



reading  
**together**  
with refugees

# Reading Guide

for ages 0–18





**children's  
books  
ireland**  
every child a reader



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**Overall Editor:** Ruth Concannon  
**Production:** Jenny Murray  
**Design:** fintanwall.com

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receives financial assistance from  
**The Arts Council/An Chomhairle Ealaíon,**  
70 Merrion Square,  
Dublin 2, Ireland

**Children's Books Ireland/Leabhair Pháistí Éireann**  
First Floor, 17 North Great Georges Street, Dublin 1, D01 R2F1  
Telephone: 00 353 1 8727475  
info@childrensbooksireland.ie  
childrensbooksireland.ie

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## About Children's Books Ireland

At Children's Books Ireland, we believe that every child should have access to the joy of reading, regardless of their circumstances. Our mission is to make books central to every child's life on the island of Ireland. We work with families, teachers, libraries, publishers and communities all across the island to get books into children's hands and to inform adults who can make a big impact on their reading. We advocate for the changes Ireland needs to grow a new generation of readers, and we support artists so that they can make excellent work for children and young people. Sign up to our newsletter to stay in touch!

[childrensbooksireland.ie](http://childrensbooksireland.ie)

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## About UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, is a global organisation dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.

[unhcr.ie](http://unhcr.ie)

 @unhcrireland

## About this reading list

Refugee week is a festival where we celebrate compassion and connection, and everyone is welcome. To mark Refugee Week, Children's Books Ireland and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, partner with libraries and bookshops across the country to encourage young people to buy or borrow a book about refugees. Reading allows us to dive into different worlds, learn about new perspectives and show compassion for others. This specially curated book list has a wide selection of stories from around the world to choose from.

Each review in this guide comes with a suggested age range. These are based on the information provided by the publisher as well as our own judgement of the level for which the language and content is most suitable. In some cases you may see two or more age ranges e.g. 12–14, 15+. In these cases, we feel that the book is suitable for a wider age span. These age ranges are a guide only – it is impossible to accurately predict the correct level for every child. If in doubt, parents/carers and teachers are advised to read the book themselves before deciding whether it is suitable for the child or young person.

the arts  
council  
an chomhairle  
ealaíon

funding  
the arts

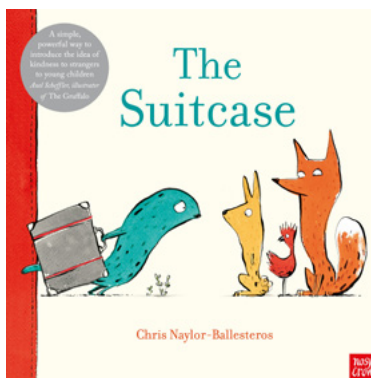




**PATRICIA HEGARTY** illustrated by **GREG ABBOTT**  
**EVERYBODY'S WELCOME**

CATERPILLAR BOOKS 2018 (HBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781848577459

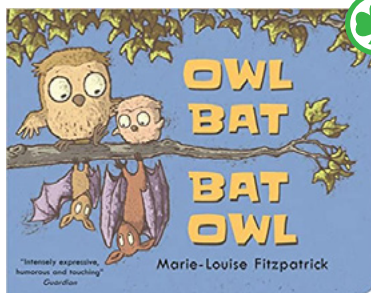
Written in rhythmic rhyme, this is a warm and timely tale about opening a door to those in need, with clever peek-through holes and panoramic pages that beckon young readers inside. In this sweet forest setting with its sense of community and busy, productive animals, children will learn how important it is to extend a generous hand to those in need, whether neighbours in crisis, a friend with a problem, or a family immigrating to a new country. It's a timely, vital, and comforting story that will inspire useful conversations about caring, charity, and empathy. (Age 0–4)



**CHRIS NAYLOR-BALLESTEROS**  
**THE SUITCASE**

NOSY CROW 2019 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781788004480

*The Suitcase* is a simple tale with a huge idea. When a stranger arrives in a new land with his suitcase, the doubtful locals have questions. When the answers fail to satisfy, the locals break open the suitcase while the stranger sleeps. After a spell of guilt, the locals understand just what they can do to make the stranger welcome. This is a story of acceptance and understanding. (Age 0–4)



**MARIE-LOUISE FITZPATRICK**  
**OWL BAT, BAT OWL**

WALKER BOOKS 2017 (BOARD) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406373448

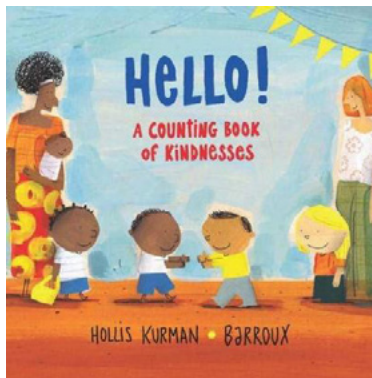
From award-winning author and illustrator, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, comes a stunning wordless picturebook that celebrates family, friendship and the power of togetherness. Mummy Owl and her three little owls live happily on their spacious branch. That is, until the bat family move in. And the new neighbours (the owls up-top, the bats hanging below) can't help but feel a little wary of one another. Owls just don't mix with bats and bats don't mix with owls. But babies are curious little creatures and this curiosity, and a wild, stormy night, might just bring these two families together. (Age 1–3)



**JON AGEE**  
**THE WALL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOOK**

SCALLYWAG PRESS 2019 (PBK) 48PP £8.99 ISBN 9781912650057

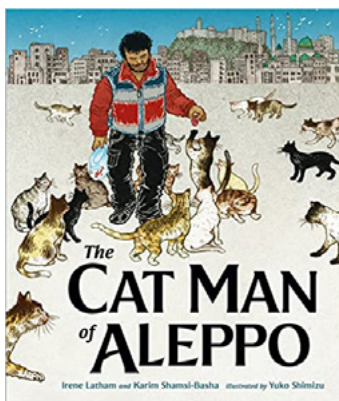
The sensible knight introduces us to the wall, which protects the safe side from the unsafe side – or so it seems. Suddenly, danger begins to mount on his side and he is forced to venture to the other. He quickly realises that things aren't as bad as he thought. In fact, things are much more wonderful! A powerful book which calls into question divisions in society and introduces young readers to the danger of preconceived ideas through humorous dialogue and delightful illustrations. (Age 2–4)



**HOLLIS KURMAN** illustrated by **BARROUX**  
**HELLO! A COUNTING BOOK OF KINDNESS**

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2020 (HBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781913074234

A beautiful story about a mother and her three children who are forced to flee from a war-torn country. Along the way, they are met with many people on their journey who show them great kindness, such as providing them with food and shelter, education for the children and friendship. This story speaks to the importance of empathy and generosity towards refugees. The central meaning is clear: we are all part of the same global community with a responsibility to help each other in times of need. (Age 2–4)



**IRENE LATHAM** and **KARIM SHAMSI-BASHA**  
illustrated by **YUKO SHIMIZU**  
**THE CAT MAN OF ALEPPO**

ROCK THE BOAT 2021 (HBK) 40PP £9.99 ISBN 9781444971781

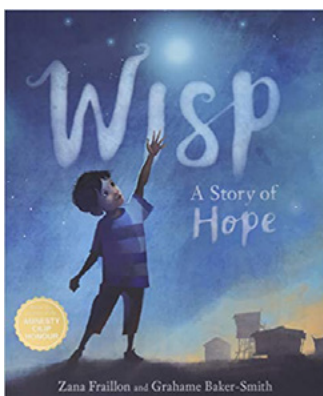
This vividly illustrated picturebook tells the true story of Mohammad Alaa Aljaleel, the real-life ‘Cat man of Aleppo’. Alaa, who lives in Aleppo, Syria, is an ambulance driver, who sets up a shelter for stray cats, left behind in Aleppo when their owners flee the war. When word spreads of Alaa’s kind act, help and donations arrive, allowing him to rescue more animals, build a children’s playground, dig a well and share food with those left in Aleppo. Ultimately, Alaa’s kindness helps to heal his own heart which was left broken by the war in his beloved city. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)



**MU'O'N THI VÂN** illustrated by **VICTO NGAI**  
**WISHES**

SCHOLASTIC 2021 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781338305890

The limited text in this story means that the illustrations carry the bulk of the emotion – the pairing of the two is a very thoughtful and moving depiction of the migrant experience, of leaving one life and moving forward into an unknown new life. It shows those who get left behind, the journey and the new people in new places. The ‘wishes’ start small and gradually grow throughout the journey. This book does a very quietly powerful job of showing the full cycle of an immigrants journey. (Age 2–4, 5–8)



**ZANA FRAILLON** illustrated by **GRAHAME BAKER-SMITH**  
**WISP: A STORY OF HOPE**

ORCHARD BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9781408350119

Idris is a child refugee, born into a world of tents and fences. He has known no other life than this. He has no memories of the world outside. Then the Wisp arrives, floating in on the evening breeze. Everyone who holds it finds their memories reawakened, their hopes of freedom reborn. But what about Idris, who has no memories? What will happen when he holds the magical Wisp? A picturebook that shows that storytelling and imagination have the power to offer hope. (Age 3–5)

