

## Sharing Hope with Refugees

**Trisha Rao** wrote a book and shared it with refugee children.



The night before she had a test at school, eight-year-old Trisha Rao was worried about doing well. To give herself confidence, she wrote a poem about believing in herself. Her words gave her courage, and she passed the test.

While listening to the news with her father, Trisha learned about the war in Syria. Conditions in the country were tough, and many people were leaving for safer regions. "I was sad that they lost their homes and some of them lost their family," Trisha said. "They didn't have enough money to buy lunch even."

It made Trisha think. If the poem she had written the night before her test had given her hope, maybe it could do the same for the refugee children.

Trisha worked on her poem

and turned it into a book called *Believe in Yourself*. It's the story of a puppy named Sunshine and his father, Papa Dog. The dogs travel around the jungle. From fellow animals, they learn lessons about persistence, teamwork, loyalty, hard work, courage, and kindness.

Trisha illustrated the book, too. With the help of her mother and a family friend, they published the book in English and Arabic.

### Lifting Kids' Spirits

For a family vacation, Trisha asked whether she and her family could go to Turkey. Many Syrian children who lost their homes in the war were living there now, and Trisha wanted to keep their spirits up.

Her family got in touch with Support to Life, an agency that

provides emergency relief after a disaster. With the group's assistance, Trisha was able to meet refugee children and read her book to them.

For every book she sells, Trisha gives away a free copy of *Believe in Yourself* to children around the world. Her mission is simple but powerful: "I hope it will give them hope and that they will learn many lessons from the book, and believe in themselves."

*Highlights* is proud to know this Gallant Kid.

—Robert Lerosé



Photo by Sumana Rao. Hobby photos (left to right) by Guy Cali Associates, Inc., iStock/John\_Kasawa, and iStock/esseffe.

**"I felt like Gallant** when I got a B+ in math at school."

Tripp, Age 9, Pennsylvania

**"I felt like Gallant** when I gave my brother my cookie after he dropped his on the floor."

Joey, Age 5, Massachusetts



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