



Aurora's Sunrise

DELVE DEEPER READING LIST



This list of fiction and nonfiction books, compiled by Sarah Burris, (MLIS) Community Relations and Marketing Coordinator of the Bay County Public Library, provides a range of perspectives on the issues raised by the POV documentary *Aurora's Sunrise*.

At 14, Aurora Madrigalian survived the Armenian Genocide and escaped to New York, where her story became a media sensation. Her newfound fame led to her starring in *Auction of Souls*, one of Hollywood's earliest blockbusters. Blending storybook animation, video testimony, and rediscovered footage from her lost silent epic, *Aurora's Sunrise* revives her forgotten story.

Contributors



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Sarah Burris received her Master of Library and Information Science degree from Kent State University. She has worked at the Bay County Public Library since 2014. Prior to working in Marketing and Community Relations, she was a non-fiction selector and an adult reference librarian. Sarah was introduced to PBS POV through her Book and Film program at the library. She enjoys how documentary film can explore societal themes and varied global experiences.

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ADULT NON-FICTION

Arpajian, Allan and Susan Arpajian Jolley. *Out of My Great Sorrows: The Armenian Genocide and Artist Mary Zakarian*. Routledge, 2017.

Out of My Great Sorrows is the story of Philadelphia artist Mary Zakarian, whose life and work were shaped by the experiences of her mother, a survivor of the 1915 Armenian Genocide. Written by Mary Zakarian's niece and nephew, the narrative examines the complexities of the artist's life as they relate to many issues, including ethnicity, gender, immigration, and assimilation. Above all this is a story of trauma—its effects on the survivor, its transmission through the generations, and its role in the artistic experience. Zakarian painted obsessively throughout her life. As she gained recognition for her artwork, she became increasingly haunted by her mother's untold story and was driven to express the tragedy of the Armenian Genocide in her art. Zakarian's attempt to deal openly with the issues of trauma and guilt caused conflicts in her relationship with her mother.

Balakian, Grigoris. *Armenian Golgotha: A Memoir of the Armenian Genocide*. Alfred A. Knopf Vintage Books, 2009 English translation (originally published in 1922).

Full of shrewd insights into the political, historical, and cultural context of the Armenian genocide—the template for the subsequent mass killings that have cast a shadow across the twentieth century and beyond—this memoir is destined to become a classic of survivor literature. "Armenian Golgotha" is sure to deepen our understanding of a catastrophic crime that the Turkish government, the Ottomans' successor, denies to this day.

Balakian, Peter. *Black Dog of Fate: A Memoir*. Basic Books, 1997.

Now, in elegant prose, the prize-winning poet who James Dickey called “an extraordinary talent” has written a compelling memoir about growing up American in a family that was haunted by a past too fraught with terror to be spoken of openly. *Black Dog of Fate* is set in the affluent New Jersey suburbs where Balakian—the firstborn son of his generation—grew up in a close, extended family. At the center of what was a quintessential American baby boom childhood lay the dark specter of a trauma his forebears had experienced—the Ottoman Turkish government's extermination of more than a million Armenians in 1915, the century's first genocide. In a story that climaxes to powerful personal and moral revelations, Balakian traces the complex process of discovering the facts of his people's history and the horrifying aftermath of the Turkish government's campaign to cover up one of the worst crimes ever committed against humanity.

Balakian, Peter. *The Burning Tigris: The Armenian Genocide and America's Response*. HarperCollins, 2003.

In this groundbreaking history of the Armenian Genocide, the critically acclaimed author of the memoir *Black Dog of Fate* brings us a riveting narrative of the massacres of the Armenians in the 1890s and genocide in 1915 at the hands of the Ottoman Turks. Using rarely seen archival documents and remarkable first-person accounts, Peter Balakian presents the chilling history of how the Young Turk government implemented the first modern genocide behind the cover of World War I. And in the telling, he also resurrects an extraordinary lost chapter of American history.

Bemporad, Elissa and Joyce W. Warren (Eds.), *Women and Genocide: Survivors, Victims, Perpetrators*. Indiana University Press, 2018.

