



**Beyond Words**  
empowering people through pictures



# When the War Came

illustrated by Lucyna Talejko-Kwiatkowska













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## **Introduction**

This short word-free story provides a starting point for conversations about the war in Ukraine. The pictures can be understood and shared by speakers of all languages.

Talking about what's happening in the pictures will help mothers and children who have fled their homes to tell their own stories and talk about their feelings.

Reading the story may also build understanding and empathy amongst children and adults living in countries that are welcoming refugees.

## How to read this story

This is a story for everyone – people can read it in a group or independently.

1. Encourage people to start at the beginning and read and discuss the story in each picture, telling the story in their own words.
2. You will discover what each person thinks is happening, what they already know, and how they feel. You may think something different is happening in the pictures yourself, but that doesn't matter. Their interpretation tells you about their life experience.
3. Some people will follow the story without any problems. If a picture is more difficult, it can help to prompt with open questions, gradually going deeper into the meaning, for example:
  - I wonder who that is?
  - I wonder what is happening?
  - What is he or she doing now?
  - I wonder how he or she is feeling?
  - Have you felt like that? Has it happened to you/ your friend/ your family?
4. You don't have to read the whole story in one sitting. Allow people time to follow the pictures at their own pace. Stay longer with any pictures they are drawn to.
5. It's alright if people are distressed by the story and either want to take a rest or decide they don't feel ready to talk about their experience.



## Other helpful resources

### From Beyond Words

*A Refugee's Story* by Valerie Sinason and Sheila Hollins with Elizabeth Laird and Hina Gillani, illustrated by Mike Nicholson: [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/afghanistan](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/afghanistan)

*When Dad Died* (2014, 4th edition) by Sheila Hollins and Lester Sireling, illustrated by Beth Webb. A partner book to *When Mum Died*, showing a family dealing with the loss of a father. This story shows a cremation. Ebook and paperback available: [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/ebooks/when-dad-died](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/ebooks/when-dad-died)

*When Somebody Dies* (2003) by Sheila Hollins, Sandra Dowling and Noëlle Blackman, illustrated by Catherine Brighton. Shows how a man and a woman are helped by regular bereavement counselling sessions, and the comfort and companionship shown by friends, to learn to feel less sad and to cope with life better and better as time passes. Ebook and paperback available: [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/ebooks/when-somebody-dies](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk/ebooks/when-somebody-dies)

### From the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych)

An online resource hub for professionals providing care for people involved in the Ukraine crisis, including e-learning, guidelines and translated patient information: [www.rcpsych.ac.uk/international/humanitarian-resources/ukraine-crisis-resources](http://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/international/humanitarian-resources/ukraine-crisis-resources)

### From Inclusion Europe

Updates, news and latest developments about the impact of the war in Ukraine on people with intellectual disabilities and their families: [www.inclusion-europe.eu/ukraine-disability-rights-inclusion/](http://www.inclusion-europe.eu/ukraine-disability-rights-inclusion/)

## **From Psychology Tools**

Free Ukrainian, Polish, And Russian Translations Of Trauma And PTSD Psychoeducational Resources:

- How Trauma Can Affect You
- Reactions To Trauma
- Understanding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder

[www.psychologytools.com/articles/free-ukrainian-translations-of-trauma-and-ptsd-psychoeducational-resources/](http://www.psychologytools.com/articles/free-ukrainian-translations-of-trauma-and-ptsd-psychoeducational-resources/)

## **Artist and Acknowledgments**

**Lucyna Talejko-Kwiatkowska** has worked as a book cover designer, illustrator and infographic creator. She currently manages the Information Design Studio at the University of the Arts Poznań (UAP) (Poland). She has been involved with numerous social projects and has created educational illustrations for a special kindergarten. Lucyna's website is: [www.lucynatalejko.kwiatkowscy.eu](http://www.lucynatalejko.kwiatkowscy.eu).

We are grateful to Larysa for bravely sharing her experiences and helping to improve the pictures.

This story is dedicated to the people of Ukraine.

## About Beyond Words

We make stories for anyone who finds pictures easier than words. Our stories empower people to make their voices heard and to be actively involved in the choices and events that affect their lives.

There are more than 60 word-free (and therefore non-language dependent) stories in the Books Beyond Words series, all co-created with our readership.

Visit our website to find out more or donate to our charity:  
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