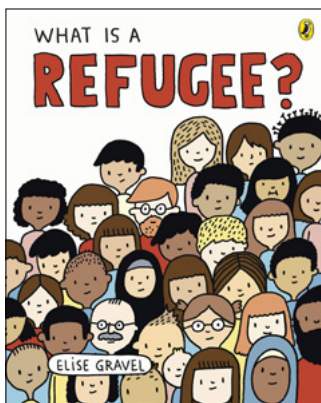




**BARROUX**  
**WELCOME**

EGMONT PUBLISHING 2016 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781405280525

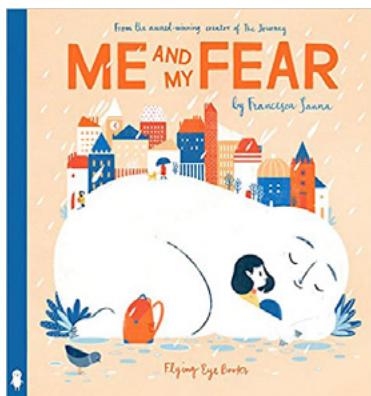
When Polar Bear and his friends are swept away from their icy home, they hope to find refuge in a new land. But when they are turned away from one new place after another, they start to doubt that they will ever find somewhere they will be made welcome. In this exceptional book, author-illustrator Barroux has crafted a powerful story with a twist ending about hugely important and current issues. A great opportunity for parents to discuss with children the plight of migrants and refugees, as well as global warming, in a gentle, open-ended way. (Age 3–6)



**ELISE GRAVEL**  
**WHAT IS A REFUGEE?**

PUFFIN 2021 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9780241423233

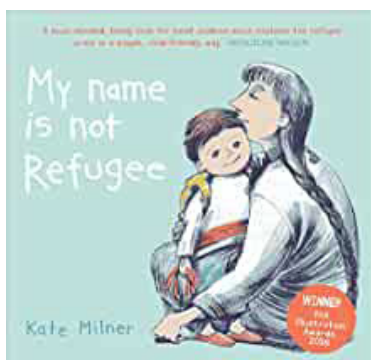
An accessible picturebook that very simply and graphically introduces the term 'refugee' to curious young children to help them better understand the world in which they live. Who are refugees? Why are they called that word? Why do they need to leave their country? Why are they sometimes not welcome in their new country? The artist explores what it means to be a refugee in bold, graphic illustrations and spare text. This is the perfect tool to introduce an important and timely topic to children. (Age 3–7)



**FRANCESCA SANNA**  
**ME AND MY FEAR**

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 40PP £8.99 ISBN 9781838741204

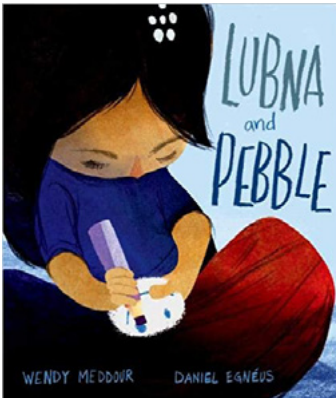
When a young girl has to travel to a new country and start at a new school, her Fear tells her to be alone and afraid. How can she hope to make friends if she doesn't understand their language? A heart-warming and relevant tale, this book shows us the importance of sharing your Fear with others – after all, everyone carries a Fear with them, even if it's small enough to fit into their pocket! (Age 3–7)



**KATE MILNER**  
**MY NAME IS NOT REFUGEE**

BARRINGTON STOKE 2017 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781911370062

A young boy discusses the journey he is about to make with his mother. They will leave their town, she explains, and it will be sad but also a little bit exciting. They will have to say goodbye to friends and loved ones, and that will be difficult. They will have to walk and walk and walk, and although they will see many new and interesting things, it will be difficult at times too. A powerful and moving exploration that draws the young reader into each stage of the journey, inviting the chance to imagine the decisions he or she would make. (Age 3–8)



**WENDY MEDDOUR** illustrated by **DANILE EGNEUS**  
**LUBNA AND PEBBLE**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2020 (PBK) 32PP £6.99 ISBN 9780192767257

Lubna's best friend is a pebble. She found it on the beach when they arrived in the night, then she fell asleep in Daddy's salty arms. Lubna tells Pebble everything. About home. About her brothers. About the war. Pebble always listens to her stories and smiles when she feels afraid. But when a lost little boy arrives in the World of Tents, Lubna understands that he needs Pebble even more than she does. An unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis. (Age 4–8)



**NICOLA DAVIES** illustrated by **LAURA CARLIN**  
**KING OF THE SKY**

WALKER BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 56PP £8.99 ISBN 9781406379198

A powerful and beautifully illustrated story about migration and the meaning of home. Starting a new life in a new country, a young boy feels lost and alone until he meets an old man who keeps racing pigeons. Together they pin their hopes on a race across Europe and the special bird they believe can win it: King of the Sky. An immigrant's tale with a powerful resonance in our troubled times is illustrated by an artist who makes the world anew with every picture. (Age 4–9)



**NICOLA DAVIES** illustrated by **REBECCA COBB**  
**THE DAY WAR CAME**

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406382938

Imagine if, on an ordinary day, war came. Imagine it turned your town to rubble. Imagine going on a long and difficult journey – all alone. Imagine finding no welcome at the end of it. Then imagine a child who gives you something small but very, very precious ... This book started as a campaign to which artists contributed drawings of chairs, symbolising a seat in a classroom, education, kindness, the hope of a future. The poem became this book, movingly illustrated by Rebecca Cobb. It is a powerful aid for explaining the ongoing refugee crisis to younger readers. (Age 5–7)



**BEN MORLEY** illustrated by **CARL PEARCE**  
**THE SILENCE SEEKER**

TAMARIND (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781848530034

When a new family moves in next door, Joe's mum explains that they are asylum seekers. Joe hears that they are silence seekers, especially as Mum adds that they need peace and quiet. When he sees a young boy from the family sitting disconsolately on the steps, Joe decides to help him find a quiet place in the noisy and chaotic city. A simple, moving story which is the perfect way to gently open discussion around the refugee crisis. (Age 5–7)



**FRANCESCA SANNA**  
**THE JOURNEY**

FLYING EYE BOOKS 2017 (HBK) 48PP £12.99 ISBN 9781909263994

What is it like to have to leave everything behind and travel many miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? A mother and her two children set out on such a journey; one filled with fear of the unknown, but also great hope. With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned. (Age 5–7)



**KATIE DAYNES and ASHE De SOUSA**  
illustrated by **OKSANA DRACHKOVSKA**  
**LIFT-THE-FLAP:**

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT REFUGEES**

USBORNE 2023 (HBK) 14PP £10.99 ISBN 9781803709987

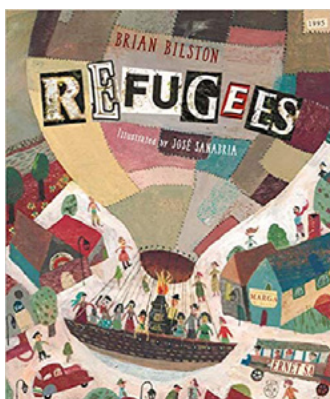
What is a refugee? What is life like in a refugee camp? Is everyone allowed to stay? This illustrated lift-the-flap book answers all of the above and more. Bringing young readers on the journey of those forced to flee from the forces pushing them from their homes, and shows the ways we can make people feel most welcome. While the text is more suitable for capable readers, children of all ages can read this together, gaining an understanding of their new neighbours, classmates and friends. (Non-fiction, 5–7, 8–10)



**ERIKA MEZA**  
**TO THE OTHER SIDE**

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2023 (HBK) 40PP £14.99 ISBN 9781444971774

A story of two refugee children which is both timely and appropriate. The first line reads: 'The rules of the game are simple. Avoid the monsters, don't get caught, and keep moving.' The young boy soon declares he is tired of the game, but his older sister urges him on until he realises ... this is not a game. Stunningly illustrated, Meza shows us the exhausting and terrifying realities for children fleeing home yet offers hope when the children cross the invisible line to safety. (Age 5–7, 8–10)



**BRIAN BILSTON** illustrated by **JOSE SANABRIA**  
**REFUGEES**

PALAZZO EDITIONS 2019 (PBK) 32PP £8.99 ISBN 9781786751294

*Refugees* is a book of two voices. The first one sees the people fleeing from war and persecution and asks, Why here? Why my country? It is a feeling many people share. It is one of fear and suspicion. But when you read the text the opposite way, a new voice emerges. It says, Why not make them welcome? Why not share the things we have? The world is undergoing a period of mass human migration caused by war, persecution or economics. There are two sides to every debate. This story shows both. (Age 5–8)