The genocides of modern history—Rwanda, Armenia, Guatemala, the Holocaust, and countless others—and their effects have been well documented, but how do the experiences of female victims and perpetrators differ from those of men? In *Women and Genocide*, human rights advocates and scholars come together to argue that the memory of trauma is gendered and that women's voices and perspectives are key to our understanding of the dynamics that emerge in the context of genocidal violence. The contributors of this volume examine how women consistently are targets for the sexualized violence that serves as an instrument of ethnic cleansing, how female perpetrators take advantage of the new power structures, and how women are involved in the struggle for justice in post-genocidal contexts. By placing women at center stage, *Women and Genocide* helps us to better understand the nexus existing between misogyny and violence in societies where genocide erupts.

Bobelian, Michael. *Children of Armenia: A Forgotten Genocide and the Century-long Struggle for Justice*. Simon & Schuster, 2012.

From 1915 to 1923, the Ottoman Empire drove the Armenians from their ancestral homeland and slaughtered 1.5 million of them in the process. While there was an initial global outcry and a movement led by Woodrow Wilson to aid the “starving Armenians,” the promises to hold the perpetrators accountable were never fulfilled. In this groundbreaking work, Michael Bobelian profiles the leading players—Armenian activists and assassins, Turkish diplomats, U.S. officials— each of whom played a significant role in furthering or opposing the century-long Armenian quest for justice in the face of Turkish denial of its crimes, and reveals the events that have conspired to eradicate the “forgotten Genocide” from the world’s memory.

Demoyan, Hayk and Lousine Abrahamyan. *Aurora's Road: Odyssey of an Armenian Genocide Survivor*. Armenian Genocide Museum-Institute, 2015.

Aurora Mardiganian was a survivor of the Armenian Genocide. The diary of her experiences was published in the US media in 1918 under the title "Ravished Armenia" or "Auction of Souls." In the same year a silent movie "Auction of Souls" made for charitable purposes appeared on the screens, where Aurora played herself and became the first Armenian movie star in the first movie showing the horrible scenes of mass atrocities and genocide. The story of the movie and its tragic and beautiful star was covered in all the major papers not only in the US, but also European states, Great Britain, Cuba,

Mexico, Australia, Argentina, even Japan. However, in the late 1920s, the book and the movie "Auction of Souls" just dropped off the public's radar.

de Wall, Thomas. *Great Catastrophe: Armenians and Turks in the Shadow of Genocide*. Oxford University Press, 2015.

The destruction of the Armenians of the Ottoman Empire in 1915-16 was the greatest atrocity of World War I. Around one million Armenians were killed, and the survivors were scattered across the world. Although it is now a century old, the issue of what most of the world calls the Armenian Genocide of 1915 is still a live and divisive issue that mobilizes Armenians across the world, shapes the identity and politics of modern Turkey, and has consumed the attention of U.S. politicians for years.

Eltringham, Nigel (ed). *Remembering Genocide*. Routledge, 2014.

In *Remembering Genocide* an international group of scholars draw on current research from a range of disciplines to explore how communities throughout the world remember genocide. Whether coming to terms with atrocities committed in Namibia and Rwanda, Australia, Canada, the Punjab, Armenia, Cambodia and during the Holocaust, those seeking to remember genocide are confronted with numerous challenges. Survivors grapple with the possibility, or even the desirability, of recalling painful memories. Societies where genocide has been perpetrated find it difficult to engage with an uncomfortable historical legacy. Chapter included is "Three Films, One Genocide: Remembering the Armenian Genocide through Ravished Armenia(s)" by Donna-Lee Frieze.

Erish, Andrew A. Col. William N. Selig, the Man Who Invented Hollywood. University of Texas Press, 2012.

All histories of Hollywood are wrong. Why? Two words: Colonel Selig. This early pioneer laid the foundation for the movie industry that we know today. Active from 1896 to 1938, William N. Selig was responsible for an amazing series of firsts, including the first two-reel narrative film and the first two-hour narrative feature made in America; the first American movie serial with cliffhanger endings; the first westerns filmed in the West with real cowboys and Indians; the creation of the jungle-adventure genre; the first horror film in America; the first successful American newsreel (made in partnership with William Randolph Hearst); and the first permanent film studio in Los Angeles. Selig was also among the first to cultivate extensive international exhibition of American films, which created a worldwide audience and contributed to American domination of the medium.

Friendman, Jonathan and William Hewitt (Eds.), *The History of Genocide in Cinema: Atrocities on Screen*, Bloomsbury Academic 2020.

