HANDALA’S RETURN
A CHILDREN’S STORY AND WORKBOOK
CREATED BY THE PALESTINIAN FEMINIST COLLECTIVE
ART BY C. GAZALEH
Hello!!

My name is Handala

I am a famous Palestinian cartoon!!
That is when the Palestinian artist, Naji al-Ali created me!

He drew me and published my image in the newspaper.

My birthday is July 13, 1969.

We are both proud to be Palestinian.
Trace Handala's Name

Handala

Handala

Handala

Handala

Handala
Trace Handala's name in Arabic

حتى نرى

In Arabic we write from right to left
Handal is Palestinian
tplant that produces
a very bitter fruit.

My name, Handala, comes
from the Arabic word
"handal."

The handal plant has deep
roots. Even if you cut them,
they grow back.
Its deep roots show the strong connection that we have to our land.

But my favorite fruit is the bateekh (watermelon) ... because it's the colors of the Palestinian flag: red, black, green and white! What's your favorite fruit?
Color Handala with the Colors of the Palestinian Flag
Now I am going to tell you the story of my life.

While it’s a sad story and sometimes a little scary, it is also full of courage, home, community, and hope.

My story represents the experience of many Palestinians too!
When I was only 10 years old, I had to flee my home in Palestine.

A group of bullies called Zionists wanted our land so they stole it by force and hurt many people.

My Mama and I cried a lot. Palestinians call this experience the Nakba.
At first, we lived in tents, like the ones you use when you go camping. We thought we would only be there for a few days.

But days became years and our tents became concrete buildings. We call them Refugee Camps.

I live in Ain al-Helweh Refugee Camp in Lebanon.
ZIONISTS HAVE NEVER LET US GO BACK TO PALESTINE, EVEN THOUGH WE STILL HAVE THE KEY TO OUR HOME.

Draw a picture of your family's house and key. Ask your parents for help if needed.
Naji drew me without shoes, with torn clothing and messy hair.

That is because life for me and other Palestinian refugees has been really tough.

I still love the camp because all the people I love are there.

But I really want to return to my home in Palestine.

WILL YOU HELP ME RETURN?
Handala has his family's old house key. Now, he needs your help to get back home to Palestine! Trace a way home for Handala.
NAJI DREW ME SO YOU CAN'T SEE MY FACE. CAN YOU GUESS WHY?

A. He didn't know how to draw a face

B. He ran out of time to draw me

C. He wanted me to be mysterious

D. He wanted me to turn my back against all the world leaders who didn't help me
I will keep my back turned until I return to a free Palestine.

But I will never turn my back on you!

I hope you won’t turn your back on me.
Terrible things keep happening today in Palestine.

Children like me keep having their homes taken by the Zionist bullies. They are always scaring them and arresting them.

My friends and I call this an Ongoing Nakba. We want this to stop happening, so we always shout out...
Even though I have a hard and sad life, I am also courageous.

I will never be silent when unfair things happen.

I will always speak up and fight for what's right and fair.

I will never forget that I am Palestinian or give up on my right to return!

I will always try to find a way to help other Palestinians and Free Palestine.
Help Handala Free Palestine

Think of things you can do to support Handala and his friends free Palestine. Fill in the blanks and feel free to ask your family members for assistance

• I will write a letter to ________________________.

• I will draw a picture and send it to
  ________________________________

• I will raise funds for the children of Palestine by:
  ________________________________
  ________________________________

• I will chant this at a Palestine protest:
  ________________________________
  ________________________________

• I will tell ___________________________ about Handala and his struggle!
This is me looking at a poppy flower. For Palestinians, poppies are a symbol of hope.

I am hopeful for freedom and return. I never let anyone tell me something is impossible!

I always hold onto HOPE!
SYMBOLS OF PALESTINE

There are many other Palestinian symbols like me. A few of them are in the word puzzle below! Can You find them?

WORD SEARCH

D B W S Q J O H W E P O
Q U L L P D E O A C G O L
Q W V H A Y X W T N P I
I N N A I Y L L E A P V
Z M U F C Q P A R N Y E
H Y F D O L M D M O A B
S U R A S E Y N E S D R
K O R L J F W I L S N A
H A L Q U D S I O I A N
D P A L E S T I N E A C
E V O D G N I Y L F H H
O L D K E Y X U V T W D

PALESTINE          WATERMELON          OLIVE BRANCH
FLYING DOVE        POPPY            ALQUDS
OLD KEY
I CAN’T WAIT TO GO HOME TO A FREE PALESTINE.

I WANT TO HUG MY TETA (GRANDMA) AND PLANT HERBS WITH MY SIDO (GRANDPA) AGAIN.

I LOOK FORWARD TO SINGING SONGS AND FLYING KITES WITH MY NEIGHBORHOOD FRIENDS.

I CAN’T WAIT FOR SUMMER TO SWIM AT THE BEACHES OF YAFA AND PLAY SOCCER IN AL-QUDS.
DRAW A SHORT COMIC OF WHAT HANDALA WILL DO IN PALESTINE WHEN HE RETURNS AND IT IS FREE
What kind of future do you dream about for Palestinian children? How do you imagine yourself and your life in a free Palestine after return? Write a letter to Palestine about your dreams for a future in a Free Palestine.

Dear Palestine,
Make a collage of Handala by cutting out the pictures of him on the next page and pasting them on page 26!
PASTE IMAGES OF HANDALA BELOW TO MAKE A COLLAGE
This story and workbook was created as part of the Palestinian Feminist Collective’s 2023 Feminist Futures Calendar and Program.

It is dedicated to Palestinian children everywhere.

Our featured artist for July 2023 is Laila Shawa with a piece titled, "Handala and the Poppy."

Laila passed away just days after granting the PFC permission to use her illustration in our 2023 Calendar. The PFC extends our heartfelt condolences to her family and friends. This booklet honors the lives and legacies of Naji al-Ali and Laila Shawa.

To learn more about the PFC and our work visit us at palestinianfeministcollective.org