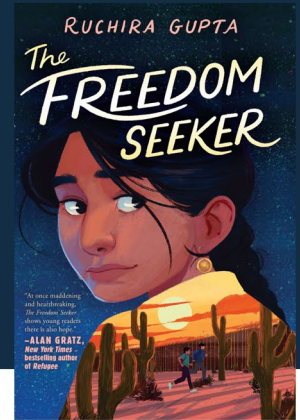


Ruchira Gupta

AUTHOR ARTIST ACTIVIST

Illustrated Glossary *for Young Readers* The Freedom Seeker



Ammi

A warm word for “mother” in Urdu.

Abbu

The Urdu word for “father.”

Nanaji / Naniji

Grandpa and Grandma on your mom’s side in India.

Dadu / Dadi

Grandpa and Grandma on your dad’s side in India.

Chandigarh

A city in India where Simi was born.

Gurdwara

A Sikh place of worship where people pray, sing, and share meals together.

Mosque

A Muslim place of worship where people gather to pray, especially on Fridays.

Queens

A busy, diverse neighborhood in New York City.

Migrant

A person who moves to another place or country to find safety or a better life.

Immigrant

Someone who comes to live in a different country than the one they were born in.

Refugee

A person who has to leave their country because it's not safe to stay there.

Political Asylum

Special permission to stay in another country if you're being treated unfairly at home—especially by the government.

Asylum Court

A serious place where a judge decides if someone can stay in a country for safety reasons.

ICE

A group in the U.S. that checks who is allowed to be in the country and sometimes arrests people who are not.

Coyotes

People who are paid to help others sneak across a country's border. Not always safe.

Sonoran Desert

A very hot, dry desert between Mexico and the U.S. Simi walks through it.

Honduras

A country in Central America where Jose is from. It has mountains, jungles, and warm weather.

Mexico

A country between the U.S. and Central America. Simi and Jose travel through it.

Sikh / Sardarji

A person who follows the Sikh religion. Many Sikh men wear turbans as a symbol of faith.

Turban

A long cloth wrapped around the head, often worn with pride and respect in the Sikh tradition.

Sponsor

An adult who agrees to take care of a child while they wait to be with their family.

Sheesh Kebab

Grilled meat on a stick, popular in South Asian food.

Tamales

A Mexican dish made of corn dough with filling, wrapped in leaves and steamed. Jose loves these!

Pupusas

A yummy food from Central America made with corn and cheese or beans—Jose talks about them.

Cartel

A dangerous group that sells drugs and scares people—Jose explains why his mom left Honduras.



Desert

A dry, hot place with sand and cactus. Very hard to cross on foot.



Family Reunification

When a child and their parent are allowed to live together again after being separated.



Dignity

Feeling proud of who you are and being treated with kindness and respect.



Freedom

The right to be safe, speak your truth, and live your life without fear.



Gandhi

A leader from India who showed the world how to stand up for justice using peace instead of violence.



Non-Violence

Solving problems or fighting unfairness without hurting anyone—using peace, words, and courage instead of fists or weapons.