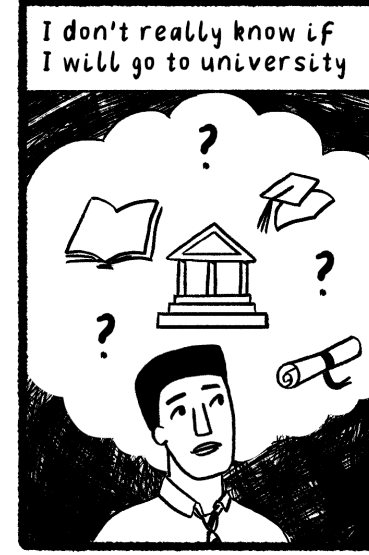
I don't know what I am going to be in the future.



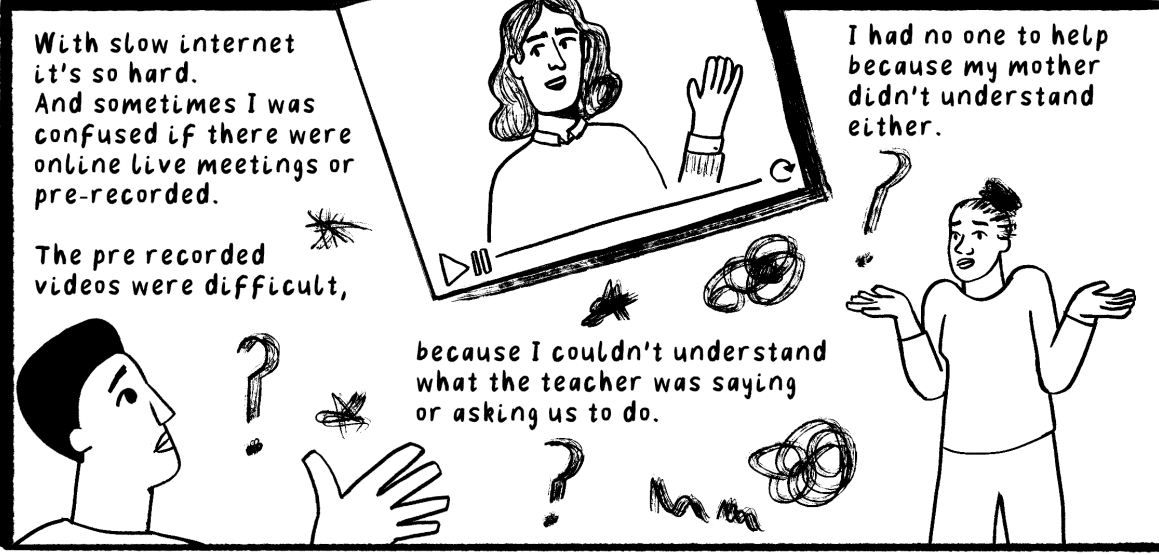
A football player would be nice but it's never going to happen.



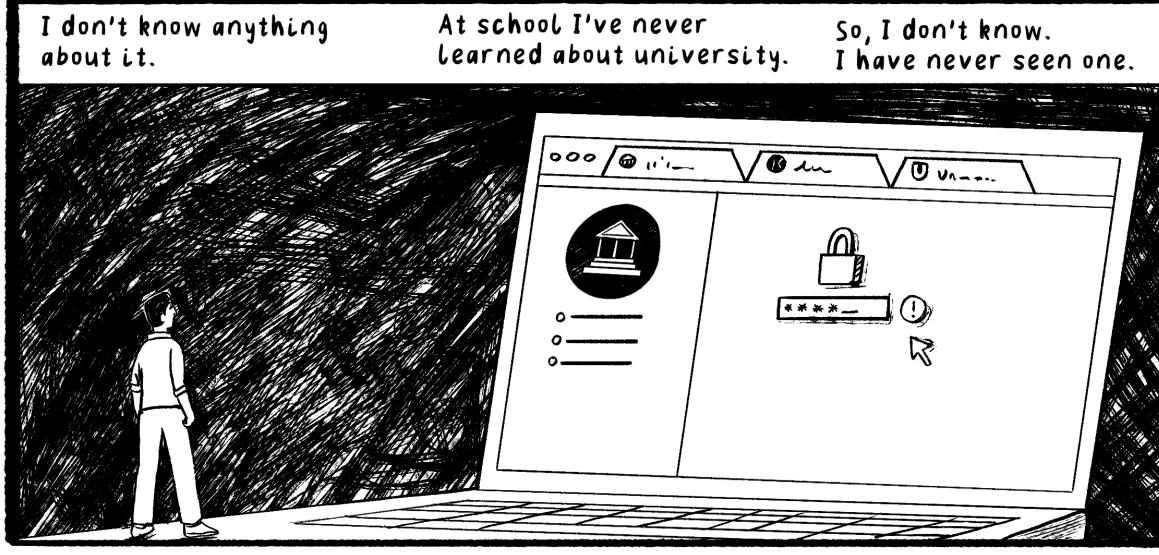
I don't really know if I will go to university



