

1001

Our storytelling program, 1001 Stories, brings meaningful learning to some of the hardest to reach populations around the world. We aim to facilitate the creation, development, and gathering of 1001 empowering stories from every participating local community.

Children love to tell stories. However, in many places in the world, their creative voices are rarely heard or cultivated. The 1001 Stories Program conducts storytelling workshops that build on children's natural potential to become original storytellers. Through the 1001 Stories Program, children are empowered while their literacy skills are developed.

When integrated with technologies, these stories become an effective tool for literacy by growing reading and writing skills grounded in local languages and local themes in underserved areas worldwide.

A map of the coastal region of the Levant, specifically the area around the Mediterranean Sea. The coastline is defined by a thick blue line. The land area is white, while the sea is a light blue color. A large, irregular green shape is overlaid on the land area, covering most of the coastal plain and extending inland towards the center of the map. The word "Palestine" is written in green capital letters in the upper central part of the green-shaded area. The green shape has a dotted blue border that follows the general outline of the coast and extends further inland than the main green area. There are several small, isolated green patches scattered within the main green area, particularly towards the center and right side.

Palestine

Our Author



HAMZA AL FAYEZ

He was 15 years old at the time of the story workshop. He likes to be a teacher when he grows up.



1001 Stories Presents

CHECKPOINT STORY

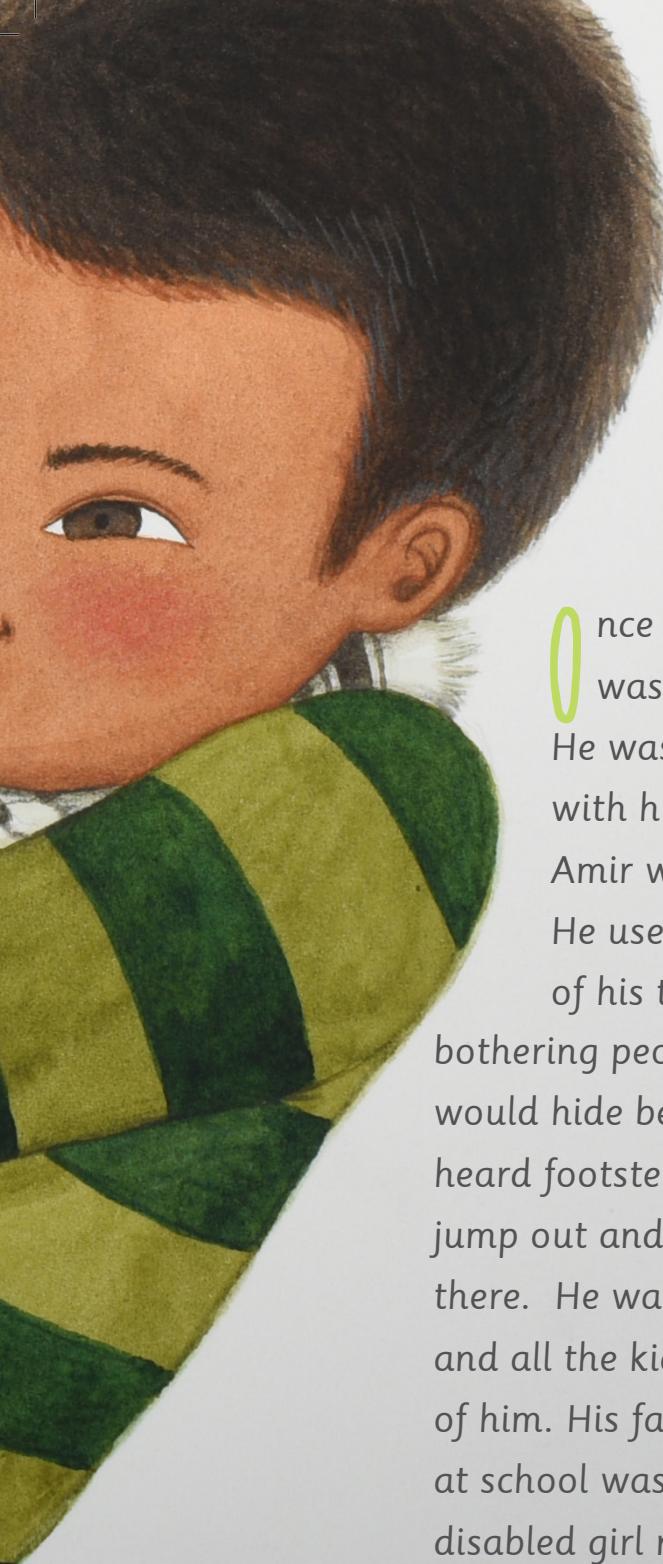
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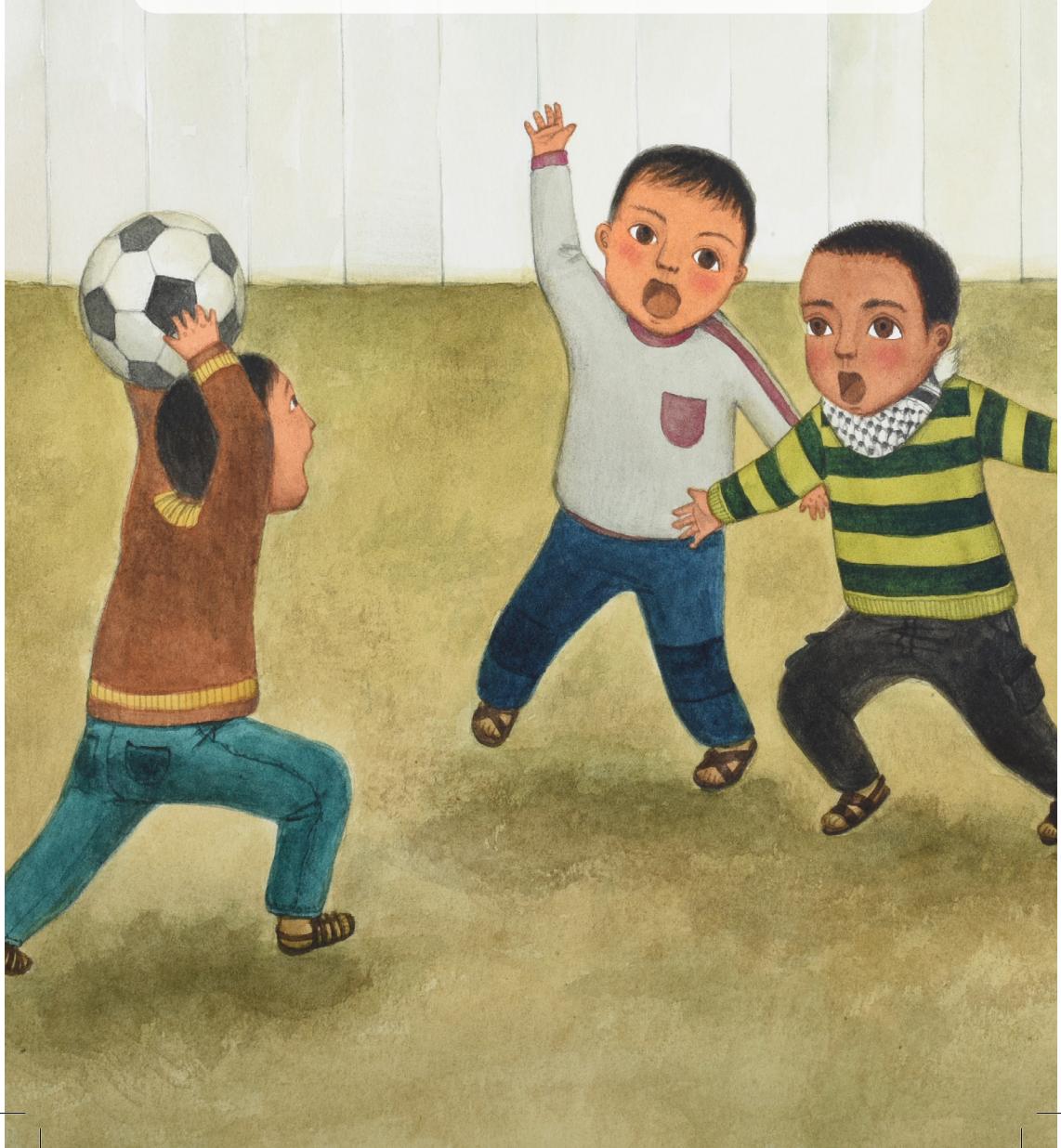
Once upon a time, there was a boy named Amir. He was an orphan living with his old uncle, Wahab. Amir was a troubled kid. He used to spend most of his time in the street bothering people. Sometimes he would hide behind a wall until he heard footsteps. Then he would jump out and scare whoever was there. He was known as a bully, and all the kids were frightened of him. His favorite thing to do at school was make fun of a disabled girl named Huda.