The organization 'Genocide Watch' estimates that 100 million civilians around the globe have lost their lives as a result of genocide in only the past sixty years. Over the same period, the visual arts in the form of documentary footage has aided international efforts to document genocide and prosecute those responsible, but this book argues that fictional representation occupies an equally important and problematic place in the process of shaping minds on the subject. Edited by two of the leading experts in the field, this title analyzes fictional and semi-fictional portrayals of genocide, focusing on,

amongst others, the repression of indigenous populations in Australia, the genocide of Native Americans in the 19th century, the Herero genocide, Armenia, the Holodomor (Stalin's policy of starvation in Ukraine), the Nazi Holocaust, Nanking and Darfur.

Haigaz, Aram. *Four Years in the Mountains of Kurdistan: An Armenian Boy's Memoir of Survival*. Maiden Lane Press, 2015.

Armenian Aram Haigaz was only 15 when he lost his father, brothers, many relatives and neighbors, all killed or dead of starvation when enemy soldiers surrounded their village. He and his mother were put into a forced march and deportation of Armenians into the Turkish desert, part of the systematic destruction of the largely Christian Armenian population in 1915 by the Ottoman Empire. His mother urged Aram to convert to Islam in order to survive, and on the fourth day of the march, a Turk agreed to take this young convert into his household. Aram spent four long years living as a slave, servant and shepherd among Kurdish tribes, slowly gaining his captors' trust. He grew from a boy to a man in these years and his narrative offers readers a remarkable coming of age story as well as a valuable eyewitness to history. Haigaz escaped to the United States in 1921.

Khandijian, Melkon Armen and Aurora Mardiganian. *The Summer of 1915*. Aquarian Millennium Armenological Studies, Research and Exhibits, 2009.

The Summer of 1915 includes numerous reproductions, with transcriptions, of contemporary newspaper articles and other documents about the genocide of the Christian Armenians, Greeks and Assyrians by the genocidal Turks. This also includes *Ravished Armenia: the Diary of Arshalouys Aurora Mardigian*.

MacKeen, Dawn Anahid. *The Hundred-Year Walk: An Armenian Odyssey*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2016.

Growing up, Dawn MacKeen heard from her mother how her grandfather Stepan miraculously escaped from the Turks during the Armenian genocide of 1915, when more than one million people--half the Armenian population--were killed. In *The Hundred-Year Walk*, MacKeen alternates between Stepan's courageous account, drawn from his long-lost journals, and her own story as she attempts to retrace his steps, setting out alone to Turkey and Syria, shadowing her resourceful, resilient grandfather across a landscape still rife with tension. Dawn uses his journals to guide her to the places he was imperiled and imprisoned and the desert he crossed with only half a bottle of water. Their shared story is a testament to family, to home, and to the power of the human spirit to transcend the barriers of religion, ethnicity, and even time itself.

Naimark, Norman M. *Genocide: A World History*. New Oxford World History, 2016.

Genocide occurs in every time period and on every continent. Using the 1948 U.N. definition of genocide as its departure point, this book examines the main episodes in the history of genocide from the beginning of human history to the present. Norman M. Naimark lucidly shows that genocide both changes over time, depending on the character of major historical periods, and remains the same in

many of its murderous dynamics. He examines cases of genocide as distinct episodes of mass violence, but also in historical connection with earlier episodes.

Power, Samantha. *A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide*. Basic Books, 2001.

In her award-winning interrogation of the last century of American history, Samantha Power -- a former Balkan war correspondent and founding executive director of Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy -- asks the haunting question: Why do American leaders who vow "never again" repeatedly fail to stop genocide? Drawing upon exclusive interviews with Washington's top policy makers, access to newly declassified documents, and her own reporting from the modern killing fields, Power provides the answer in "A Problem from Hell" -- a groundbreaking work that tells the stories of the courageous Americans who risked their careers and lives in an effort to get the United States to act.

Slide, Anthony (ed.) *Ravished Armenia and the Story of Aurora Mardiganian*. University Press of Mississippi, 2014.

