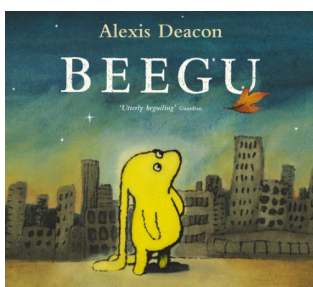


## Books Focusing on Identity, Belonging, Conflict, Migrant and Refugee Experiences

Age groupings are for general guidance only. As these books deal with strong and emotive themes, it's important that teachers, parents and carers share them with children.

### Foundation Stage and Key Stage One

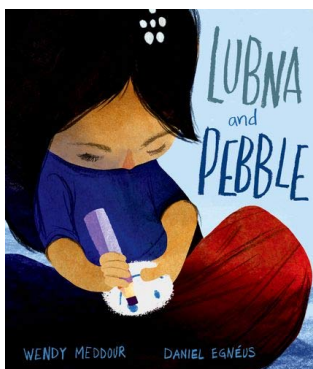


#### **Beegu by Alexis Deacon**

Red Fox 9780099417446

A small creature from outer space lands on Earth accidentally. She finds the Earth creatures unfeeling and unfriendly, until she finds a box of unwanted puppies, and then a school playground full of small creatures who 'seemed hopeful'. Empathy is evoked by both the brief text and the distinctive illustrations.

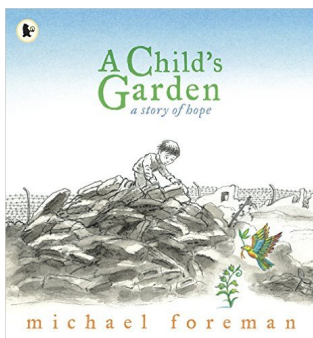
A CLPE Power of Reading text. A link to a free teaching sequence for this book can be accessed via core books <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/beegu>



#### **Lubna and the Pebble by Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egnéus**

Oxford University Press 9780192771940

Lubna is lonely when she and father arrive in a refugee camp and she uses her imagination to create a friend by drawing a happy face on a pebble with a felt-tip pen. Then Amir arrives and Lubna has a human friend to play with and to whom she can introduce Pebble which becomes important when it is time for Lubna and her father to move on. A picture book in which the expressions on the characters' faces beautifully enhance and complement a story that is told with simplicity yet has emotional depth.



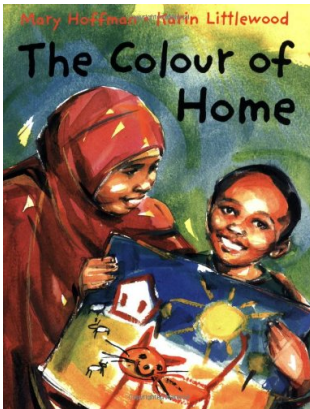
#### **A Child's Garden by Michael Foreman**

Walker 9781406325881

This picture book conveys a strong message in a simply told tale. A boy finds a green shoot in a war ravaged landscape. He nurtures the vine it becomes until it spreads along the barbed wire fence which separates one part of his land from another. Soldiers try to destroy it but 'Roots are deep and seeds spread', and eventually the boy's vine sprouts new growth and intertwines with a plant tended by a girl on the other side of the fence.

For a selected annotated list of titles illustrated by Michael Foreman see here: <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>

# A CLPE booklist



## ***The Colour of Home* by Mary Hoffman and Karin Littlewood**

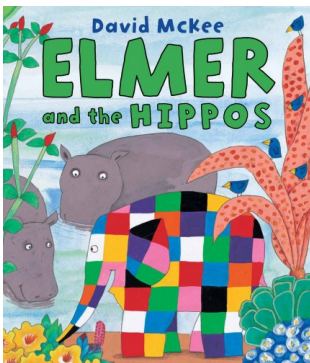
Frances Lincoln 9780711219915

This picture book lets us into the world of Hassan, a young boy who has just arrived in Britain from Somalia. He expresses his feelings about the terrors he has witnessed through making paintings. His teacher finds a way, with the help of an interpreter, to help him settle into his new home.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/colour-home>

See our Mary Hoffman booklist here

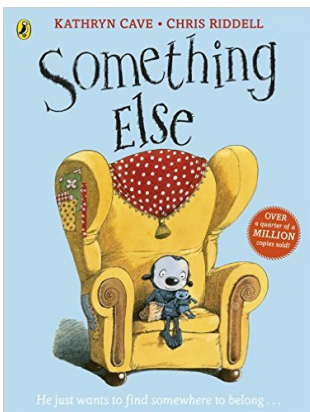
<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/mary-hoffman-booklist>



## ***Elmer and the Hippos* by David McKee**

Andersen Press 9781842709818

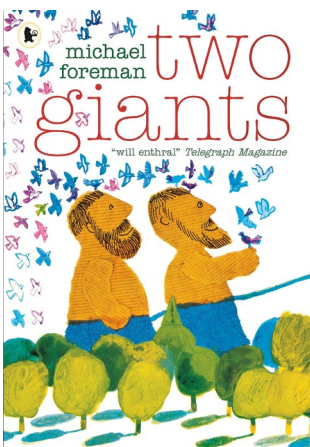
The elephants are angry. The hippos have arrived and are using their river because their own has dried up. Elmer the patchwork elephant investigates the reason and works out a way to get the elephants and the hippos to work together to resolve the problem.



## ***Something Else* by Kathryn Cave and Chris Riddell**

Puffin 9780141338675

However hard he tries to join in, Something Else is always excluded by the other creatures because of the way he looks. Then one day, a stranger turns up at his door claiming to be just like him. Will Something Else reject this newcomer or will he let him into his home and his heart?



## ***Two Giants* by Michael Foreman**

Walker 9781406360622

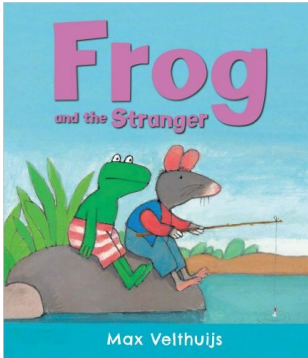
Two gentle giants are formed from torn brown paper in the collage illustrations of this picture book. They are great friends until a trivial argument causes ructions for them and for the land in which they live. After trials and tribulations, a simple personal observation effects their reconciliation.