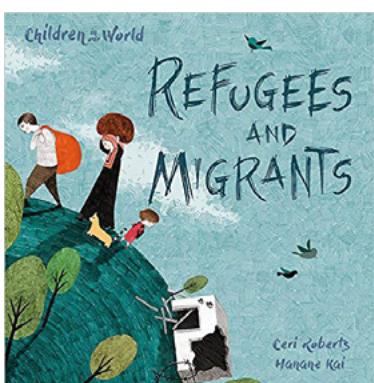


**PJ LYNCH**

## **THE BOY WHO FELL OFF THE MAYFLOWER OR JOHN HOWLAND'S GOOD FORTUNE**

WALKER BOOKS 2015 (PBK) 62PP £9.99 ISBN 9781536202960

Set in the 1600s and written in the first person, Lynch's latest offering weaves a compelling adventure story about emigration and colonisation. John Howland (the protagonist and historical figure) describes the misery aboard the *Mayflower* and the struggle against all manner of adversity as the ship and its passengers cross the Atlantic. Stunningly evocative illustrations by the author capture the mood of the story perfectly. (Age 5–8)



**CERI ROBERTS** illustrated by **HANANE KAI**

## **CHILDREN IN OUR WORLD: REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS**

WAYLAND 2018 (PBK) 32PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526300218

This title is part of the Children in Our World picturebook series, which help children make sense of the larger issues and crises that dominate the news in a sensitive and appropriate manner. With relatable comparisons, carefully researched text and striking illustrations, children can begin to understand who refugees and migrants are, why they've left their homes, where they live and what readers can do to help those in need. Where issues aren't appropriate to describe in words, sensitive illustrations help children visualise who refugees and migrants are. Ideal for tying into Refugee Week and discussions on current affairs. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8)

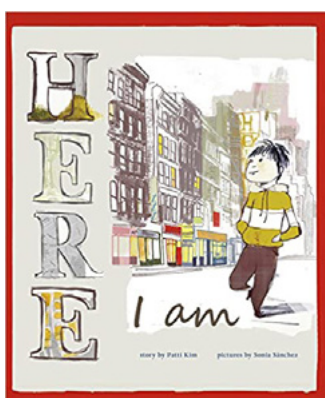


**HELEN COOPER** illustrated by **GILL SMITH**

## **SAVING THE BUTTERFLY**

WALKER BOOKS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406397666

This is a simplified story of two displaced siblings, newly arrived on their own by boat. The younger brother embraces their new life more readily, his older sister struggling with the challenges they have overcome. Depicting clearly how different people overcome trauma – the little boy makes friends, explores their new world and one day bring the outside in to his sister, in the form of a butterfly. To rescue it she must help it find its way back outside, helping open up her own world again in the process. (Age 5–10)



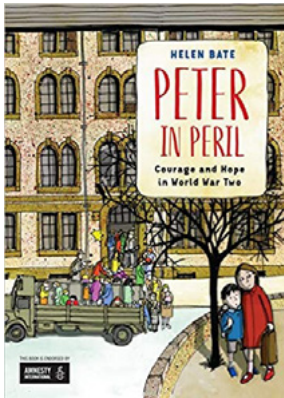
**PATTI KIM** illustrated by **SONIA SÁNCHEZ**

## **HERE I AM**

CURIOUS FOX 2015 (PBK) 40PP £6.99 ISBN 9781782022268

How do you make a new country feel like home? An old keepsake, a new friend and a little time. Walk in one boy's shoes as he takes the first tentative steps towards discovering the joys of his new world. At the beginning of this award winning beautifully illustrated picturebook, the boy struggles with the unfamiliar. His new school makes him feel lost and alone. He finds comfort in a seed brought from his homeland. It represents what he left behind and longs for. He clings to his seed, keeping it with him at all times. Until he loses it ... (Age 5–10)



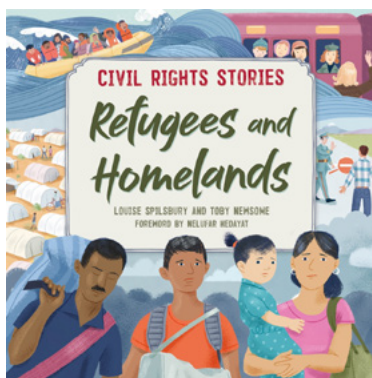


**HELEN BATE**

**PETER IN PERIL:  
COURAGE AND HOPE IN WORLD WAR TWO**

OTTER BARRY BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 48PP £8.99 ISBN 9781910959039

Peter is an ordinary Jewish boy who likes playing football and eating cake. When war comes to his city, Budapest, along with the Holocaust and persecution of Jewish people, Peter and his family go into hiding. Going hungry and often very cold, this is a moving, true experience of wartime. Excellently illustrated in graphic novel format, this book describes the horrors of war as seen through the eyes of a child. A narrative that is moving and very effective, perfect for the age group. (Age 5–8, 9–11)



**LOUISE SPILSBURY** illustrated by **TOBY NEWSOME**

**CIVIL RIGHTS STORIES: REFUGEES AND HOMELANDS**

FRANKLIN WATTS 2022 (PBK) 32PP £8.99 ISBN 9781445171425

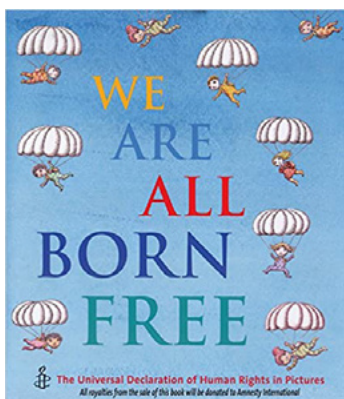
Beginning with the sobering fact that every minute, around twenty-five people are forced to flee their homeland to escape war, violence or other threats, this illustrated non-fiction book examines how the treatment of refugees has evolved from the ancient Greeks to the modern day. Focusing on both the challenges and the achievements of refugees and those who have fought to improve the rights of refugees, this is a great introduction for younger readers seeking to broaden their understanding of the plight of refugee people. (Non-fiction, Age 5–8, 9–11)



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** and **VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**DREAMS OF FREEDOM**

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDRENS BOOKS 2015 (HBK) 48PP £12.99 ISBN 9781847804532

This book contains seventeen quotations about many different aspects of freedom, from the freedom to have an education to the freedom to have a home and the freedom to be yourself. All the chosen quotations are in simple words that can be understood by young children. Authors of the quotations include: Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Harriet Tubman, Anne Frank, the Dalai Lama and Malala Yousafzai. The book is illustrated by internationally acclaimed and award-winning illustrators, including Alexis Deacon, Chris Riddell and Oliver Jeffers. (Non-fiction, Age 6–9)



**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL** and **VARIOUS ARTISTS**  
**WE ARE ALL BORN FREE**

FRANCES LINCOLN CHILDRENS BOOKS 2015 (PBK) 72PP £9.99 ISBN 978-1847806635

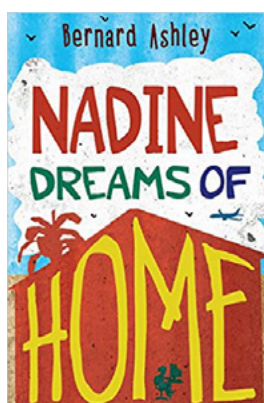
Bringing together over thirty world-renowned artists, this is a fully illustrated, simplified adaptation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, established to cultivate world peace in the wake of the Second World War. Published to mark the 60th anniversary of the declaration, the collection leads readers through each of its thirty articles, the full resonance of which is beautifully realised by the accompanying illustrations. Children and adults will recognise the work of their favourite artists and discover new ones as they gain valuable and long-lasting insight into the rights that 'belong to everyone, whatever our differences.' (Non-fiction, Age 6–9)



**VARIOUS**  
**MIGRATIONS: OPEN HEARTS, OPEN BORDERS**

OTTER-BARRY BOOKS 2019 (HBK) 109PP £11.99 ISBN 9781910959800

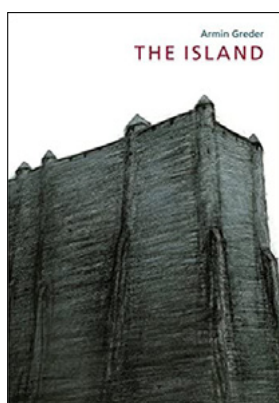
This is a capsule collection of illustrated postcards from artists who wished to express support for migrants and refugees. The original idea was that artists would send a postcard illustrated with a bird and a few words of encouragement to a central address, thus physically creating a 'migration'. The 300+ postcards from this murmuration were then exhibited, fifty of these postcards are showcased here, reflecting welcoming sentiments and an extraordinary variety of illustration. Although there is no plot or story included here, it will spark conversations about the need for assistance, acceptance and inclusion for all. (Non-fiction, Age 7+)



**BERNARD ASHLEY**  
**NADINE DREAMS OF HOME**

BARRINGTON STOKE 2014 (PBK) 64PP £6.99 ISBN 9781781123690

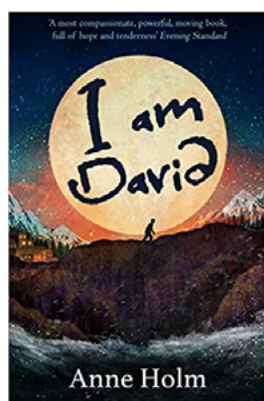
A touching yet serious story with an ultimately uplifting ending. Nadine doesn't like her new life. She doesn't speak the language, she can't understand what's going on, and more than anything, it's just not home. Especially since her father isn't here with them. But it just wasn't safe in Goma anymore, not with the uprising and the violence of the rebel soldiers. So Nadine tries to find something in her new life that will remind her of the happy memories of Africa. Particularly suitable for struggling, reluctant and dyslexic readers. (Age 7–9)



