

International Literature Project Series

Preparing Social Work Students to Practice in An Interconnected World

TABLE OF READING SELECTIONS, READING DESCRIPTIONS, AND SOCIAL WORK THEMES

Click on the title of the reading for a link to the story and a list of social work multimedia resources.

Country and genre	Title and story	Social work themes*
Iran Nonfiction (Memoir)	<i>A Year Among the Boat People</i> An Iranian refugee in Australia.	Immigration, refugees, social class divisions, the invisibility
Mexico Fiction (Excerpt from a novel)	<i>The Gringo Champion</i> An undocumented young adult immigrant from Mexico in the USA.	Immigration, homelessness, isolation, loss of family ties, poverty
Iran Nonfiction (Biographical essay)	<i>How To Be a Woman in Tehran</i> A woman in Iran who chooses not to emigrate from her country.	Immigration, gender (the boundaries of gender)
Iran Nonfiction (Memoir)	<i>Hunger</i> A young adult immigrant from Iran in the streets of Los Angeles.	Immigration, youth homelessness, poverty
Russia Nonfiction (Graphic news piece)	<i>Slaves of Moscow</i> A group of women who are trafficked in Russia.	Immigration, human trafficking, gender, racism

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Syria Nonfiction (Ethnography)	<i>After the Last Border</i> [Not from WWB Reading Collection] Two refugee families, one from Syria, the other from Myanmar, in America.	Immigration, refugees, gender, family
Russia Fiction (Excerpt from a novel)	<i>A Dream in Polar Fog</i> When a Canadian explorer in Siberia is injured the leader of his expedition asks men from the Chukchi Indigenous group to help him.	Indigenous people, racism, othering
Iran Nonfiction (Short graphic piece)	<i>A Short Guide to Being the Perfect Political Refugee</i> Satirical "guide" drawn from the author's experience as an Iranian refugee seeking social assistance in Paris.	Navigating a fragmented social assistance/social protection systems, refugees
Russia Fiction (Short story)	<i>Pears from Gudauty</i> A Russian Jewish child buying pears at a farm with her mother overhears derogatory comments about every ethnicity in the area.	Racism, childhood memories
Korea Nonfiction (Graphic short story)	<i>Grass</i> A poor Korean family is forced to give up their young daughter. The author reveals her own story of abduction and sexual slavery.	War, women's issues, human trafficking, child labor, poverty, family separation
Iran Nonfiction (Biographical essay)	<i>For the Love of the Books</i> The author describes her thirst for books growing up in a working-class home in Iran after the eight years of war with Iraq.	Aftermath of war, living under government literary and other censorship, gender
Russia Nonfiction (Biographical essay)	<i>On the Moscow Metro and Being Gay</i> Poet Alexei Bayer reveals how he situates the Soviet response to his gay identity in the political context of the country.	Gay life, outsiders

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Ukraine/Egyptian author Nonfiction (Memoir)	<i>Memories of Chernobyl</i> <i>The world inside a nuclear disaster in the Ukraine from the perspective of an Egyptian witness.</i>	Nuclear disaster, environmental impact
Mexico Nonfiction (Journalistic essay)	<i>Violence and Drug-Trafficking in Mexico</i> A different kind of war: the causes and human costs of the drug wars in Mexico.	Drug wars, violence
Korea Fiction (Short story)	<i>Tree of Kisses</i> A girl grows up in Korea with a cross-dressing gay father, struggling with both internal and societal transphobia.	Transgender, family, parent-child relationships, outsiders
China Nonfiction (Journalistic interview)	<i>The Story of a Homosexual: An Interview with Ni Dongxue</i> Being gay in China.	Gay life

* Cross list the resources with similar themes across readings as desired.