For a selected annotated list of titles illustrated by Michael Foreman see here

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>



# A CLPE booklist

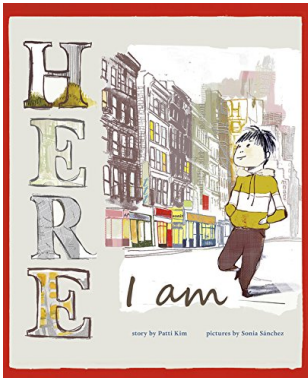


## **Frog and the Stranger by Max Velthuis**

Andersen Press 9781783441433

When Rat sets up home in their community, Frog is the only one prepared to get to know this 'stranger'. Pig and Duck both have prejudices and groundless fears about newcomers in their midst. Eventually they learn that everyone can make a contribution to society wherever they come from.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/frog-and-stranger>



## **Here I Am by Patti Kim and Sonia Sánchez**

Curious Fox 9781782022268

A young boy's experience of initial alienation and confusion is eloquently expressed in pictures placed on pages carefully designed in terms of layout and colour. The only words are jumbled up on signs or heard as a wall of incomprehensible sound to a child who has just arrived in a new country with a different language and culture from what he is used to. Planting a seed brought from his country leads to the nurturing of friendship and feeling at ease with his identity in his new home. Based on the author's own experience of migrating from Korea to the USA.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/here-i-am>



## **The Journey Home by Frann Preston-Gannon**

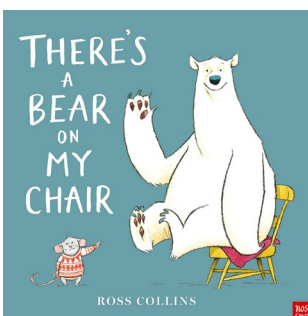
Pavilion 9781843652090

A polar bear realises that he needs to leave his Arctic home as the ice melts and his food supply dwindles. So he climbs into a little boat and sets sail. Along the way he is joined by other animals whose habitat is threatened. The story ends on a note that combines a mixture of hope and uncertainty about whether they will ever be able to return to their original home.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/journey-home>

For more books with environmental themes see our booklist

<https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/environment-booklist>



## **There's a Bear on My Chair by Ross Collins**

Nosy Crow 9780857633941

A mouse gets increasingly exasperated because a bear has made himself very much at home on HIS chair. The positioning of the angry little mouse on the left of each spread giving voice to his frustration and the genial smiling polar bear on the right filling the space is beautifully and satisfyingly designed. This is maintained throughout the book until the equally humorous dénouement. The first Amnesty CILIP Honour for the Kate Greenaway Medal shortlist went to this book which, the judges said, is "*packed full of joyous humour: it develops children's empathy and shows how we can protest creatively and peacefully when something is wrong.*"

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/theres-bear-my-chair>



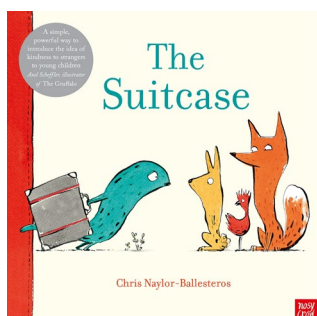
## A CLPE booklist



### **Green Lizards vs Red Rectangles by Steve Antony**

Hodder 9781444920116

Why are the green lizards and the red rectangles at war? Dissent means death and their battles intensify. Can a way to live together peacefully ever be found? A story about conflict and eventual integration told using distinctive images and minimal text. It would be interesting to look at this picture book alongside David McKee's *Tusk Tusk* (Andersen Press 9781783446612).

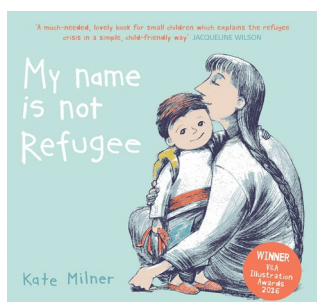


### **The Suitcase by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros**

Nosy Crow 9781788004473

A weary animal arrives in a new place dragging a suitcase behind him. The animals he meets are very curious about its contents. He tells them what is inside but they are sceptical. To say more would give too much away about this important story that demonstrates simply and thoughtfully the necessity of being welcoming to strangers who are missing their home, as it benefits from an element of surprise on first reading. The strength and simplicity of this picture book's message is enhanced by the use of a limited but carefully chosen palette set against white space.

A CLPE Book of the Week <https://clpe.org.uk/suitcase-chris-naylor-ballesteros>



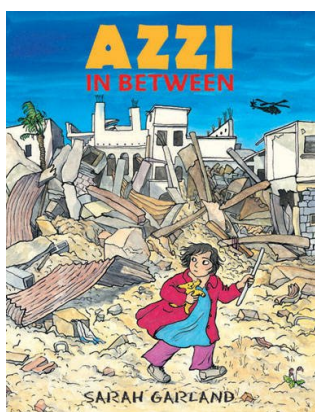
### **My name is not Refugee by Kate Milner**

The Bucket List 9781911370062

A mother explains to her child, in a way that attempts to reassure, that they need to move because where they live is no longer safe. She tells him what he may expect and, aside from the main text, readers are asked questions to encourage empathy. This book won the Klaus Flugge Prize 2018 and teaching ideas created by CLPE staff can be found here:

<https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/celebrating-books-and-special-days/teaching-resources-klaus-flugge-prize>

## Lower Key Stage Two



### **Azzi In Between by Sarah Garland**

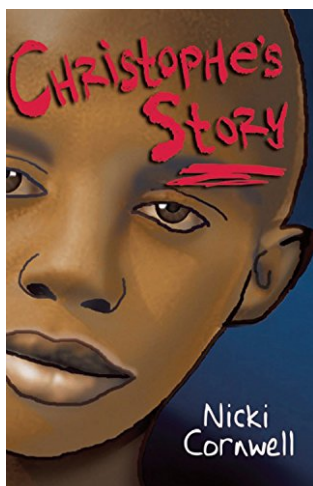
Frances Lincoln 9781847806512

Sarah Garland uses a comic strip format to tell the story of Azzi who has to flee her own country with her parents, leaving her grandmother behind, and settle as a refugee in a new country. At school she shares her knowledge of growing beans by planting and harvesting some brought from her home country and this helps her to grow into her new life. The two countries involved are not specified, enabling identification with the stories of many refugees and migrants.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/azzi-between>



