Beginning in the author's early childhood, this account of growing up in Communist Czechoslovakia shows the limitations that were placed on citizens and the ways the Communist regime exercised control over society.

The story of a creative girl growing up in a country that is under a military government where people are torn between Muslim fundamentalism and Western values.

Based on interviews with survivors, the harrowing story of life as a child soldier in Joseph Kony's LRA is rendered through beautifully inked illustrations that give way to dark tones and shadows.

Pete's journey from gangster to healer is a story of trauma and hope, told as an example of the violence and devastation caused by the Canadian Government. The story is depicted in a colour palette that reflects the healing process.

Seventeen-year-old Samia Yusuf Omar's tragic and courageous story is told through her Facebook posts and information gleaned from interviews.

Following the loss of her beloved father, Rina gets on a plane from Montréal to Manila. Her journey plunges her into an ocean of memories from her youth in the 1980s.

During literature circle discussions, students explore two guiding questions:

How does our environment affect our development/growth?
What impact do the codes and conventions of graphic texts have on meaning?

Sample Activities:

In literature circle groups discuss the way author/producer's crafting choices are used to convey meaning.
Discuss the relationship between print and image. How do the illustrations support or detract from the written text?

Suggested Keywords: biography, communities, urban life, Indigenous peoples, environment, multimodal, memoir, social justice, oppression, war.

Learning Goal: Evaluate the way codes and conventions of a multimodal text are used to impact the reader. Consider the modes of representation (word and image) that influence meaning and reveal the possible intentions of the writer/producer.

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