**ARMIN GREDER**  
**THE ISLAND**

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2008 (HBK) 32PP £7.99 ISBN 9781911679523

When the people of the Island discover a man and a tattered raft on their beach, they are reluctant to take him in. He doesn't look like them. But they cannot send him back to the sea where he will surely perish. Instead, they put him aside but even that doesn't solve their problem. *The Island* is an astonishing and powerful picturebook about refugees, xenophobia, multiculturalism, social politics and human rights. It tackles big themes in subtle ways with a fable-like text and stunning artwork that will provoke discussion for upper primary and secondary school levels about these issues. (Age 7–10)



**ANNE HOLM**  
**I AM DAVID**

EGMONT PUBLISHING 2018 (PBK) 208PP £7.99 ISBN 9781405288736

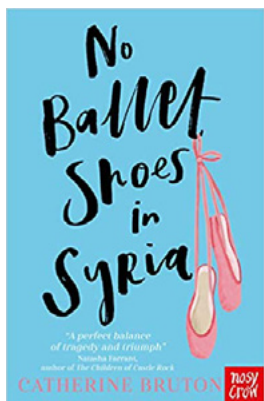
This is the remarkable story of David who escapes from the concentration camp where he has spent his entire life and flees across Europe. The sea, mountains and flowers, the colours of Italy, the taste of fruit, people laughing and smiling, all are new to David. David learns that his polite manner, his haunted eyes and his thin features are strange to other people. He must learn to fend for himself in this strange new world. An incredible story of survival against all odds and self-discovery. (Age 7–12)



**SITA BRAHMACHARI** illustrated BY JANE RAY  
**WORRY ANGELS**

BARRINGTON STOKE 2017 (PBK) 80PP £6.99 ISBN 9781781126950

There have been so many changes in Amy-May's young life and she is so filled with anxiety, she can't go to school. It's just too much for her. So, Amy-May is sent to Grace's art school, instead. But Amy-May still has trouble opening up; that is, until a refugee girl from Syria with little English arrives and changes Amy-May's perspective. This tender story addresses a number of complex issues that young people deal with every day. Family separation, relocating, the refugee crisis; but mostly it deals with anxiety and stress. (Age 8–12)



**CATHERINE BRUTON**  
**NO BALLET SHOES IN SYRIA**

NOSY CROW 2019 (PBK) 272PP £7.99 ISBN 9781788004503

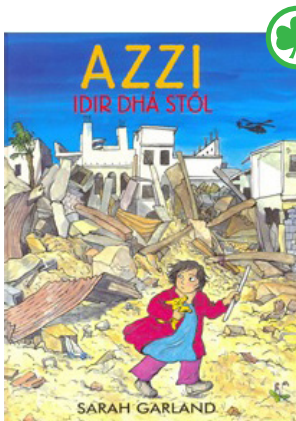
Aya is eleven-years-old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, her exceptional talent is spotted. But at the same time, her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country and to find Aya's father – separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria. With beautiful, captivating writing, wonderfully authentic ballet detail, and an important message championing the rights of refugees, this is classic storytelling, filled with warmth, hope and humanity. (Age 8–12)



**PATRICIA FORDE** maisithe ag **JOHN WHITE**  
**AR STRAE**

FUTA FATA 2019 (BOG) 64LCH €7.95 ISBN 9781910945513

Tagann Nizar go hÉirinn ón tSiria lena mham agus a bheirt deirfiúr, Sada agus Rasha, ar cúpla iad. Tá a mham ag iompar clainne agus ar ndóigh tá teaghlach mór ag Nizar, ach níl a athair leo agus tá Nizar mar fhear an tí anois go dtí go dtagann sé ar ais. Tá siad ina gcónaí in óstán agus tá a lán rialacha ann, dar le Nizar. Tugann an scéal fíor-spléachadh ar an gcineál saoil a bhíonn acu. Tugann sé léargas dúinn ar a dtaobhsa den scéal. Más rud é go bhfuil tú ag iarraidh léargas ar shaol na dteifeach nach bhfuil ródhomhain ná dorcha, is leabhar iontach é seo. (Aois 8–12)

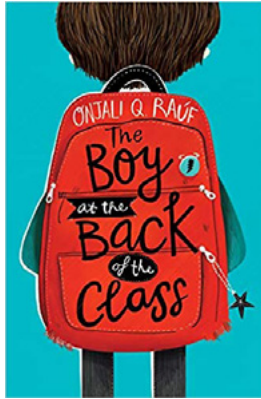


**SARAH GARLAND** aistrithe ag **FIDELMA NÍ GHALLCHOBHAIR**  
**AZZI IDIR DHÁ STÓL**

AN GÚM 2012 (CRUA) 36LCH €6.95 ISBN 9871857911565

Scéal álainn ó chroí í seo ina bhfeicimid an gcruatan agus an fhulaingt a bhíonn ag dídeanaithe i saol an lae inniu. Cailín cróga diongbháilte í Azzi a fheicimid ar a turas óna tír dhúchais chontúirteach fhoréigineach go hÉirinn, áit ina mbíonn idir maith agus olc roimpi. B'ábhar aoibhneas é í a fheiceáil ag dul i ngleic le cultúr na hÉireann agus san am céanna ag malairt a cultúr saibhir féin leo siúd timpeall uirthi. Leabhar mhachnamhach í seo lán de léaráidí saibhre. (Aois 8–10)





**ONJALI Q RAÚF**  
**THE BOY AT THE BACK OF THE CLASS**

ORION BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 297PP £7.99 ISBN 9781510105010

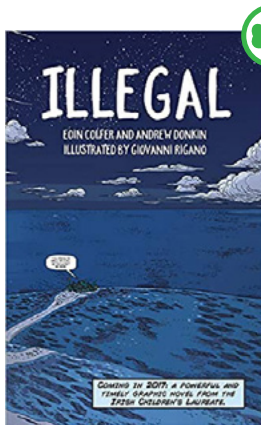
There's an empty chair at the back of the class. Nobody pays it any attention until one day a new boy sits there. This book presents the issues around refugees – their plight, attitudes towards them, ways of helping them – through a warm, charming story about a good-hearted nine-year-old who just wants to help a friend. It doesn't shy away from the ugliness or from the horrors and losses faced by refugees, to the bigotry and racism and ignorance they face, albeit presented in a way that doesn't overwhelm a positive story about friendship and love. (Age 8–12)



**CATHY CASSIDY**  
**SAMI'S SILVER LINING**

PUFFIN BOOK 2018 (PBK) 288PP £6.99 ISBN 9780241334485

Forced to flee his home in Syria for safety in England, Sami attempts to begin a new life but struggles to overcome the pain of the past. Memories of the long and dangerous journey across icy waters, armed with only his dad's old coat, a flute and the hope of a brighter future, are never far away. Can his new friends in the Lost and Found band and a blossoming romance with the girl of his dreams melt his frozen heart or is it too late to find a silver lining? (Age 9–11)



**EOIN COLFER and ANDREW DONKIN illustrated by GIOVANNI RIGANO**  
**ILLEGAL**

HODDER CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 144PP £10.99 ISBN 9781444931686

This is a powerful and timely story about one boy's epic journey across Africa to Europe, a graphic novel with glorious colour artwork throughout. Ebo is all alone. His sister left months ago. Now his brother has disappeared too, and Ebo knows it can only be to make the hazardous journey to Europe. So he follows. His epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his sister. (Age 9–11)

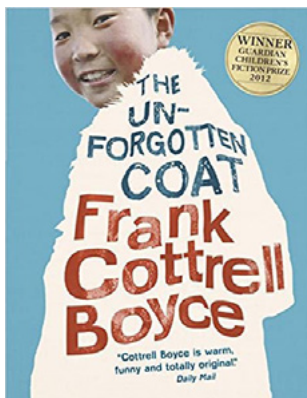


**JO COTTERILL**  
**LOOKING AT THE STARS**

CORGI CHILDRENS 2015 (PBK) 384PP £7.99 ISBN 9780552566704

Amina's homeland has been ravaged by war, and her family is devastated. The women of the family – Amina, her two sisters and their mother – have no choice but to leave their home town, along with thousands of others, and head for a refugee camp. But there are even more challenges ahead. Violence and the other disturbing images are not dwelled on unnecessarily, but the horror of Amina's situation is clear and present. The reader finds a surprising story of family, friendship and hope. (Age 9–11)

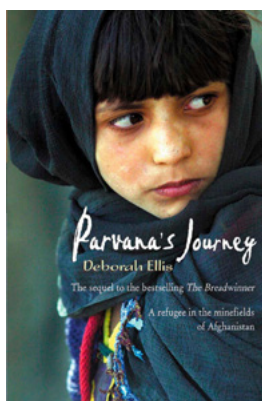




**FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE**  
**THE UNFORGOTTEN COAT**

WALKER BOOKS 2012 (PBK) 112PP £7.99 ISBN 9781406341546

Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but they bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterises Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, readers will be transported from the streets of Liverpool to the steppe of Mongolia. (Age 9–11)



**DEBORAH ELLIS**  
**PARVANA'S JOURNEY**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2004 (PBK) 208PP £7.99 ISBN 9780192787361