## A CLPE booklist

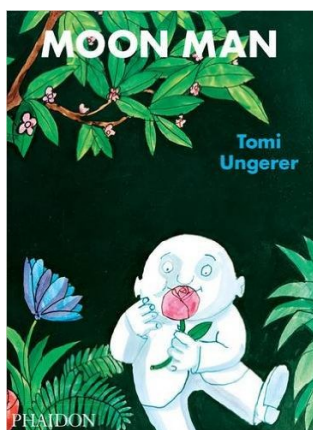


**Christophe's Story by Nicki Cornwell, illustrated by Karin Littlewood**

Frances Lincoln 9781847802507

A young Rwandan refugee has a hard time when he first arrives in a British primary school. His culture shock is exacerbated by his strong belief, learned from his absent grandfather, that stories should not be written down. This makes it difficult for him to engage with books. Christophe is offended when, thinking she is being helpful, his teacher writes down his own distressing story, told when the other children noticed his scar from when he was grazed by a bullet. Understanding is gradually reached by all parties.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/christophes-story>



**Moon Man by Tomi Ungerer**

Phaidon Press 9780714855981

Moon Man crash lands on Earth and is imprisoned by the authorities who fear his strangeness. His unique qualities (ie the ability to wax and wane) enable him to escape and he leads a fugitive existence until he meets Doktor van der Dunkel who builds a rocket so he can return home to his 'shimmering seat in space'. Moon Man, as portrayed in Tomi Ungerer's illustrations, is a very sympathetic character and this picture book could lead to fruitful discussions about prejudice and people's fear of the unknown.

A CLPE Power of Reading text. A teaching sequence is available to subscribers: <https://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofreading/book/moon-man>



**The Silence Seeker by Ben Morley**

Tamarind 9781848530034

Joe makes his own sense of what he hears when his mother tells him that the new boy next door is an asylum seeker. Convinced that the boy is a 'Silence Seeker', he tries without success to help him find peace and quiet in various places throughout the neighbourhood. Then the boy and his family leave as quietly as they came. A moving and thought-provoking picture book with an accessible text.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/silence-seeker-0>



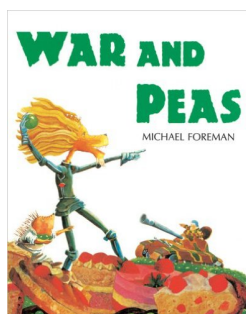
**The Day War Came by Nicola Davies and Rebecca Cobb**

Walker 9781406382938

Nicola Davies was motivated to write the poem that forms the text for this book by the UK government refusing sanctuary to 3,000 unaccompanied child refugees and by hearing of a refugee child being refused a school place because there was no chair to sit on. A child describes how her life and her world were totally disrupted when war came to her country and how she had to flee alone. When she eventually reaches a place which she believes war has not reached, she finds a school where children are learning about the same things she was learning about in her home country. The teacher tells her that there is no room for her but in a hopeful and moving dénouement the children each bring chairs so that the refugee child and others in her situation will be able to come to school and symbolically be able to find a new home, a new place to be.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/day-war-came>

This book is shortlisted for the 2019 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal and a teaching sequence written by CLPE staff can be found here <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/celebrating-books-and-special-days/teaching-resources-cilip-kate-greenaway-0>



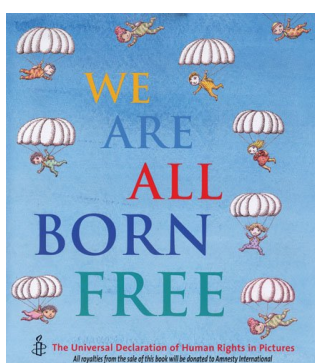
## **War and Peas by Michael Foreman**

Andersen Press 9781842700839

The Fat King refuses to help the Lion King's starving country and sends his army to attack them. Instead, they find a novel way of fighting back, by making use of the food mountains which are mouth-wateringly depicted.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/war-and-peas>

For a selected annotated list of titles illustrated by Michael Foreman see here <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>

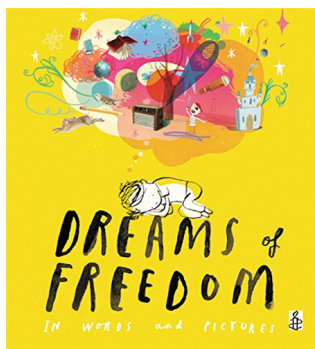


## **We Are All Born Free**

Frances Lincoln 9781847806635

An admirable and attractive production which raises awareness of, and will provoke discussion about, a human rights agenda agreed internationally as one all people should aim to live by. Illustrators from a range of countries and cultures have interpreted this in diverse ways. The tortured doll drawn by Jane Ray is a real revelation to those familiar with her stunning stylised fairy tale illustrations, while Jessica Souhami's carefully composed collage picture expresses the importance of openness and equality concerning religious belief.

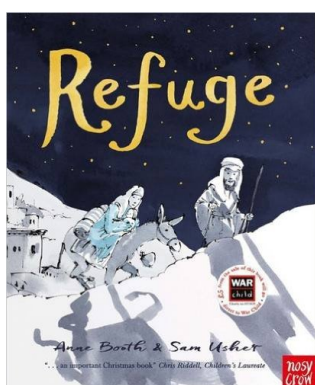
A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/we-are-all-born-free-universal-declaration-human-rights-pictures>



## **Dreams of Freedom**

Frances Lincoln 9781847804532

Published in association with Amnesty International, each spread of this powerful book of pictures incorporates quotations from people past and present and from a range of countries and cultures, about what freedom means to them, each set within an illustration by a different artist. Writers include Anne Frank, Nelson Mandela and Malala Yousafzai. Illustrators include Hans Andersen Award winners Peter Sís and Roger Mello and 2015-17 UK Children's Laureate Chris Riddell.

