

Reading Guide for **The Teacher**

Text by Aurora Almendral and photographs by Miora Rajaonary

Summary: “The Teacher” describes Judith’s mission to provide a quality education to migrant children in South Africa.

A. Review the key vocabulary words :

institutionalized xenophobia, documentation, philanthropic, NGO, foreign nationals, indigent

B. As you read, use details from the text to respond to the following questions:

1. Why did Judith leave Zimbabwe for South Africa?
2. What challenges do children of migrants face when trying to enroll in school in South Africa?
3. Describe Judith’s journey in establishing an official school for migrant children.
4. How have ongoing financial challenges affected Velamfundo Primary School?
5. How has COVID-19 affected migrants in South Africa?

C. Write or discuss your responses to the following questions:

1. For Judith, education is the primary means to help children become “self-sufficient” and “self-reliant.” Do you agree or disagree? Has your education helped you become self-sufficient and self-reliant?
2. The COVID-19 pandemic has inflamed xenophobia around the world. Why do you think migrants are being targeted and blamed for COVID-19? How can communities work together to stop xenophobia? What role does education and journalism play in supporting or diminishing xenophobia?