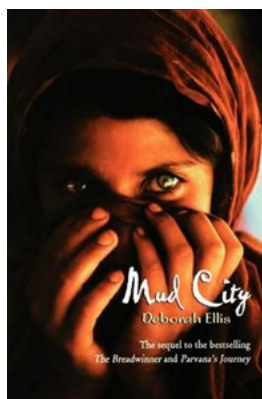
Part of a series, this book tells the story of Parvana, whom we first met in *The Breadwinner*. Parvana is alone. Her father is dead. A refugee in a land full of dangers, she must travel across Afghanistan to find her mother and sisters. As she travels, Parvana finds friend – a starving, orphaned baby; a strange, hostile boy; a solitary girl who darts in and out of the minefields to find food. Perhaps, with their help, she may one day be reunited with her family. (Age 9–11)



**DEBORAH ELLIS**  
**MY NAME IS PARVANA**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2014 (PBK) £7.99 240PP ISBN 9780192787347

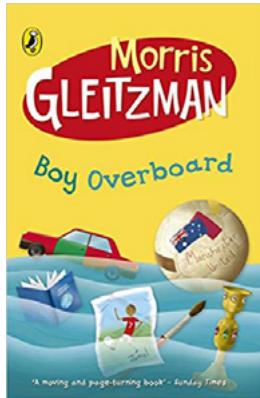
Fifteen-year-old Parvana has built a new life with her family, and it's the life she's always dreamt of. She's learning in a real school, and teaching too. But this is Afghanistan, and the war is far from over. Many still view the education and freedom of women with suspicion and fear. And that means Parvana and her family are in danger. When she's taken away by American soldiers, suspected of being a terrorist, Parvana must find a way to protect her family, and keep her hope alive. (Age 9–11)



**DEBORAH ELLIS**  
**MUD CITY**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2004 (PBK) £7.99 160PP ISBN 9780192787323

Shauzia has a dream. She dreams of getting away from the refugee camp in Pakistan and travelling to France. There she knows she would find a better life, away from the war in her home country of Afghanistan. But escape is not so easy. Once she leaves the camp, she has no money, no food and only her dog Jasper for company. But Shauzia is determined to find a new future for herself. (Age 9–11)



**MORRIS GLEITZMAN**  
**BOY OVERBOARD**

PUFFIN 2003 (PBK) 192PP £7.99 ISBN 9780141316253

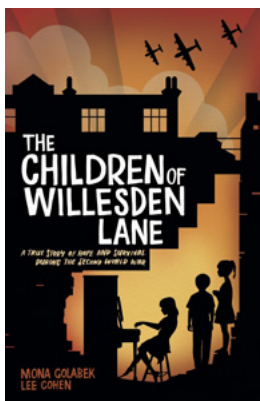
Jamal loves playing football, which isn't easy if your goalie only has one leg and you keep having to dodge landmines to get your ball back. Jamal's stubborn little sister Bibi is even better at football than Jamal. But girls playing football is against the law in Afghanistan. When it is discovered that Jamal's mother has been secretly running a school, the family must leave their home and begin a long and dangerous journey to Australia. The children survive separation from their parents, hunger, and violent smugglers only to find that Australia isn't as welcoming as they had thought. (Age 9–11)



**MORRIS GLEITZMAN**  
**GIRL UNDERGROUND**

PUFFIN 2005 (PBK) 208PP £7.99 ISBN 9780141319001

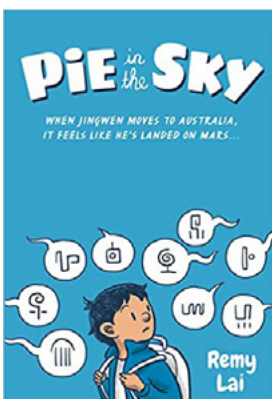
Trying to fit in at a posh new school is really hard when your loving and lovable family also happen to be criminals. Bridget is succeeding pretty well and has even made a friend, Menzies, the son of the federal Minister for National Development. Then she finds out about Menzies' penfriend, Jamal, a refugee kid from Afghanistan held in a detention centre. When daring appeals to the government and the prime minister himself fail to set Jamal and his sister free, Bridget and Menzies decide to take matters into their own hands. (Age 9–11)



**MONA GOLABEK and LEE COHEN**  
**THE CHILDREN OF WILLESDEN LANE**

FRANKLIN WATTS 2017 (PBK) 240PP £7.99 ISBN 9781445161303

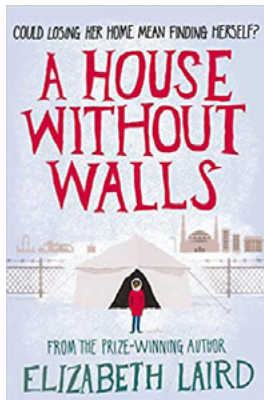
Fourteen-year-old Lisa Jura was a musical prodigy who hoped to become a concert pianist. But when Hitler's armies advanced on pre-war Vienna, Lisa's parents were forced to make a difficult decision. Able to secure passage for only one of their three daughters, they chose to send gifted Lisa to London for safety. Based on a true story of a fourteen-year-old girl Lisa Jura, this is her inspirational story of escape from Nazi-controlled Austria to England on the famed Kindertransport. (Age 9–11)



**REMY LAI**  
**PIE IN THE SKY**

WALKER BOOKS 2019 (PBK) 384PP £8.99 ISBN 9781529500745

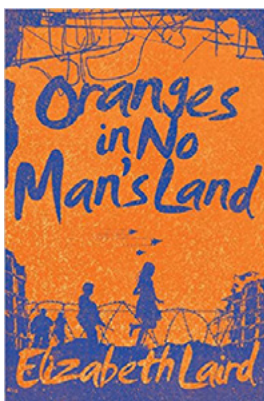
Jingwen has moved with his brother and his mother to Australia and doesn't speak a word of English. Initially feeling like he is surrounded by aliens, Jingwen struggles to fit in and is still grieving the loss of his father just a few years earlier. This brilliant graphic novel is a mix of words and cleverly expressive drawings, that you quickly into Jingwen's story. Tackling difficult themes of immigration and grief with a touch as light as a genoise sponge. (Age 9–11)



**ELIZABETH LAIRD**  
**A HOUSE WITHOUT WALLS**

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2020 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9781509828241

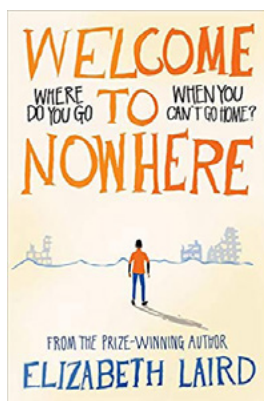
This is a powerful story of family, hope and redemption amidst the refugee crisis in Syria. Thirteen-year-old Safiya and her family have been driven out of Syria by civil war. Safiya knows how lucky she is – lucky not to be living in a refugee camp, lucky to be alive. But it's hard to feel grateful when she's forced to look after her father and brother rather than go back to school, and now that she's lost her home, she's lonelier than ever. (Age 9–11)



**ELIZABETH LAIRD**  
**ORANGES IN NO MAN'S LAND**

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2016 (PBK) 128PP £7.99 ISBN 9781509802920

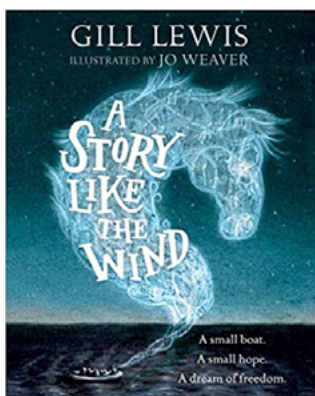
Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill, Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory. (Age 9–11)



**ELIZABETH LAIRD**  
**WELCOME TO NOWHERE**

MACMILLAN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9781509840472

Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics – all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes ... Before long, bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have to flee. Yet no matter how far they run, the shadow of war follows them – until they have no other choice than to attempt the dangerous journey to escape their homeland altogether. (Age 9–11)



**GILL LEWIS** illustrated by **JO WEAVER**  
**A STORY LIKE THE WIND**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2017 (HBK) 80PP £8.99 ISBN 9780192758958

A beautifully illustrated story of freedom, music, and seeking refuge. A small group of refugees is crowded on to a boat on the sea. They share their stories as the boat travels towards the dream of safety and freedom. One boy, Rami, has brought his violin, and his story of how the violin was invented, and of a stallion that could run like the wind, weaves through the other stories, bringing them all together into a celebration of hope and of the power of music and story. (Age 9–11)

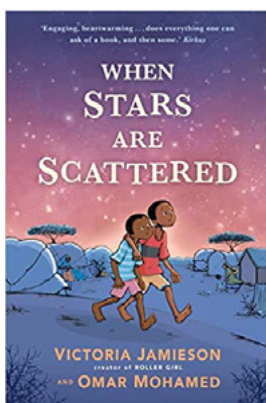




**EDUARD ALTARRIBA**  
**MIGRANTS**

BUTTON BOOKS 2023 (PBK) 43PP £9.99 ISBN 9781787081291

Why do people migrate? What are borders? Where can migrants go? This graphic non-fiction book explores the concept of migration and the many causes that can lead to someone becoming a migrant. Covering topics such as European colonisation, migrant routes, the rights of refugees and dangers of trafficking, the author uses accessible languages and diagrams to convey a multitude of information. With a useful glossary at the back, this is a guide for better understanding the wider political, historical, and geographic aspects of migration. (Non-fiction, Age 9–11, 12–14)