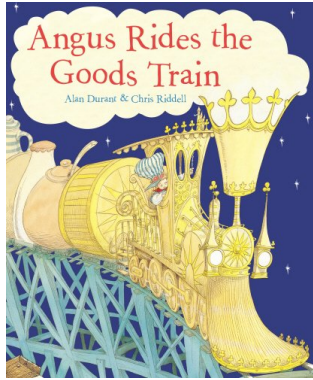


## **Refuge by Anne Booth & Sam Usher**

Nosy Crow 9780857637710

A donkey tells the story of how, led by a man, he carried a woman to Bethlehem where their baby was born and visited by shepherds and kings. A dream of danger sends them on their way until they reach another country where they find refuge. The people in this family are not named, enabling readers to find even more resonance between this simply and touchingly told version of the Christmas story and what is happening to many refugees in the world today.

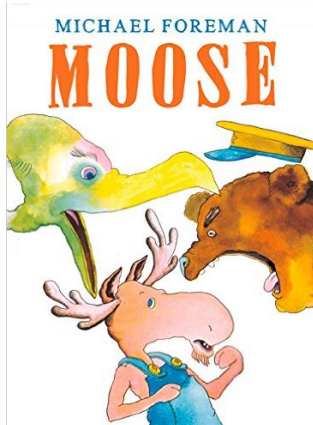
A CLPE book of the week <https://www.clpe.org.uk/refuge-anne-booth-and-sam-usher>



**Angus Rides the Goods Train by Alan Durant and Chris Riddell**

Corgi 9780552569194

In his dreams, Angus climbs aboard a train loaded up with milk, honey, rice and water and travels the world where he sees widespread hunger, starvation and poverty. The train driver will not stop and share the goods as he is taking them, as instructed, to the king and his courtiers for their breakfast. Angry Angus calls a halt and distributes the food to those who need it declaring, when he wakes, that someday he will drive the goods train.

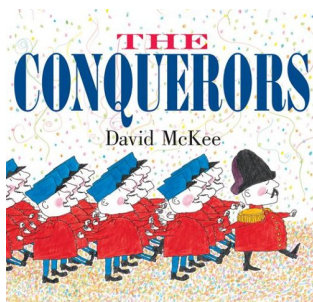


**Moose by Michael Foreman**

Andersen Press 9781783441013

This classic picture book of the Cold War, showing Bear and Eagle in constant conflict, as placid Moose builds calm and community, is as relevant today as when it was first published in 1971. When Bear's and Eagle's shouting turns to throwing sticks and stones, Moose finds a creative use for them.

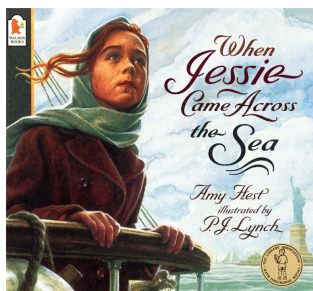
For a selected annotated list of titles illustrated by Michael Foreman see here <https://clpe.org.uk/clpe/library/booklists/michael-foreman-booklist>



**The Conquerors by David McKee**

Andersen Press 9781842704684

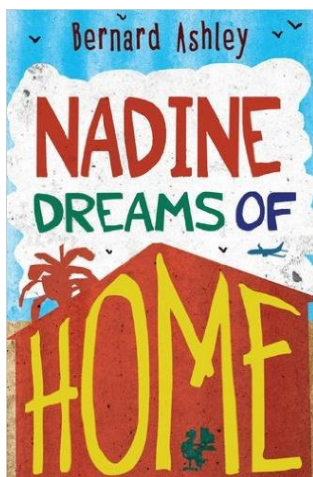
A General with a strong army conquers all the countries in the world because he believes his own large country's way of life is superior. Just one small country is left but when he makes his final takeover bid, resistance does not take the form he expects. The good humour of the small country's inhabitants is apparent in the illustrations in this picture book which conveys ideas about imperialism in an accessible and thought-provoking way.



**When Jessie Came Across the Sea by Amy Hest and P J Lynch**

Walker 9780744569636

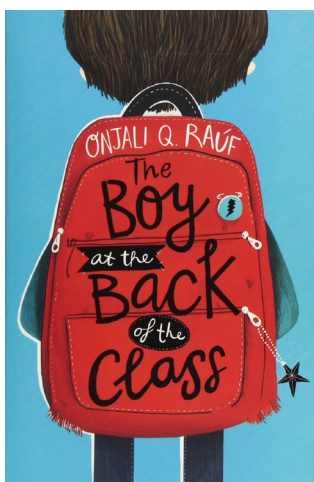
In this vividly painted picture book, a young woman from a Jewish community in Eastern Europe is sent to America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to make a life in the New World. On the boat she meets a young man with whom she becomes reacquainted in New York. Later she is reunited with her beloved grandmother. A heart-warmingly human story accompanied by illustrations that give a strong sense of time and space.



***Nadine Dreams of Home* by Bernard Ashley**

Barrington Stoke 9781781123690

Nadine, her mother and brother have escaped from Goma, a fictitious African country, leaving behind her father who has been captured by rebels. Now they live in London where Nadine has to come to terms with a new language and culture. A photo of her home country that she finds on a computer in the library comforts her but also makes her long to see her father again. Will the family ever be reunited with him?



***The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Raúf, illustrated by Pippa Curnick**

Orion 9781510105010

When Ahmet arrives in their class, a group of children are curious to know more about him – where he is from, what language does he speak and where is his family? As they learn more about him – that he is a Kurdish refugee from Syria and that he was separated from his family en route to Britain – their concern for him grows. When they hear that the gates to refugees are to be closed, they hatch a plan ‘The Greatest Idea in the World’ with the aim of ensuring that Ahmet can be reunited with his family. Narrated by one of this group of children, this touching novel conveys the seriousness of the situation while maintaining a humorous tone when describing the scrapes they get into while trying to accomplish their mission.