Huda was a very kind girl. She lost one of her legs when a bomb exploded near her home and now she had to walk on crutches. Amir always made fun of her and called her a cripple. Some days he would even snatch Huda's school bag and throw her stuff into the street and laugh at her. Huda hated Amir, but nothing she said would make him stop. She just prayed that God would change Amir and make him a better person.



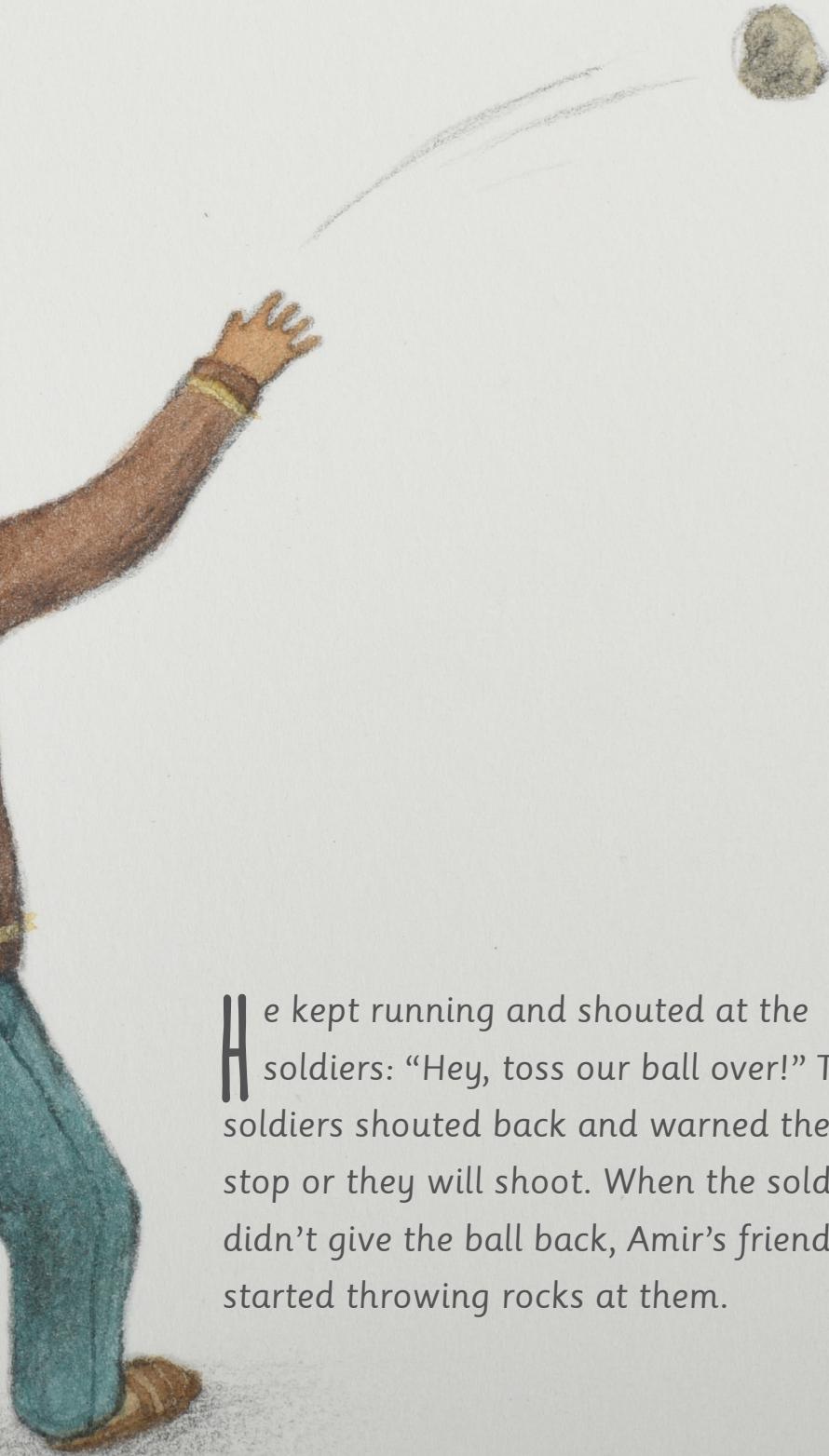
Amir and his uncle lived near a checkpoint guarded by soldiers. None of the children were allowed to play anywhere near the checkpoint. One day Amir talked some friends into playing football a few feet from the





