

# Freedom *Stories* - SHAFIQ'S STORY

## Shelter Activity

### Teacher's Notes

- The suggested activities are suitable for students in Years 5 – 12.
- Teachers may need to modify activity instructions to match the abilities of their students.
- Teachers and students can use the following time codes (hrs:mins:secs) to view Shafiq's story in the feature documentary:
  - **Chapter 4:** Shafiq (Part 1) - 'An object, not a man...'  
**Timecode:** 0:10:36
  - **Chapter 14:** Shafiq (Part 2) - 'This is the happiest moment of my life...'  
**Timecode:** 1:12:40
  - **Chapter 18:** Shafiq (Part 3) - 'The Shelter...'  
**Timecode:** 1:35:56
- Teachers should consult the Freedom Stories [Study Guide](#) (pages 11-12) for further information about Shafiq's experiences as an asylum seeker and refugee.

For more information go to [www.freedomstoriesproject.com/education](http://www.freedomstoriesproject.com/education)

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**Learning objective:** to understand the idea of shelter and its relevance to the issue of asylum seekers and refugees.

### Activity 1

Look up the meaning of the word 'shelter' in a dictionary. Make a record of the definition of shelter in your note book.

- Which definitions are relevant to the issue of asylum seekers and refugees? Why?
- What does shelter mean to you? Mind map your answer to this question. Drawing on the content of your mind map, write your own definition of shelter.
- Why do people need shelter?



**Shafiq Monis** is a housepainter and visual artist living in Melbourne. His story of seeking asylum in Australia is told in *Freedom Stories*. Shafiq's artwork has been significantly influenced by his experiences as an asylum seeker.

### Activity 2

At this point in the documentary Shafiq was building a new family home in an outer Melbourne suburb.

- Why is it important to have a home?
- What do you and your family do at home?
- Why is Shafiq's new home important to him and his family?

Watch Shafiq's chapters on the *Freedom Stories* DVD or go to [www.freedomstoriesproject.com/education](http://www.freedomstoriesproject.com/education) for more viewing options

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### Activity 3

Look at the images of Shafiq's paintings below.

Use the following sentence starters to write a response to each painting:

1. I see...
2. I think...
3. I wonder...



4. What do you think is the significance of the small umbrella beneath the larger umbrella?

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### Activity 4

1. What is an umbrella?
2. When do people use umbrellas?
3. Why do people use umbrellas?

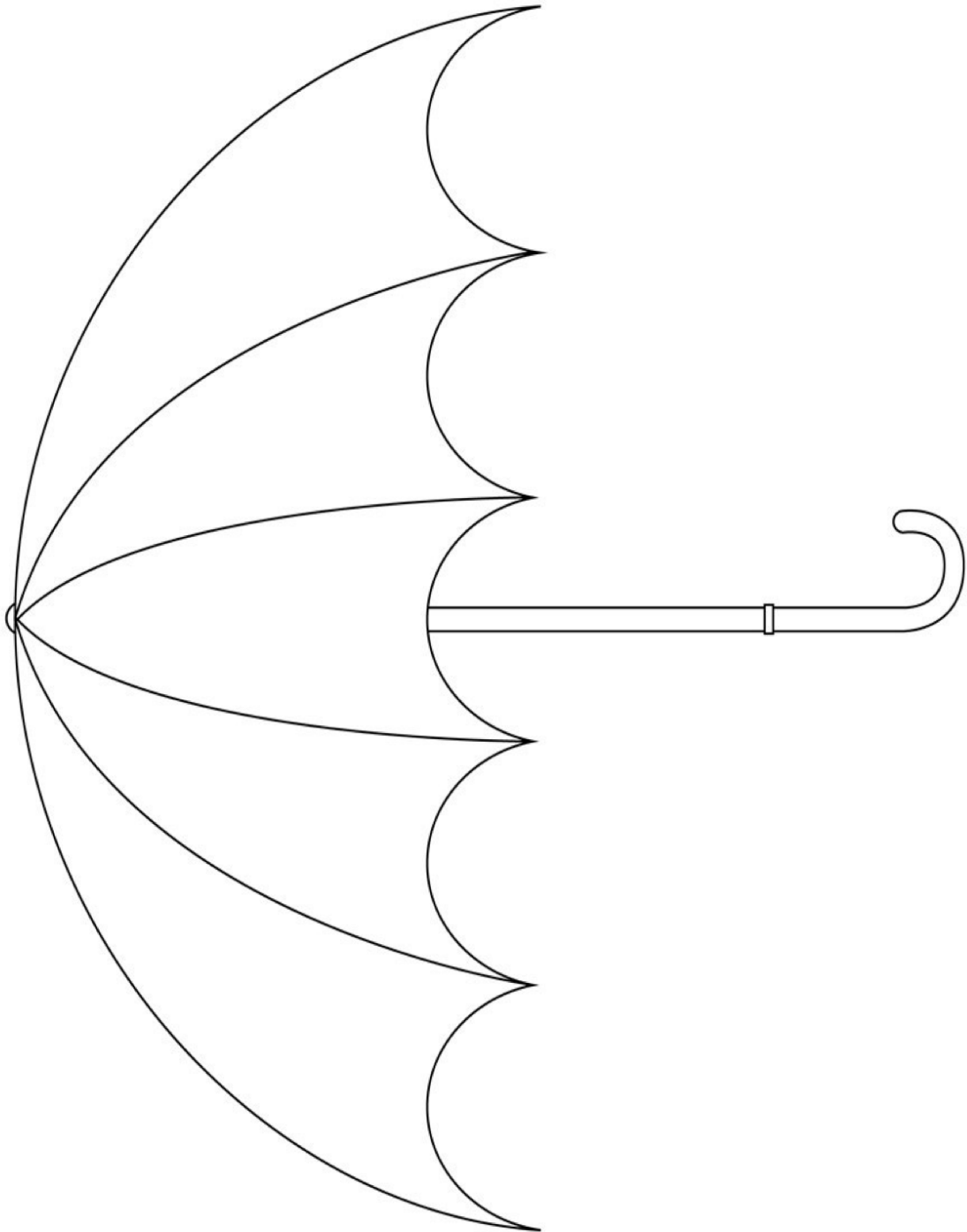
An umbrella is a recurring image in Shafiq's paintings. A recurring image is called a motif. A motif conveys a significant idea and/or establishes a particular mood. In *Freedom Stories*, Shafiq gestures towards the ceiling above his head, explaining the significance of this motif, *'This is an umbrella, shelter, a place that you can live, a place to call home. In a simple way, this is something that everyone deserves to have above their heads.'* (Timecode:1:36:10)

Working as a class or as a school community, complete the **Umbrellas for Shelter** activity. The aim of this activity is to raise awareness of the importance of shelter to asylum seekers and refugees.

4. Decorate the umbrella on the next page using colours, symbols and words that define your understanding of shelter.
5. Cut out the decorated umbrella from the template.
6. Make an installation using the umbrellas.

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### Activity 5

*'Shelter is the foundation stone for refugees to survive and recover, and should be considered a non-negotiable human right.'*

– Filippo Grandi, the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.<sup>1</sup>

It is important that as a global community, we provide people seeking asylum with appropriate shelter. People fleeing conflict and persecution have experienced dangerous and traumatic situations. It is essential that they are accommodated in shelters that offer them safety, self-sufficiency, dignity and hope.

Use the Internet to research the UNCHR's commitment to improve the standard of temporary shelter available to asylum seekers.

1. What is the Nobody Left Outside campaign? Why is the campaign necessary?
2. What is Better Shelter? What are the design advantages of a Better Shelter?

Useful links:

<http://www.unhcr.org/shelter.html>

<http://www.unhcr.org/nobody-left-outside>

<http://www.bettershelter.org/>



<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2016/5/573c0b0f7/unhcr-warns-worsening-shelter-conditions-refugees-launches-global>