## Upper Key Stage Two/Key Stage Three



***The Journey* by Francesca Sanna**

Flying Eye 9781909263994

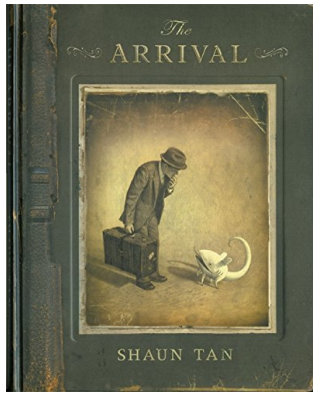
Francesca Sanna has drawn on the experiences of recent refugees from many countries. The text in this book is easy to read in terms of vocabulary and sentence structure and this apparent simplicity combined with the memorable illustrations have great power to move readers of all ages. Each spread features a carefully chosen colour palette, depicting the variety of landscapes, real and emotional, through which a family passes, escaping conflict and seeking sanctuary. Images of the natural world permeate the book, one of the most delightful pictures being of a variety of birds migrating, causing the narrator to consider that they do not have to cross borders as people do. The book ends on a hopeful note but makes it clear that most refugees live with continued uncertainty, even when they hope they have reached a place of safety.

A CLPE Power of Reading text. A teaching sequence is available to subscribers:

<https://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofreading/book/journey>







## ***The Arrival* by Shaun Tan**

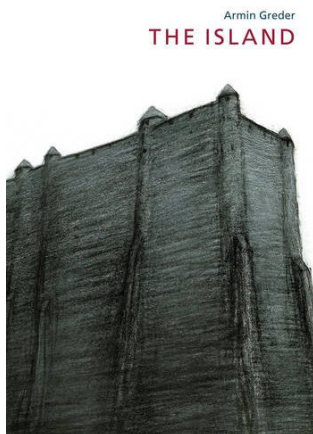
Hodder 9780734415868

This wordless graphic novel tells many stories through expressive sepia illustrations which depict a strange mix of the realistic and the surreal. A man travels to another country leaving his wife and child behind. Why does he go? What is this country where he finds it so hard to understand what is going on and to be understood? He gradually finds ways to communicate and other people start to tell him their own stories. By not making the settings identifiable places and by adding many surrealistic touches, Shaun Tan allows this story to be simultaneously about a specific migrant and every migrant. A unique book to be puzzled over, discussed and made the reader's own.

Also *Sketches from a Nameless Land: The Art of The Arrival* Hodder 9780734411648

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/arrival>

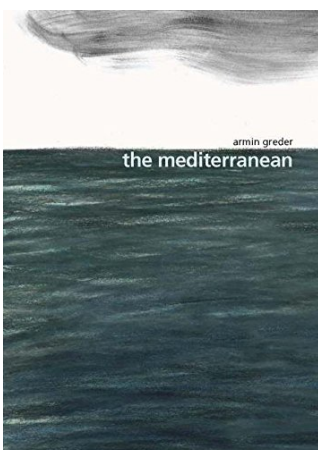
Discover more wordless books in our list <https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/wordless-picture-books>



## ***The Island* by Armin Greder**

Allen & Unwin 9781741752663

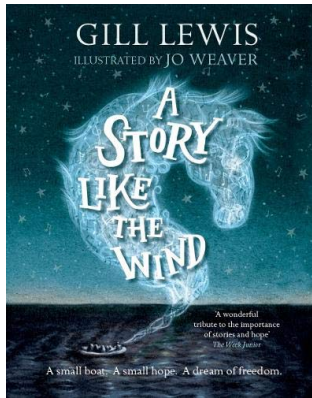
A solid grey wall dominates the cover of this sombre and thought-provoking picture book which has come to the UK from Germany via Australia. A man is washed ashore on an island where the people are suspicious of him. They would drive him back into the sea immediately if it weren't for the fisherman who tries to make the community include the man. This book has a harsh message about human intolerance which forces readers to consider society's attitudes towards immigrants and anyone who appears to be 'different' and the whole question of bullying by a powerful majority. The text is spare and memorable, while the grey toned illustrations evoke the artwork of Käthe Kollwitz and Edvard Munch.



## ***The Mediterranean* by Armin Greder**

Allen & Unwin 9781760634018

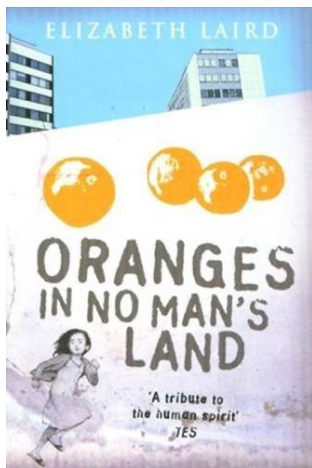
Having dramatically dealt with the theme of prejudice in *The Island*, here Armin Greder uses his distinctive charcoal drawings to depict a dark world with a global dimension. The only words in the story are a single sentence indicating what is happening to the body in the water in the first picture. From there on the reader needs to examine the pictures to draw conclusions about how that body came to be in the sea. An afterword by Alessandro Leogrande, an Italian journalist who writes about social, political and environmental issues, fills in the background about the 'food chain' portrayed in this disturbing picture book which demands discussion.



***A Story Like the Wind* by Gill Lewis, illustrated by Jo Weaver**

Oxford University Press 9780192758958/9780192772107

A group of people are floating across the sea in a small boat. We don't know where they have come from or where they are going to, only that they are in a similar situation to many refugees, past and present. Several of them have food to distribute but all the boy Rami has to share is the music from his violin, the most important thing he could bring with him because it carries his soul. It turns out to be the most precious gift of all as he uses it to accompany a significant story which resonates with all as they drift across the sea. The poetic text ebbs and flows over the two tone illustrations which are an integral part of the storytelling and reflect the blue of the ocean and the night sky.



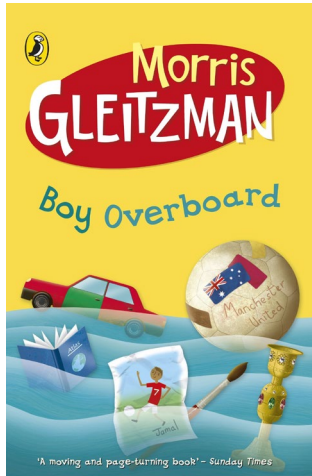
***Oranges in No Man's Land* by Elizabeth Laird**

Macmillan 9781509802920

In war torn Beirut, Ayesha must make a perilous journey across the city to get essential medicine for her sick grandmother from a doctor whose family are on the opposing side in the conflict. A short novel set in a specific time and place - Lebanon in the 1970s, there are sadly many parallels for children around the world with the situation in which young Ayesha finds herself.