With slow internet it's so hard. And sometimes I was confused if there were online live meetings or pre-recorded. The pre recorded videos were difficult, because I couldn't understand what the teacher was saying or asking us to do.



I don't know anything about it. At school I've never learned about university. So, I don't know. I have never seen one.





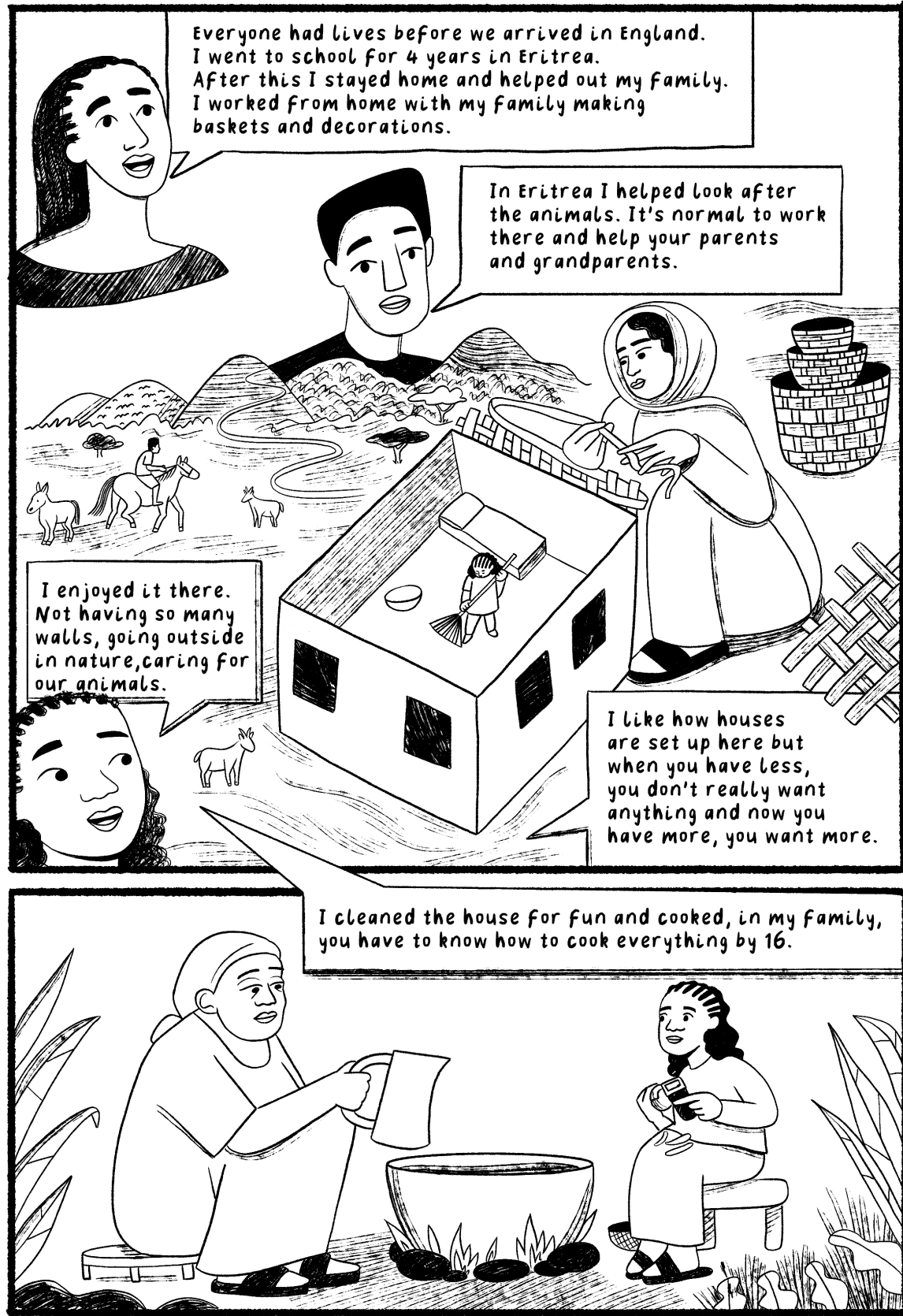
My son has many troubles with online lessons. He has so much homework and spends all day looking at the laptop or cell phone.