**VICTORIA JAMIESON and OMAR MOHAMED**  
illustrated by **VICTORIA JAMIESON**  
**WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED**

FABER & FABER 2020 (PBK) 264PP £9.99 ISBN 978057136385

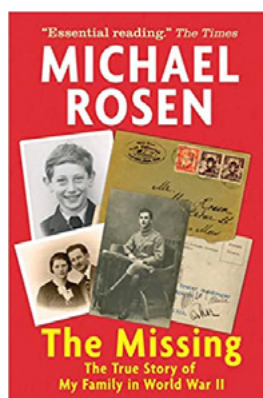
This beautifully illustrated graphic novel memoir tells the story of Omar, his younger brother Hassan and his friends as they progress through school in a refugee camp in Kenya. Balancing realism and optimism, the tone is warm but fiercely observant, as the boys hope that the seemingly impenetrable system of UN resettlement will allow them to escape the monotony and hunger of camp life. The authors' notes at the end add closure that the text doesn't need, but with such unforgettable characters, the reader might. (Age 9–11, 12–14)



**MING & WAH** illustrated by **CARMEN VELA**  
**ESCAPE**

LANTANA PUBLISHING 2021 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 978191137381

Escape is a beautifully haunting picturebook illustrating the plight of individuals forced to flee their homes and families because of socio-cultural upheaval. Ming and Wah Chen tell twelve stories that document the movement of people, spanning Syria to Greece, Austria to China, Scotland to France, Kiribati to New Zealand, and more. These stories allow for historical and geographical perspectives but reinforce positive outcomes. Factual narratives are accompanied by beautiful illustrations, providing a platform for discussions on social-cultural issues and the personal impact of global evils. (Age 9–11, 12–14)



**MICHAEL ROSEN**  
**THE MISSING**

WALKER BOOKS 2020 (HBK) 128PP £6.99 ISBN 9781406386752

Michael Rosen grew up with many questions about his Jewish ancestors, particularly, his grandfather's brothers, Oscar and Martin. They were there before the Second World War, but then they weren't. When the Nazis knew they were losing World War II, they tried to destroy evidence of the existence of the millions of people they had killed. The author draws parallels between the plight of refugees today and the Jewish families fleeing for their safety making this book part of a bigger conversation about the refugee crisis. (Non-fiction, Age 9–11, 12–14)





**YEVA SKALIETSKA translated by CINDY JOSEPH-PEARSON**  
**YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT WAR IS**

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2022 (PBK) 240PP £9.99 ISBN 9781526659934

Yeva was an ordinary girl living in Kharkiv with her grandmother when her story opens with her twelfth birthday party, ten days before the Russian army invaded Ukraine in February 2022. Consisting of Yeva's diary entries, this first-hand account allows younger readers to make sense of what a modern European war is like for ordinary citizens, and asks older readers to pull back from news headlines and see the human toll the conflict is taking. Yeva embodies the resilience Ukrainians have become known for worldwide. (Age 9–11, 12–14)



**BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH**  
**WINDRUSH CHILD**

SCHOLASTIC 2020 (PBK) 208PP £6.99 ISBN 9780702302725

Leonard leaves Jamaica and the only life he has ever known to travel with his mother to Manchester to reconnect with a father he has never known. The story spans his life – from arrival when he is met with racism and bullying and going through to his later years when the full effects of the devastating and far-reaching effects of Britain's colonial legacy in modern society come to fruition. Issues of immigration, the Windrush generation, and race relations in Britain are put into simple terms for children to digest. (Age 9–12)



**JESS BUTTERWORTH**  
**RUNNING ON THE ROOF OF THE WORLD**

ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 288PP £7.99 ISBN 9781510102088

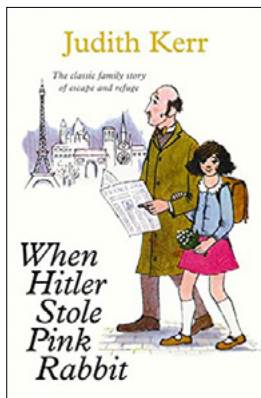
Tash has to follow many rules to survive in Tibet, a country occupied by Chinese soldiers. But when a man sets himself on fire in protest and soldiers seize Tash's parents, she and her best friend Sam must break the rules. They are determined to escape Tibet and seek the help of the Dalai Lama himself in India. And so, with a backpack of Tash's father's mysterious papers and two trusty yaks by their side, their extraordinary journey across the mountains begins. Filled with friendship, love and courage, this young girl's thrilling journey to save her parents. (Age 9–12)



**ANNE FRANK**  
**THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL**

PENGUIN 2007 (PBK) 352PP £7.99 ISBN 9780141315195

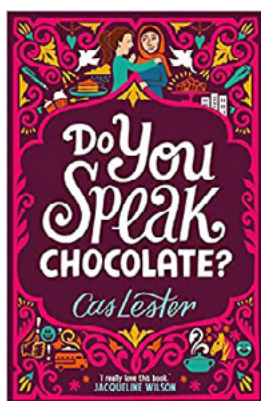
A deeply moving and unforgettable portrait of an ordinary and yet an extraordinary teenage girl. First published over sixty years ago, it has reached millions of young people throughout the world. In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed. (Non-fiction, Age 9–12)



**JUDITH KERR**  
**WHEN HITLER STOLE PINK RABBIT**

HARPERCOLLINS CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 304PP £7.99 ISBN 9780007274772

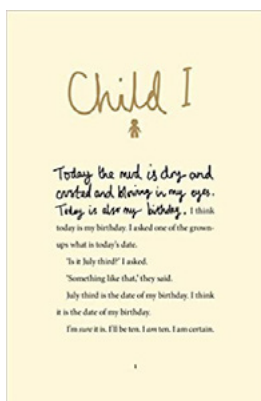
Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people. That is what happened to Anna who was nine-years-old when it began. One day, Anna's father was missing. Then she herself and her brother Max were being rushed by their mother, in alarming secrecy, away from everything they knew – home and schoolmates and well-loved toys – right out of Germany. (Age 9–12)



**CAS LESTER**  
**DO YOU SPEAK CHOCOLATE?**

PICADILLY PRESS 2017 (PBK) 288PP £7.99 ISBN 9781471405037

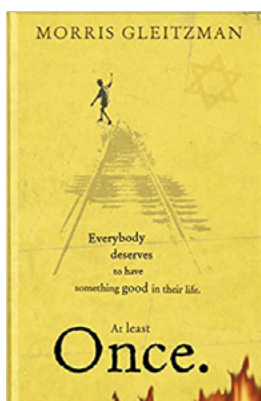
Jaz has found the best way to make friends with new girl Nadima, who doesn't speak any English – by offering her a chocolate bar. Nadima grins and offers back some Turkish Delight, the ice is broken, and a special friendship begins. In a story of friendship, family and entrepreneurial wizardry, Cas Lester deftly navigates the trials and tribulations of girlhood, and examines with the lightest of touches and gentle humour the thorny and compelling issues of integration, belonging and identity. (Age 9–12)



**STEVE TASANE**  
**CHILD I**

FABER & FABER 2018 (PBK) 192PP £7.99 ISBN 9780571337835

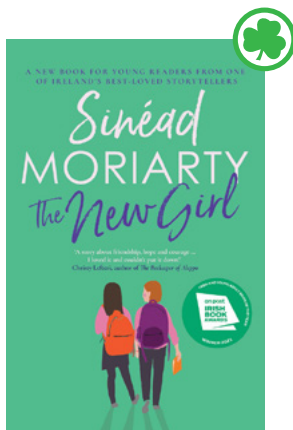
A group of undocumented children with letters for names, are living in a refugee camp, with stories to tell but no papers to prove them. They have lost their 'life books' (passports) and as such are stuck in the limbo of the camp with no way out. No parents, no adults, they have only each other. As they try to forge a new family amongst themselves. This book tells the story of five refugee children, told from the perspective of child 'I' and is filled with the simple, yet still poetic language of a young person in a tragic setting. (Non-fiction, Age 9–12)



**MORRIS GLEITZMAN**  
**ONCE**

PUFFIN 2006 (PBK) 160PP £7.99 ISBN 9780141320632

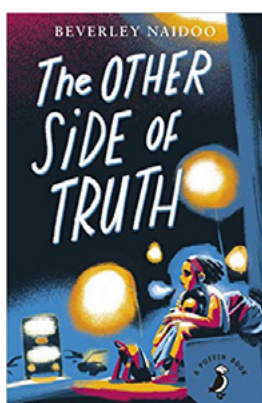
*Once* by Morris Gleitzman is the story of a young Jewish boy. It begins with Felix escaping from the orphanage he has been living in for the past three years and setting off through Nazi-occupied Poland in search of the parents he believes to be still alive. Aimed at young readers ages nine and up, the series is surprisingly unflinching in its portrayal of the Holocaust but this is counteracted well by the naivety of the young narrator, Felix. This is the start of a series. (Age 9–13)