For a selected annotated list of titles by Elizabeth Laird see

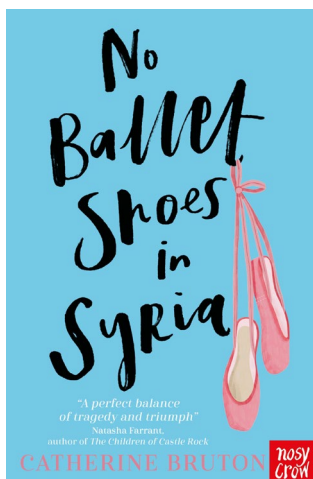
<https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/author-month-elizabeth-laird>



***Boy Overboard* by Morris Gleitzman**

Puffin 9780141316253

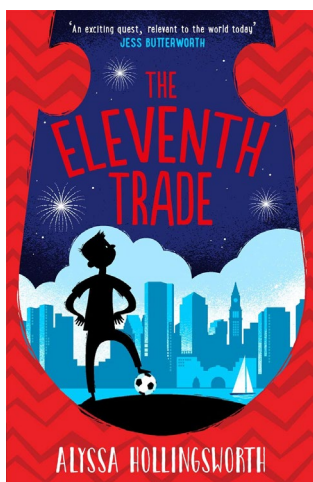
Morris Gleitzman's writing often combines humour and pathos and this novel is no exception. Football mad Jamal and his family have to leave Afghanistan when the authorities discover that his mother has been secretly running a school. Their journey to Australia is fraught with difficulty. There is a sequel *Girl Underground* (Puffin 9780141319001).



***No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton**

Nosy Crow 9781788004503

Aya and her mother and baby brother are refugees from Aleppo in Syria seeking asylum in Britain, having travelled via Turkey and Greece, and her father has gone missing along the way. Aya is a talented ballet dancer who had lessons in Syria and her abilities are recognised through encounters and friendships she makes soon after her arrival in Manchester. The story focuses on Aya's life in Britain, including the uncertainties around whether she and her family will be allowed to remain, with flashbacks showing how they came to be there. The author was inspired by Judith Kerr's semi-autobiographical novel *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* about a Jewish family leaving Nazi Germany for England in the 1930s (HarperCollins 9780007274772).



***The Eleventh Trade* by Alyssa Hollingsworth, illustrated by Richard Merritt**

Piccadilly 9781848126893

Sami is devastated when the rebab, the musical instrument played by his grandfather - the most precious possession he brought with him from Afghanistan to America, is snatched from him at a Boston subway station. Finding it for sale in a pawnshop for \$700, Sami goes on a mission, which takes all his ingenuity, to get it back by a series of trades. Will he manage it before the shopkeeper sells it to someone else?

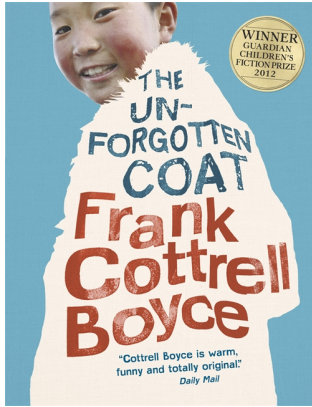


***Coming to England* by Floella Benjamin, illustrated by Michael Frith**

Macmillan 9781509835492

The writer's autobiographical account of her childhood in Trinidad and her family's migration to Britain in 1960. The warmth and strength she gained from her family are strongly evoked, as are her feelings of bewilderment at the ignorance and racism they encountered. This new edition marks the twentieth anniversary of its first publication with a reflective introduction by the author.

A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/coming-england-0>



## ***The Unforgotten Coat* Frank Cottrell Boyce**

Walker 9781406341546

When two Mongolian brothers Chingis and Nergui turn up at her school, they insist that Julie becomes their Good Guide. She takes her duties seriously, learning about their country along the way. The story is told from her viewpoint, typed on paper that looks like a school exercise book. Photographs taken by Chingis with a Polaroid camera are reproduced but are they really pictures of Mongolia? And who or what is the demon of which Nergui is so afraid? A sad story which has a touching ending, interlaced with this author's characteristic humour.

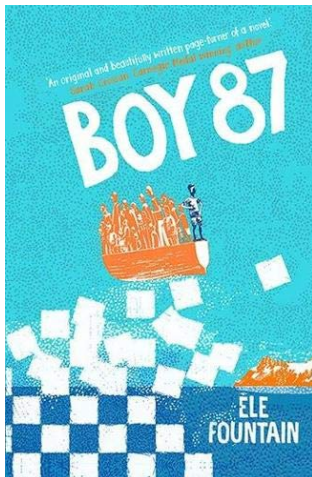
A CLPE core book <https://www.clpe.org.uk/corebooks/unforgotten-coat>



## ***Red Leaves* by Sita Brahmachari**

Macmillan 9781447262985

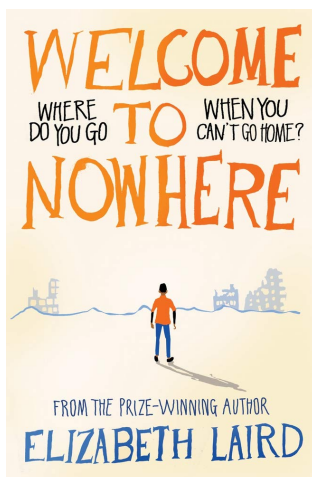
Sita Brahmachari writes warmly about a multicultural cast of characters living in a fractured world, focusing on three young people who escape from their everyday environment and come together in an Autumn wood. Not a fairy tale forest but an urban wood that still cloaks them while they seek to come to terms with their own identities and the relationships within their respective families. Zak is deeply anxious about his mother, missing while reporting from a war zone. She is separated from his father, a historian working in New York, while Zak is cared for by Shalini, many miles away from her own son. Somali refugee Aisha is distraught because her loving foster mother believes it would be better for her to live with a family from a similar cultural background. Iona has fled from an abusive home situation and fends for herself, her only companion being her dog Red. The story is threaded through with Zak's discoveries about past inhabitants of Home Wood and the children's association with an elderly woman who has made the wood her home.