I sometimes help him by writing down homework from the computer to his notebooks.

Hello!

Hi!

'Property' is different here. Here property is more important, you don't share. I miss sharing the garden with the neighbours and playing with the other children. Here there are too many walls, so you can't see your neighbours. You maybe just say 'hello'.



Everyone had lives before we arrived in England. I went to school for 4 years in Eritrea. After this I stayed home and helped out my family. I worked from home with my family making baskets and decorations.

In Eritrea I helped look after the animals. It's normal to work there and help your parents and grandparents.

I enjoyed it there. Not having so many walls, going outside in nature, caring for our animals.

I like how houses are set up here but when you have less, you don't really want anything and now you have more, you want more.

I cleaned the house for fun and cooked, in my family, you have to know how to cook everything by 16.

I have English (ESOL) and Math classes at the college. I have lots of homework which is hard because sometimes I need help.

My children help when possible but they also have lots of homework to do.

But it's good, I am learning English, it's just so hard.

Fatima

The home office send you a letter saying you have to go there for appointments.

But if you don't speak English, you don't really get what the letters are saying.

I hope to know more about my children's education because it is very important.

I struggle because English is still hard and I can't help them with their studies.

I spend a lot of time cleaning and making food for the children so I am always busy.

Sometimes I feel lonely and sad too.

I hope I can get a job someday but I don't know when. I need to know more English or I cannot get a job.

When I was young, I used to study very hard, and I dreamed of becoming a nurse,

I have a friend who speaks English and they offered to help translate communication from and with the school.

I think the whole family suffered because of the language barriers.

It is very difficult to make friends with the British due to the language difference.

...but circumstances did not allow me to complete my studies.

I was very sad when we moved away from my country.

My brother was a young man and did not deserve what happened.

Like many young people, he died at the hands of ISIS.

Although we are psychologically broken, we are trying for our children to be better