"*Ravished Armenia*" and the Story of Aurora Mardiganian is the real-life tale of a teenage Armenian girl who was caught up in the 1915 Armenian genocide, the first genocide in modern history. Mardiganian (1901-1994) witnessed the murder of her family and the suffering of her people at the hands of the Ottoman Empire. Forced to march over fourteen hundred miles, she was sold into slavery. When she escaped to the United States, Mardiganian was then exploited by the very individuals whom she believed might help. Her story was published in book form and then used as the basis for a 1918 feature film, in which she herself starred. The film *Ravished Armenia*, also known as *Auction of Souls*, is a graphic retelling of Aurora Mardiganian's story, with the teenager in the central role, supported by Anna Q. Nilsson and Irving Cummings and directed by Oscar Apfel.

Suny, Ronald Grigor. "*They Can Live in the Desert but Nowhere Else*": A History of the Armenian Genocide. Princeton University Press, 2015.

Starting in early 1915, the Ottoman Turks began deporting and killing hundreds of thousands of Armenians in the first major genocide of the twentieth century. By the end of the First World War, the number of Armenians in what would become Turkey had been reduced by 90 percent--more than a million people. A century later, the Armenian Genocide remains controversial but relatively unknown, overshadowed by later slaughters and the chasm separating Turkish and Armenian interpretations of events. In this definitive narrative history, Ronald Suny cuts through nationalist myths, propaganda, and denial to provide an unmatched account of when, how, and why the atrocities of 1915-16 were committed. Drawing on archival documents and eyewitness accounts, this is an unforgettable chronicle of a cataclysm that set a tragic pattern for a century of genocide and crimes against humanity.

Torchin, Leshu. "Ravished Armenia: Visual Media, Humanitarian Advocacy, and the Formation of Witnessing Publics." *American Anthropologist*, 2006. Vol. 108, No. 1, 2006, pp. 214 - 220.

Discourses around human rights frequently treat media as transparent delivery systems for testimony and spectacles of atrocity. Such views detract from the degree to which media circuits shape human rights claims, in which aesthetic strategies transform a vast and distant horror into sympathetic cause, and systems of exhibition channel sentiment into action. This article's study of Ravished Armenia and the early film advocacy of Near East Relief in the Armenian case yields not only the contributions of media to claims-making process and humanitarian action but also Christian underpinnings of human rights movements. The evangelical legacy produced missions that provided the transnational infrastructure for sharing visual testimony and administering aid and offered an instrumental iconography of suffering that shaped an early "rights imaginary."

Ureneck, Lou. *The Great Fire: One American's Mission to Rescue Victims of the 20th Century's First Genocide*. Ecco Press, 2015.

The harrowing story of an ordinary American and a principled Naval officer who, horrified by the burning of Smyrna, led an extraordinary rescue effort which saved a quarter of a million refugees from the Armenian Genocide. The year was 1922: World War I had just come to a close, the Ottoman Empire was in decline, and Asa Jennings, a YMCA worker from upstate New York, had just arrived in the quiet coastal city of Smyrna to teach sports to boys. Several hundred miles to the east in Turkey's interior, tensions between Greeks and Turks had boiled over into deadly violence.

ADULT FICTION

Bohjalian, Chris. *The Sandcastle Girls*. Doubleday Publishing, 2012.

When Elizabeth Endicott arrives in Aleppo, Syria, she has a diploma from Mount Holyoke, a crash course in nursing, and only the most basic grasp of the Armenian language. It's 1915, and Elizabeth has volunteered to help deliver food and medical aid to refugees of the Armenian Genocide during the First World War. There she meets Armen, a young Armenian engineer who has already lost his wife and infant daughter. After leaving Aleppo and traveling into Egypt to join the British Army, he begins to write Elizabeth letters, realizing that he has fallen in love with the wealthy young American. Years later, their American granddaughter, Laura, embarks on a journey back through her family's history, uncovering a story of love, loss—and a wrenching secret that has been buried for generations.

Boyadjian, Maral. *As the Poppies Bloomed*. Salor Press, 2015

It is 1913 and late summer in the Ottoman Empire. The sun rises, full and golden, atop a lush, centuries-old village tucked into the highlands where the blood-red poppies bloom. Outside the village leader's home, the sound of voices carries past the grapevines to the lane where Anno, his youngest daughter, slips out unseen. She heads to a secret meeting place. She forgets that enemies surround her village. She forgets that her father meets each day with trepidation. She knows only the love she has for Daron, who waits for her as she hastens to him, once again breaking the ancient rules of courtship. Anno and Daron wish for nothing more than marriage and a better day alongside their neighbors, but neither is prepared for the dark, dangerous secret that Daron's father keeps or the upheaval that will soon envelop their village, their land, and their hearts.