## ***Boy 87* by Ele Fountain**

Pushkin Children's 9781782691976

When we first meet Shif he is in the sea, struggling for his life, having been tossed from a boat. The story then shifts back in time to show how he came to be there, having escaped from an unnamed politically repressive regime. The short chapters and the immediacy of the use of the present tense carry us swiftly through Shif's experiences without revealing how his journey will ultimately end.



## **Welcome to Nowhere** by Elizabeth Laird

Macmillan 9781509840472

Elizabeth Laird has drawn on her experience of volunteering in refugee camps in Jordan to write this novel which highlights the tragic situation that has developed in Syria. The story is seen through the eyes of Omar and opens with an introduction to his daily life, going to school and working at two jobs, and to his family. A combination of factors lead to their having to leave their home and flee their country. Elizabeth Laird demonstrates that whatever line people pursue, whether it's Omar's brother Musa's clandestine political activity or their father's compromising attitude which he believes will protect his job and family, all are potentially in danger. This novel covers important concerns regarding the treatment of refugees, the role of women and girls and the situation in the Middle East. However, it's not purely an 'issues' book – these matters are raised within the context of an involving and fast-paced narrative with a central character with whom readers can empathise.

A CLPE core book <https://clpe.org.uk/corebooks/welcome-nowhere>

For a selected annotated list of titles by Elizabeth Laird see

<https://clpe.org.uk/library-and-resources/booklists/author-month-elizabeth-laird>

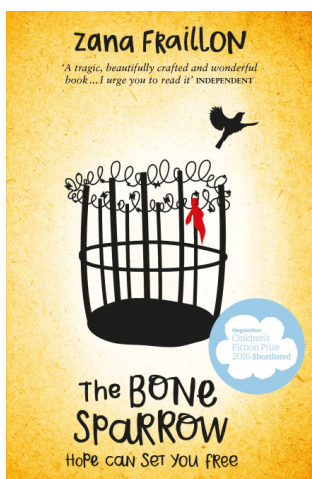
Another novel by Elizabeth Laird about Syrian refugees *A House without Walls* (Macmillan 9781509886012) is published in August 2019.



## **A Dangerous Crossing** by Jane Mitchell

Little Island 9781910411582

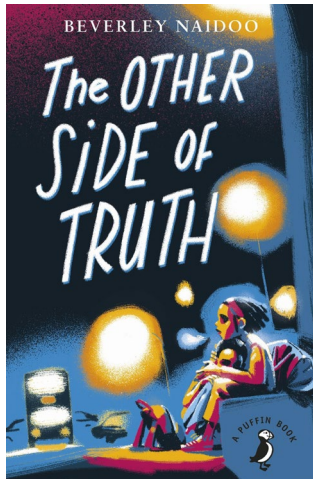
This book has many parallels with Elizabeth Laird's *Welcome to Nowhere*. In a first person narrative, a boy tells of his family's life in Syria, the circumstances under which they are forced to flee and their lives in a refugee camp. However, Ghalib's family are Syrian Kurds and, as they live in a different part of the country from Omar's family, their exit from Syria is via Turkey rather than Jordan. Their routes to Europe as refugees are therefore different although they face similar uncertainties. Although there are many parallels, the personalities of the characters shine through, emphasising that every refugee is an individual belonging to an individual family with their own unique circumstances and feelings. The child characters are especially strong – competent and politically aware Bushra, wise little Aylan and orphaned Safaa, determined and strongly protective of her little brother. Jane Mitchell has chosen her characters' names as a tribute to real children who have died as a direct result of the war in Syria.



## **The Bone Sparrow** by Zana Fraillon

Orion 9781510101555

Subhi, a ten year old boy of the Rohingya people - a much persecuted Muslim minority in Myanmar - has never known anything but life in an immigration detention centre. His own imagination and his friendship with a girl called Jimmie, who lives on the other side of the wire but has problems of her own, help him to survive. The country where the story is located is not named but, in an afterword, the author says that the conditions she describes are taken from reports of life in detention centres in Australia which is where she lives.



***The Other Side of Truth* by Beverley Naidoo**

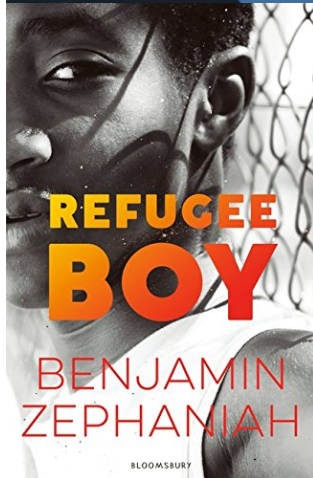
Puffin 9780141377353

Two children travel to London from Nigeria as political refugees after the sudden and shocking death of their mother. The circumstances in which Sade and Femi find themselves, and how they attempt to take control of their lives, raises many issues about politics, racism and refugees in the context of a fast-moving story.

Sequel: *Web of Lies* Puffin 9780141314662

A CLPE Power of Reading text. A teaching sequence is available to subscribers:

<https://www.clpe.org.uk/powerofreading/book/other-side-truth>



***Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah**

Bloomsbury 9781408894996

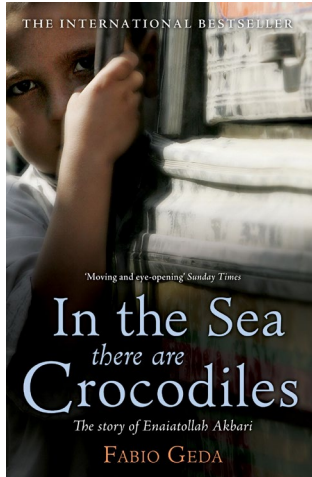
Fourteen year old Alem comes to Britain because, as he says: 'I am half Ethiopian and half Eritrean. Ethiopia and Eritrea are fighting each other and they are both fighting me, that's why I had to come here as a refugee.' This book was first published in 2001 and Alem's story of how he copes with separation from his parents and adapts to life in another country, meeting support and kindness as well as lack of understanding and a racist bureaucratic system, is just as relevant today.



