Coronavirus: What's life like for child refugees living in camps?
18 Jun 2020

Good morning Year 6!
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Explain why Elahe is afraid.

Explain why coronavirus could be more dangerous in the camps.

LO: to explain how the choice of language enhances the meaning of the text.

I do

From this picture, what impression do you get about living here?

LO: to explain how the choice of language enhances the meaning of the text.

I do

How has the photographer made us feel that way? What did they capture?

LO: to explain how the choice of language enhances the meaning of the text.

I do

What's life like for child refugees living in camps?

The author can make us feel the same way when writing. The author has used emotive language to emphasise the bad living conditions. Let's skim through the text to find them.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52924615

Coronavirus: What's life like for child refugees living in camps?
18 Jun 2020

Refugee children forced to live in camps with poor conditions face an anxious wait to see if they can avoid the spread of coronavirus.

That's the situation for families living in Moria, a refugee camp on the island of Lesbos in Greece. It's the biggest camp in Europe, 20,000 people live there, including 10,000 children. Many are alone and don't have any parents or adults to help them. In March, after the spread of coronavirus in Europe, Moria was put into lockdown. There are now strict rules about who can go in and who can leave. So far the lockdown has worked and there have been no cases of the virus inside the camp. However, conditions are very bad. The camp is overcrowded and social distancing is impossible. It means the future and safety of people living in Moria is very uncertain.

Who are refugees?

- A refugee is a person who has been forced to leave their country because they are in danger. This can be war, being treated badly because of their beliefs or escaping a natural disaster.
- Refugees leaving their countries often take long journeys by car, lorry, boat or even on foot to get to safety.
- Often refugees gather in places called refugee camps, which are giant camps with many thousands of people living there, often in poor conditions.

Elahe is 13 and lives in the camp at Moria with her family, she says that living there is cramped, dirty and not very nice.

"We live in tents, we don't have enough space to sleep. There is no hygiene here, we stand in a big line to take a shower in cold water.

"We are afraid, it's so bad, I hope we get out of here soon."

Some European countries have promised to evacuate 1,600 children from camps in Lesbos and other Greek islands. But so far, fewer than 100 have been taken to safety. Efforts to control coronavirus in Europe have been blamed for causing a delay in evacuations. There were 16 child refugees from Greece who arrived in the UK last month.

"Moria was a bit more pleasant when my brother was here. It feels like we will never see each other again."

According to numbers recorded by the United Nations (UN), there are currently 37,800 refugees living in camps on Greek islands, including Lesbos. That's fewer than earlier this year, when there were 42,000 refugees on the islands in February.

But many people feel that not enough is being done to help refugees in Greece. An online campaign called Leave No One Behind is calling for the immediate evacuation of people from Moria and other camps to safe places throughout Europe.

Axel Steier is the founder of the charity Mission Lifeline, which supports and helps people living in the camps.

"For years, thousands of people have been crammed in Moria **like animals.** Despite the promise to evacuate 1,600 children, nothing happened for months," he said.

"The constant fear of Covid-19 has made life very difficult for the people in the camp. While the Corona restrictions in Greece are being relaxed more and more, the lockdown here has been extended once again. We see our mission in confronting the world with the conditions here."

Refugee camps in France

Elsewhere, more than 2,000 people are estimated to live in camps between **Calais** and Dunkirk in northern France, including hundreds of families with small children.

The camps have been nicknamed 'jungles', because of their poor, cramped conditions.

> No one should be living in these conditions, virus or no virus.
> Tia, Care4Calais volunteer

Two cases of coronavirus have been confirmed in Calais, and another in Dunkirk. Charities working there are worried that the true number is likely to be much higher, not only because of the poor conditions, but because the French government isn't recording cases of the virus among refugees.

During the pandemic, many of the charities helping refugees in France have left.

LO: to summarise the text to help understanding.

we do

you do

Your turn.

Note down key emotive words and explain why they have been used.

Thinking together

How does the author persuade you to want to help the children?