



A Sky-Blue Bench

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Aria, a young girl in Afghanistan and an amputee, is nervous about going back to school. With all the benches being burned for warmth during the war, the girls in her school have no choice but to sit on the floor, which is unbearable for Aria and her “helper-leg.” Together with her mother and brother, Aria decides to build a bench herself, painting it sky-blue: the color of “courage, peace and wisdom.”

DANIELLE BALLANTYNE (November / December 2021)

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