**SINÉAD MORIARTY**  
**THE NEW GIRL**

GILL BOOKS (PBK) 208PP €9.99 ISBN 9780717195053

Ruby's family life centres around her brother Robbie's disabilities. Her parents are at breaking point and she is trying to hold it together – so when she is charged with looking after Safa, a refugee who has come from Syria with her mother, Ruby is less than enthusiastic. Though their burdens appear very different at first, both families face prejudice, including an uncomfortable slur used against Robbie, and ignorance. Ultimately, compassion, resilience and courage shine through in this story about the importance of friendship and family. (Age 9–13)



**BEVERLY NAIDOO**  
**THE OTHER SIDE OF TRUTH**

PUFFIN BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 368PP £8.99 ISBN 9780141377353

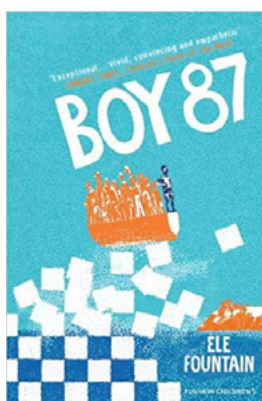
This is the story of twelve-year-old Sade and her brother Femi who flee to Britain from Nigeria. Their father is a political journalist who refuses to stop criticising the military rulers in Nigeria. Their mother is killed and they are sent to London, with their father promising to follow. Abandoned at Victoria Station by the woman paid to bring them to England as her children, they find themselves alone in a new, often hostile, environment. The novel explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee. (Age 9–13)



**MICHAEL ROSEN and ANNEMARIE YOUNG**  
**WHO ARE REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS? WHAT MAKES PEOPLE LEAVE THEIR HOMES? AND OTHER BIG QUESTIONS**

WAYLAND 2019 (PBK) 48PP £9.99 ISBN 9780750299862

This book explores the history of refugees and migration around the world and the effects on people of never-ending war and conflict. It compares the effects on society of diversity and interculturalism with historical attempts to create a racially 'pure' culture. It takes an international perspective, and offers a range of views from people who have personal experience of migration. This book encourages readers to think for themselves about the issues involved. (Non-fiction, Age 10+)

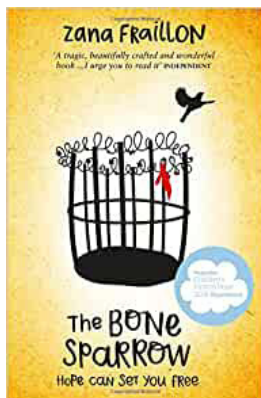


**ELE FOUNTAIN**  
**BOY 87**

PUSHKIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2018 (PBK) 224PP £7.99 ISBN 9781782691976

Shif is just an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school. But one day, soldiers with guns come to his door – and he knows that he is no longer safe. Forced to leave his mother and little sister, and embark on a dangerous journey; through imprisonment and escape, new lands and strange voices, and a perilous crossing by land and sea. He will encounter cruelty and kindness; he will become separated from the people he loves. A gripping, uplifting tale of one boy's struggle for survival. (Age 10–12)

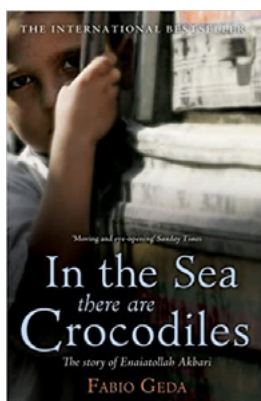




**ZARA FRAILLON**  
**THE BONE SPARROW**

ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 240PP £7.99 ISBN 9781510101555

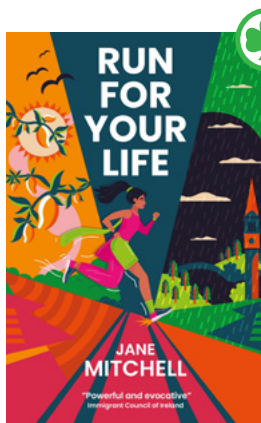
Born in a refugee camp, all Subhi knows of the world is that he's at least nineteen fence diamonds high, the nice Jackets never stay long, and at night he dreams that the sea finds its way to his tent, bringing with it unusual treasures. And one day it brings him Jimmie, she strikes up an unlikely friendship with him beyond the fence. This novel reminds us all of the importance of freedom, hope, and the power of a story to speak for anyone who's ever struggled to find a safe home. (Age 10–12)



**FABIO GEDA** translated by **HOWARD CURTIS**  
**IN THE SEA THERE ARE CROCODILES**

TAMARIND 2015 (PBK) 224PP £9.99 ISBN 9780099555452

One night before putting him to bed, Enaiatollah's mother tells him three things: don't use drugs or weapons, don't cheat, don't steal. The next day he wakes up to find she isn't there. Ten-year-old Enaiatollah is left alone at the border of Pakistan to fend for himself. In a book that takes a true story and shapes it into a beautiful piece of fiction, Italian novelist Fabio Geda describes Enaiatollah's remarkable five-year journey from Afghanistan to Italy where he finally managed to claim political asylum aged fifteen. Enaiatollah's engaging, moving voice is brilliantly captured by Geda's subtly simple storytelling. (Age 10–12)



**JANE MITCHELL**  
**RUN FOR YOUR LIFE**

LITTLE ISLAND BOOKS 2022 (PBK) 256PP €9.99 ISBN 9781912417858

Since Azari and her mother had to run for their lives from their home country, their new lives are as different from their old ones as lemons and mangoes. Navigating the Irish system of Direct Provision, in a new language and without her older sister or younger brothers, Azari finds that she's still running – from the secrets of their past as much as the prejudice in their new community. A timely reminder of the welcome so often given to those who leave everything behind for a life in Ireland. (Age 10–12)



**VICTORIA WILLIAMSON**  
**THE FOX GIRL AND THE WHITE GAZELLE**

KELPIES 2018 (PBK) 272PP £7.99 ISBN 9781782504900

Reema runs to remember the life she left behind in Syria. Caylin runs to find what she's lost. Under the grey Glasgow skies, twelve-year-old refugee Reema is struggling to find her place in a new country, with a new language and without her brother. But she isn't the only one feeling lost. Her Glaswegian neighbour Caylin is lonely and lashing out. Heartfelt and full of hope, an uplifting story about the power of friendship and belonging. Inspired by her work with young asylum seekers. (Age 10–12)





**ARMIN GREDER**  
**THE MEDITERRANEAN**

ALLEN & UNWIN CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (HBK) 40PP £12.99 ISBN 9781760634018

With eloquent and devastating imagery, we are asked to examine our responses to the plight of refugees. How long will we remain silent witnesses? Seventeen double-page spreads visually depict scenes typical of many migrants' stories, and a couple reflect more on those who instigate or benefit from the conditions that cause migration. There will be great deal for readers of eleven to adult to interrogate and reflect on in this quietly stunning reminder that many hundreds of thousands of people have died on the Mediterranean, many crammed into small boats like the one shown here. (Age 11+)



**MARIE BAMYANI, ADA JUSIC, NADINE KAADAN,  
RAMZEE and SONYA ZHURENKO illustrated by ADA JUSIC**  
**THE POWER OF WELCOME:  
REAL-LIFE REFUGEE AND MIGRANT STORIES**

SCHOLASTIC 2023 (PBK) 144PP £9.99 ISBN 9780702319167

This non-fiction book tells the histories of Ukraine, Somalia, Bosnia, Syria and Afghanistan and what led to their people fleeing from their homelands. Formatted as a graphic novel, it also tells the stories of five young refugees and migrants and their experiences escaping war and conflict. Each section describes the difficulties of their displacement, and also highlights the ongoing challenges they face as refugees in a new country. A striking book that highlights important, true stories. (Non-fiction, Age 11–14)



**GILLIAN CROSS**  
**AFTER TOMORROW**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 213 (PBK) 304PP £6.99 ISBN 9780192756268

The British economy has collapsed. Civil disobedience sets family against family as raids for the scarce food leads to violent attacks. After Matt's Dad and grandfather are killed, his Mum is determined to keep the family going by growing food and by storing all she can. Soon they are attacked as 'scadgers' for hoarding. The only solution is to flee to France where British refugees are allowed to live in camps. Based on a 'what if' premise this is a thought-provoking post-crash novel. (Age 11–14)



**ZARA FRALLION**  
**THE ONES THAT DISAPPEARED**

ORION CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 272PP £7.99 ISBN 9781510101586

This book centres around three children, Miran, Isa, and Esra who have been taken by ruthless gang members from refugee camps, children's homes, or the beaches after a dangerous dinghy capsizes on a crossing. Kept by a ruthless gang, three children manage to escape from slavery. But freedom isn't just waiting on the outside. Told with elements of magical realism, this is a relevant and important book about real issues in our world, and it makes those issues accessible to children in a profound and distinctly empathetic way, while offering hope. (Age 12–14)

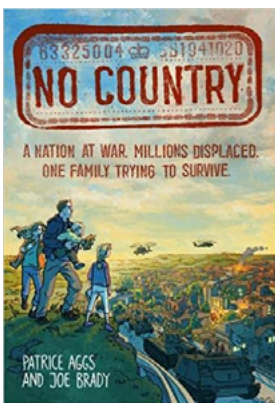


**MANJEET MANN**  
**THE CROSSING**

PENGUIN 2021 (PBK) 320PP £7.99 ISBN 9780241411445

In Dover, Natalie's life is falling apart after her mum dies; her brother is involved with a hate group, and her dad is despondent. In Eritrea, Sammy flees his home to escape the horrors he faces every day, and dreams of a new life in the UK. Both drawn to the sea, they are bound together as they both fight for the rights of refugees and their lives. A flawless verse novel that tells a heart-breaking story, this is a crucial read for all.