Mustian, Mark. *The Gendarme*. G.P. Putnam's Sons, 2010.

To most people, Emmett Conn is a confused old World War I veteran, fading in and out of senility. But in his mind, Emmett is haunted by events he'd long forgotten. In his dreams, he's a gendarme, a soldier marching Armenians out of Turkey. He commits unspeakable acts. Yet he feels compelled to spare one remarkable woman: Araxie, the girl with the piercing eyes—one green, one blue. As the past and present bleed together in *The Gendarme*, Emmett Conn sets out on one final journey to find Araxie and beg forgiveness, before it's too late. With uncompromising vision and boundless compassion, Mark Mustian has written a transcendent meditation on the power of memory—and the dangers of forgetting who we are and have been.

Kricorian, Nancy. *Zabelle*, Atlantic Monthly Press, 1998.

The story of an Armenian woman's life, from childhood in Ottoman Turkey to grandmotherhood in Boston. She is Zabelle who survives the 1915 massacre of Christians to land in an orphanage in Istanbul. She is adopted by an Armenian family who arrange a marriage, which brings her to America.

YOUNG ADULT NON-FICTION

Friedman, Mark. *Genocide*. Heinemann Library, 2012.

This book explains what genocide is and gives several examples of it. It also explains the reasons why it happened. It takes an in-depth look at the topic and asks difficult questions such as, if genocide is happening, whose responsibility is it to stop it?

Kherdian, David. *The Road from Home: The Story of an Armenian Girl*. Greenwillow Books, 2008 (originally published in 1979) .

David Kherdian re-creates his mother's voice in telling the true story of a childhood interrupted by one of the most devastating holocausts of our century. Vernon Dumehjian Kherdian was born into a loving and prosperous family. Then, in the year 1915, the Turkish government began the systematic destruction of its Armenian population.

Perl, Lila and Erin L. McCoy. *Genocide: When is Intervention Necessary? (Today's Debates)* Cavendish Square, 2019.

Genocide is the deliberate murder of a racial, ethnic, tribal, national, or religious group. It is one of the world's most horrifying crimes, yet the role that the international community should play when a genocide is underway remains unclear. Are other nations obligated to step in when a genocide is taking place? If so, what signals that it's time to step in? This book looks back at some of the most reprehensible acts of genocide in human history to gain a better understanding of what interventions have taken place in the past, and to what extent they have helped.

YOUNG ADULT FICTION

Bagdasarian, Adam. *Forgotten Fire*. Laurel-Leaf Books, 2002.

In 1915 Vahan Kenderian is living a life of privilege as the youngest son of a wealthy Armenian family in Turkey. This secure world is shattered when some family members are whisked away while others are murdered before his eyes. Vahan loses his home and family, and is forced to live a life he would never have dreamed of in order to survive. Somehow Vahan's incredible strength and spirit help him endure, even knowing that each day could be his last.

Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk, *Dance of the Banished*. Pajama Press, 2015.

Ali and his fiancée Zeynep dream about leaving their home in Anatolia and building a new life together in Canada. But their homeland is controlled by the Turkish government, which is on the brink of war with Britain and Russia. And although Ali finds passage to Canada to work, he is forced to leave Zeynep behind until he can earn enough to bring her out to join him. When the First World War breaks out and Canada joins Britain, Ali is declared an enemy alien. Unable to convince his captors that he is a refugee from an oppressive regime, he is thrown in an internment camp where he must count himself lucky to have a roof over his head and food to eat. Meanwhile, Zeynep is a horrified witness to the suffering of her Christian Armenian neighbours under the Young Turk revolutionary forces.

Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk, *Daughter of War*. Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2008.

Teenagers Kevork and his betrothed Marta are the lucky ones. They have managed so far to survive the Armenian genocide in Turkey, and both are disguised as Muslims. But Marta is still in Turkey, pregnant with another man's child. And Kevork is living as an Arab in Syria. Kevork yearns to get back into Turkey and search for Marta, but with the war raging and the genocide still in progress, the journey will be impossibly dangerous. Meanwhile, Marta worries that even if Kevork has survived and they are reunited, will he be able to accept what she has become? And what has happened to her sister, Mariam, who was sold as a slave to the highest bidder? *Daughter of War* is a gripping story of enduring love and loyalty set against the horrors of Turkey during World War I.