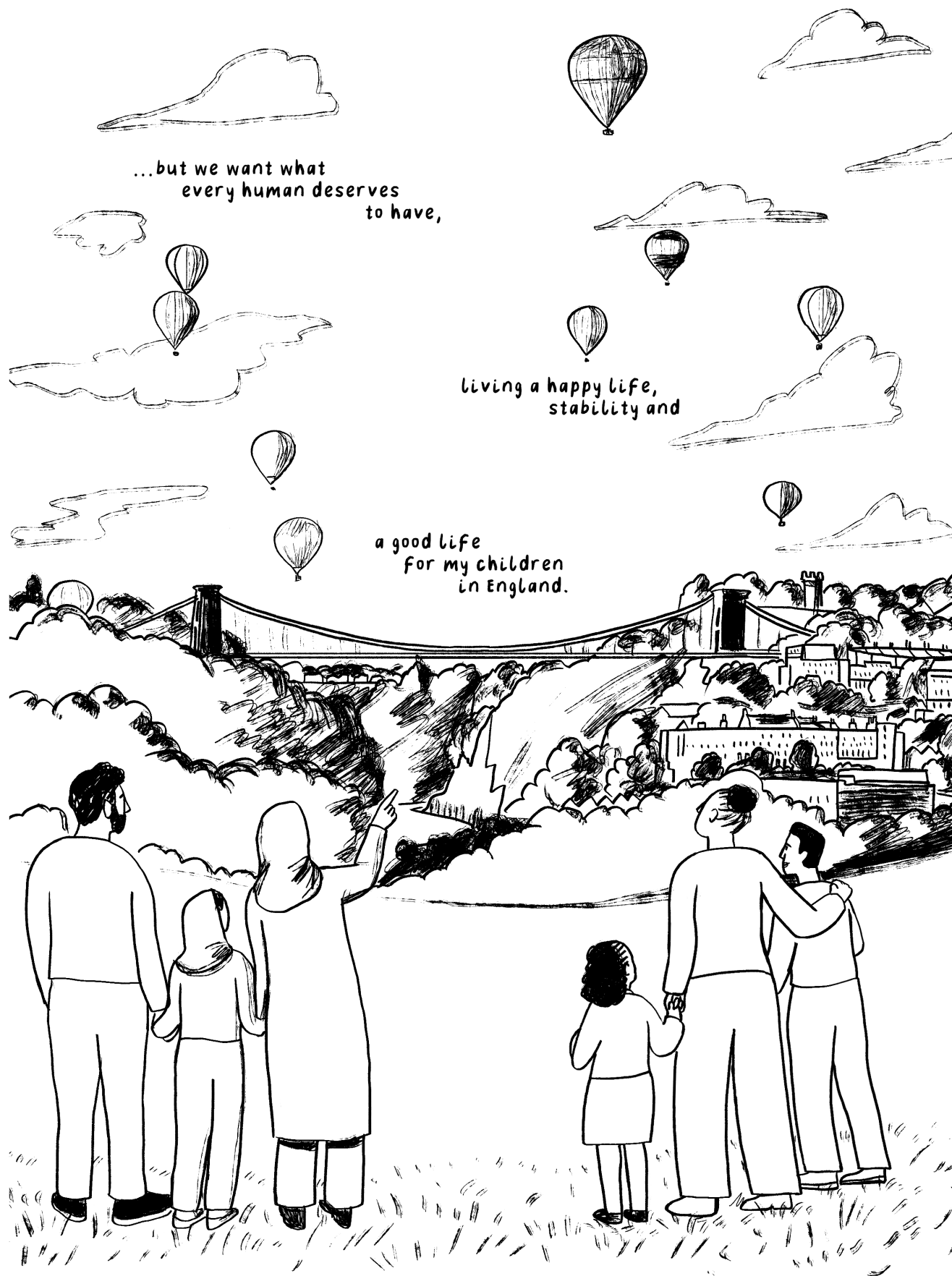
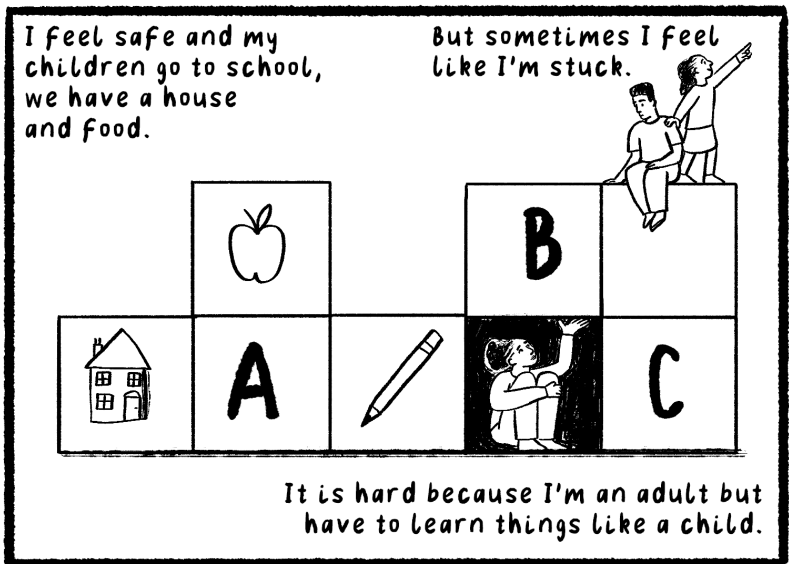
and we hope to see our own parents as well one day.

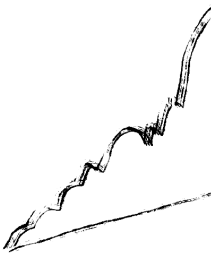
But now three years later my children speak the language, not very well, but much better,

and my husband and I also entered the college to strengthen our language.

I hope that in time, British schools can hire people that speak both English and Arabic...

...so that parents can understand what their children are learning, especially since there is a big difference in teaching between countries.





Young refugee people's right to education is enshrined in British law; however, the UK has no specific educational policy for them. Invisibilising practices add to the silence around their experiences and needs. *Refugee Stories* tells young refugees' and families' stories to amplify their voices and shine a light on the social and material conditions they experience.

Refugee peoples are some of the most marginalised in the UK. *Refugee Stories* hopes to share some of the challenges they face more widely with schools, government and relevant organisations to inspire change.



Illustrations by ARC studio