checkpoint where their old football field used to be. Amir kicked the ball hard, and it flew passed the soldiers. Amir ran after it, unaware that he was chasing the ball through the checkpoint. The soldiers started shouting and warned all the kids to stay back! But Amir was still running toward the fence.





He kept running and shouted at the soldiers: "Hey, toss our ball over!" The soldiers shouted back and warned them to stop or they will shoot. When the soldiers didn't give the ball back, Amir's friend Ayub started throwing rocks at them.

Suddenly the sound of a rifle shot rang in the air and everyone became silent. Another shot cracked, and all the children started screaming and running away. They were all terrified. Now all the soldiers were firing into the air, and the day was alive with the sound of their rifles.





Amir was so frightened and running so fast that he crashed into Ayub. Ayub fell down and asked Amir to help him, but Amir ignored him and ran faster. Suddenly he fell into a deep hole that workers had dug for a new watch tower. Amir was stunned and his legs hurt. He cried for help, but the pain was so bad that he lost consciousness.

When Amir woke up he was lying on a hospital bed. He tried to get up but couldn't move his legs.



“Don’t worry, you’ll be okay,” a voice said. Amir looked up and saw Ayub standing in front of him.

“You fell down a hole and Amro and I took you to the hospital.” Amir felt really bad and lowered his eyes in shame. Ayub just patted him on the back and said: “We’ll be playing football again in no time. And I will bring you your homework so you don’t fall behind.” Amir could not believe Ayub was being so nice after what he had done to him.



Ibrahim, one of the checkpoint soldiers, was worried about Amir. He felt bad for scaring the children and wanted to make sure Amir was alright. He went to the school near the checkpoint and saw a girl walking on crutches. It was Huda.

"Excuse me, are you a student here?" The soldier asked.

"Yes," Huda replied, "how can I help you?"
"I'm looking for a boy named Amir. He broke his leg near the checkpoint yesterday. Do you know him?"

Huda nodded.

"I want to pay for his hospital expenses," the soldier said. "Can you give this money to him?"
The soldier put the money in Huda's hands.





Huda started to reply, but a child's scream cut her off:

"There's a soldier near the school!"

Other kids started to throw stones at the soldier. The soldier quickly thanked Huda.

"Please don't tell Amir about me," he said as he ran away.



Huda didn't know what to do. Amir had been so mean to her and she had always wanted to get him back. She couldn't forget the way he treated her and the look in his eyes. Then again, she knew Amir's old uncle was too poor to pay for the hospital expenses. After struggling with the decision for a long time, she finally made up her mind to go to the hospital. She knew deep in her heart it was the right thing to do.



After paying the hospital bill, she saw Ayub in the hallway and told him someone paid for Amir's expenses.







Ayub ran happily to Amir's room to tell him the good news. When Amir heard the story, he was sure Huda was the one who paid the hospital bill. He was deeply ashamed of the way he had treated her.



When he went back to school, everyone was staring at him and his crutches. When Amir saw Huda, he struggled with what to say.
“I can’t say anything Huda. I don’t know how to apologize to you. After all the bad things



I've done to you, you paid for my hospital bills. You are an angel!"

Huda told him it wasn't her and that someone else had paid, but Amir didn't believe her.





From that day on, he became a new person. He helped everyone, and was no longer a bully. Amir loved Huda more and more every day. Huda forgave Amir, and they became very good friends.







One day Amir, Huda and Ayub were walking by the checkpoint. A soldier waved at them. It was Ibrahim. Amir and Ayub looked at him with hate and anger, but Huda knew the truth. Ibrahim looked at them and smiled. Huda smiled back.