Walrath, Dana. *Like Water on Stone*. Delacorte Press, 2014. It is 1914, and the Ottoman Empire is crumbling into violence. Beyond Anatolia, in the Armenian Highlands, Shahen Donabedian dreams of going to New York. Sosi, his twin sister, never wants to leave her home, especially now that she is in love. At first, only Papa, who counts Turks and Kurds among his closest friends, stands in Shahen's way. But when the Ottoman pashas set in motion their plans to eliminate all Armenians, neither twin has a choice. After a horrifying attack leaves them orphaned, they flee into the mountains, carrying their little sister, Mariam. But the children are not alone. An eagle watches over them as they run at night and hide each day, making their way across mountain ridges and rivers red with blood.

BOOKS FOR YOUNGER LEARNERS AND CHILDREN

Berlatsky, Noah (Ed.) *The Armenian Genocide*. Greenhaven Press, 2015.

This volume contains previously published material, which narrates and analyzes the Armenian massacres of 1894-1896, 1909, and 1915-1923. Background information and first person accounts of the events are provided as well, to give the reader a more rounded knowledge of the events.

Kasbarian, Lucine. *The Greedy Sparrow: An Armenian Tale*. Two Lions, 2011.

Once there was a sparrow who caught a thorn in his foot. When a kind baker removes the thorn, the sparrow tricks her into giving him some bread. Each time the sparrow meets new people, he tricks them out of bigger and better things. Will the sparrow's greed get the best of him? Through this endearing Armenian folktale illustrated with mixed media, readers will learn that people who engage in dishonest or selfish behavior may end up losing whatever they gained because of that behavior.

Michael, Laura. *Under the Light of the Moon*. Mascot Books, 2018.

It is 1924, the end of the Armenian Genocide in Turkey, and ten year old Lucine has found safety at an orphanage in Greece. She doesn't know if her parents have survived and wonders if she'll ever see them again, and she isn't alone: there are hundreds of thousands of orphans just like Lucine struggling to survive, their stories making headlines worldwide. In response, the United States forms a special organization called Near East Relief, which provides food, clothing, shelter and safety for these children. Jackie Coogan, one of America's most famous child actors, uses his celebrity power to support NER, but soon realizes that there are some things in life that are out of our control. Lucine appreciates the help of these kind strangers, but there's still something missing: more than anything, she wishes to be reunited with her family.

Schoettler, Joan. *The Honey Jar: An Armenian's Escape to Freedom*. Bushel & Peck Books, 2023.

In 1920, eight-year-old Bedros fled Armenia with his young sisters, grandmother, and uncle to escape the Turkish soldiers invading their town. But in the confusion, Bedros lost sight of the adults and was left alone to protect his siblings. Hungry, cold, and overwhelmed with responsibility, Bedros failed to remember his promise to his mother... Told in verse, suspenseful and heart-rending, *The Honey Jar* depicts a journey from desperation to freedom, anchored in Bedros' promise to return to his native land and to find the one he left behind. His story will touch the hearts of families everywhere, especially those who have experienced the longing for a new life.

Serres, Alain. *I have the Right to be a Child*. Groundwood Books, 2012.

With a very simple text accompanied by rich, vibrant illustrations a young narrator describes what it means to be a child with rights -- from the right to food, water and shelter, to the right to go to school, to be free from violence, to breathe clean air, and more. The book emphasizes that these rights belong to every child on the planet, whether they are "black or white, small or big, rich or poor, born here or somewhere else." It also makes evident that knowing and talking about these rights are the first steps toward making sure that they are respected. A brief afterword explains that the rights outlined in the book come from the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1989.

Skrypuch, Marsha Forchuk. *Aram's Choice*. Fitzhenry and Whiteside, 2006.

Aram is like all the boys exiled in Greece. He has survived the Armenian genocide in Turkey and now lives in an orphanage. He can never return home. One day Aram learns that he will be one of fifty boys who will start a new life in a country called Canada. What does he know of this distant land? There is snow, lots to eat, and no war. But most important of all, Aram has heard that the trees are covered in gold. All he will have to do is pluck the gold off the branches and he will have enough money to bring his grandmother out to join him. But first he must get there. Aram is about to embark on a long adventure. Will he find a land of endless riches, or a place he can finally call home?