(Age 12–14)



**JOE BRADY** illustrated by **PATRICE AGGS**  
**NO COUNTRY**

DAVID FICKLING BOOKS 2021 (PBK) 316PP £8.99 ISBN 9781788451833

This graphic novel depicts a dystopian Britain in which its 'experiment in democracy' has failed, civil war rages and questioning authority is not allowed. Life for Bea and her family is getting harder and more dangerous, and she knows that they will have to flee the country soon, even though that brings its own risks. This is a powerful reminder of the struggles of refugees and invites empathy and compassion with anyone living in an unsafe place. (Age 12–14, 15+)



**GEORGE BUTLER**  
**DRAWN ACROSS BORDERS: TRUE STORIES OF MIGRATION**

WALKER BOOKS 2021 (HBK) 54PP £15.00 ISBN 9781406392166

George Butler is an award-winning artist who has travelled to many borders and war zones across the world to document the migrants trapped between nations. In these personal accounts Butler tells us the stories of those he has met in sensitive prose, which provide context for his beautiful pen and ink illustrations, which jump off the page. This book is a powerful testament to the real lives that get lost behind the headlines of war and global crisis. (Age 12–14, 15+)



**DEBORAH ELLIS**  
**ONE MORE MOUNTAIN**

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS 2023 186PP £7.99 ISBN 9780192786937

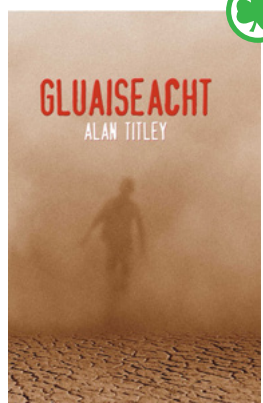
The fifth instalment of the Breadwinner series, this is the story of ordinary people coping with the Taliban's return to power in Kabul in 2021. Two intertwined tales, one of a teenage boy trying to escape to America to become a ballet dancer, and the other a girl fleeing from a forced marriage, give different insights into the impact of living in intolerance. Fast-paced and gripping, the sympathetic characters show us the possibility of human kindness and bravery in even the most inhumane situations. (Age 12–14, 15+)



**DAN SMITH** illustrated by **MATTHEW LAND**  
**NISHA'S WAR**

CHICKEN HOUSE 2022 (PBK) 359PP £7.99 ISBN 9781912626755

It's 1942 and Nisha has travelled a long way. Her first journey takes her from a privileged and happy childhood in Malaya to the stark, grey, frightening home of her grandmother on England's Barrow Island. Her other journey is from a child refugee suffering from PTSD, barely able to speak, to a blossoming young girl who has found courage, hope, and honesty. Both journeys are cleverly and intricately woven together. Nisha is a beautifully realised character and will undoubtedly evoke empathy from the reader. (Age 12–14, 15+)



**ALAN TITLEY**  
**GLUISEACHT**

AN GÚM 2009 (BOG) 134LCH €7.50 ISBN 9781857917550

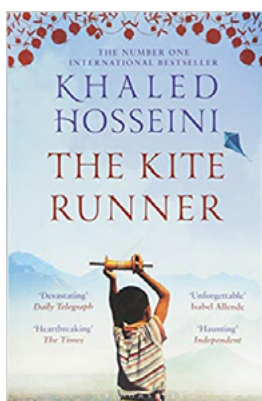
Seo scéal coscrach cumhachtach, á insint sa chéad phearsa. Scéal ógánaigh a thosaíonn i ndúiche atá faoi bhagairt cogaidh san Afraic agus a chríochnaíonn ar shráideanna doicheallacha thuaisceart na hEorpa. Scéal é a bhfuil an t-uafás agus an daonnacht taobh le taobh ann agus a théann go croí cheist na hinimirce nua-aimseartha. (Aois 12–14, 15+)



**ALAN GRATZ**  
**REFUGEE**

SCHOLASTIC 2017 352PP (PBK) £7.99 ISBN 9781407184326

Refugee is a gripping novel following three young people and their families on their journey to the 'Promised Land'. Each story is set in a different time and a different country, but they all share the same narrative: being forced to leave behind their homeland in search of a safer place to live. A heart wrenching tale of the bravery of young people who never give up the fight. Dealing with violence and death, this novel is more suited to young adult readers. (Age 15+)

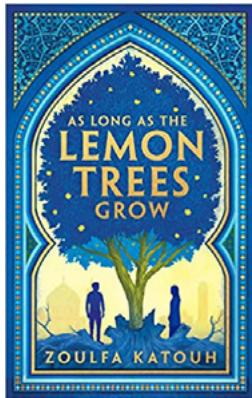


**KHALED HOSSEINI**  
**THE KITE RUNNER**

BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING 2018 (PBK) 368PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526604743

In Afghanistan in 1975, we meet twelve-year-old Amir who is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption. (Age 15+)

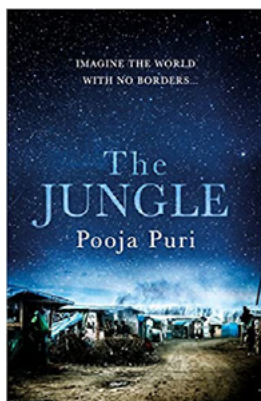




**ZOULFA KATOUH** illustrated by **SARAH BALDWIN**  
**AS LONG AS THE LEMON TREES GROW**

BLOOMSBURY YA 2022 (HBK) 432PP £8.99 ISBN 9781526648525

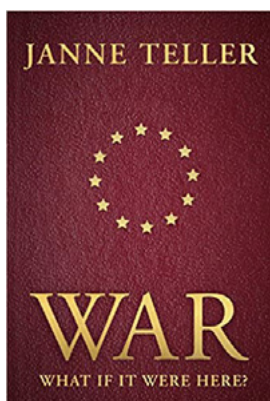
Eighteen-year-old Salama volunteers as a nurse at her local hospital in Syria. For fifty years, the country has been under dictatorship, and the Free Syrian Army has taken to the streets to protect civilians. As the violence against Syrians escalates, Salama faces an impossible choice; leave and hope she survives the journey to Europe or stay and save others before she dies in her homeland. An incredibly difficult but essential read, a profound story of love, loss and the courage to hope. (Age 15+)



**POOJA PURI**  
**THE JUNGLE**

BLACK AND WHITE PUBLISHING 2017 (PBK) 224PP £7.99 ISBN 9781785300882

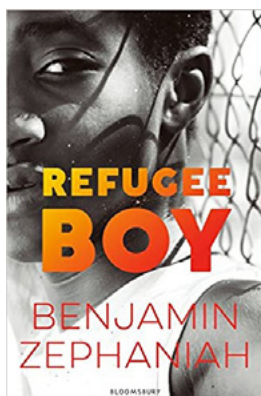
Mico has left his family, his home, his future. Setting out in search of a better life, instead he finds himself navigating one of the world's most inhospitable environments, the Jungle. Just one of many 'unaccompanied children', the Calais refugee camp has a wildness, a brutality all of its own. But despite his ambitions to escape, Mico is unable to buy his way out to cross the borders. He is alone, desperate, and running out of options. But then Leila arrives and everything starts to change. She shows Mico that hope and friendship can grow in the most unusual places. (Age 15+)



**JANNE TELLER**  
**WAR: WHAT IF IT WERE HERE?**

SIMON & SCHUSTER 2016 (HBK) 64PP £5.99 ISBN 9781471161476

Imagine if war broke out – not in Iraq or Afghanistan or somewhere far, far away, but here, in our country. This book is a thought-provoking experiment: by simply turning the current crisis on its head, she reveals what it is like to flee your home country, to be exiled, and to fight for survival in a foreign country. In this illustrated short story, Europe has fallen apart and the only place at peace within reach is the Middle East. You follow a normal family as they flee to the Middle East and see what they go through as refugees, through the eyes of their fourteen-year-old son. (Age 15+)



**BENJAMIN ZEPHANIAH**  
**REFUGEE BOY**

BLOOMSBURY CHILDREN'S BOOKS 2017 (PBK) 304PP £7.99 ISBN 9781408894996

This wry and poignant story of a young refugee left in London is of even more power and pertinence today than when it was first published in 2001. Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, his mother Eritrean. Their countries are at war, and Alem is welcome in neither place. So Alem is excited to spend a holiday in London with his father – until he wakes up to find him gone. What seems like a betrayal is in fact an act of love, but now Alem is alone in a strange country, and he must forge his own path. (Age 15+)





# reading together with refugees

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