***After Tomorrow* by Gillian Cross**

Oxford University Press 9780192756268

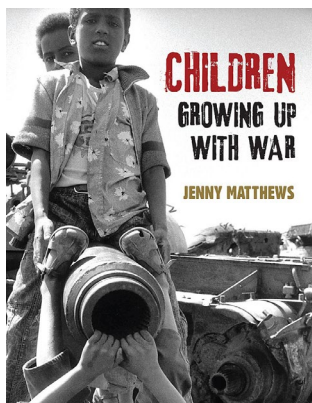
The British economy crashes causing a societal breakdown resulting in the mass exodus of the British population to France. Framing the story in this way, the refugee experience is located firmly at the door of the English child. This forces the reader to think about the experience not as an observer but as someone who could just as easily be subjected to such adversity.



***In the Sea There Are Crocodiles* by Fabio Geda, translated from Italian by Howard Curtis**

Tamarind 9781848531383

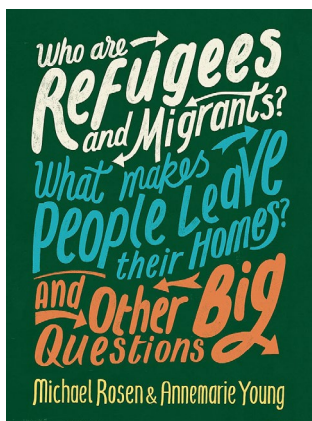
In this award winning novel, Fabio Geda has given voice to Enaiatollah Akbari, a resilient refugee he met in Italy where the young man claimed political asylum and settled after a journey of many years from Afghanistan, begun when he was ten years old. He endured many difficulties living and working and surviving in Pakistan, Iran, Turkey and Greece, at times being turned back and having to set out anew before reaching Italy.



***Children Growing Up with War* by Jenny Matthews**

Watts 9781445150451

A photographer documents her work in strife torn areas during the last 30 years and her pictures show the dignity of many brave children and their families. Sections on Home and Displacement, Family, Health, Work, School and Play provide a framework for the book and in each the relevant statements from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are referenced. Jenny Matthews briefly describes the social and political backgrounds to the situations she has witnessed and in each section she outlines the photographer's perspective and it is these insights in addition to the photographs themselves that make this book unique. There are appendices with further information about the main conflicts, a map showing whereabouts in the world they are and a list of weblinks.

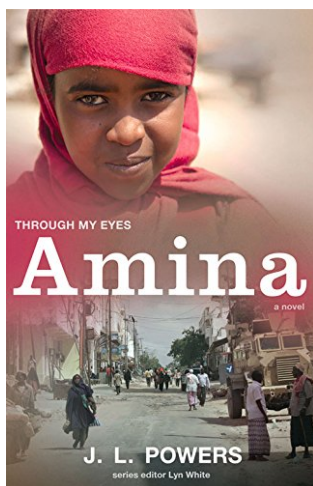


***Who Are Refugees and Migrants?* by Michael Rosen & Annemarie Young**

Wayland 9780750299855

A much needed look behind the headlines raising questions which will help young people think deeply and constructively about what is happening in the world today. Throughout the book, readers are encouraged to think about many issues around migration, why people become refugees and how they are treated and received. The questions focus on forming opinions around both response at a personal everyday level and what readers would do if they were in positions of power and influence. At the end of the book, there is a final challenging question 'Do you think it's fair to restrict migration of people while the migration of money and bombs is allowed?', making it clear that the movement of people is very much related to global power structures. Included are many personal accounts from people who have been migrants and/or refugees themselves or whose recent ancestors moved for a variety of reasons. The text ranges wide, making readers think about the language that gets used, the meanings that it can mask, and in particular the interpretation of the term 'culture'.

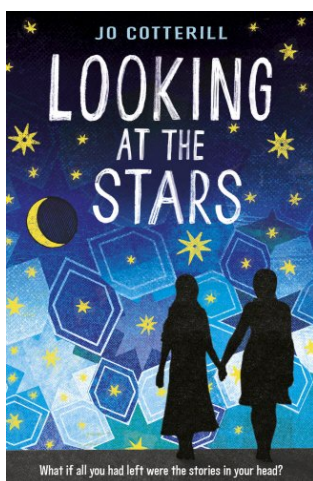
A CLPE book of the week <https://www.clpe.org.uk/who-are-refugees-and-migrants-michael-rosen-annemarie-young>



**Amina by J. L. Powers**

Allen & Unwin 9781743312490

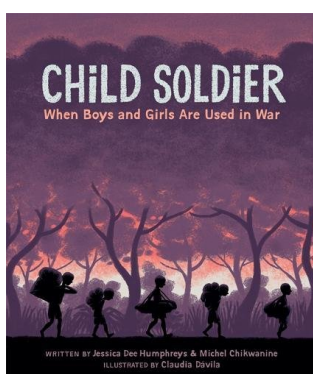
*Amina* by J. L. Powers is one of a series of novels entitled ‘Through My Eyes’, edited by Lyn White and published in Australia. Other books in the series, by a variety of authors, tell the stories of children and young people from Kashmir, Afghanistan, Mexico, Sri Lanka and Syria. Amina’s story is set in Mogadishu, Somalia, in 2011, where Amina lives with her family in an area of the city controlled by Islamic fundamentalist group al-Shabaab. Amina is a talented artist like her father, and a poet too. When her father and brother are taken away how will she and her grandmother and heavily pregnant mother survive? Amina is brave and reflective and her story challenges some of the stereotypes about Muslim girls. We get an insight into how life was different in Amina’s mother’s youth and how things seem to be shifting and changing in a country torn by conflict. The author has done a considerable amount of research into Somalia’s recent history, consulting Somali communities in the USA and drawing on her own experience of getting to know Somali people in Kenya.



**Looking at the Stars by Jo Cotterill**

Corgi 9780552566704

The main character in this book is also called Amina. Unlike J. L. Powers’ book, this is a first person narrative, and the author has been careful not to set her story in a specific location and she explains her reasons for this in an enlightening interview at the end of the book. However, there are many parallels with the Somali Amina’s story. Both girls live in a situation where there is a local militia which confines and restricts the behaviour of women. Both lose their father and brother in similar circumstances and need to draw on their own strengths to help their families. Both develop relationships with boys around their own age and the first stirrings of romantic and sexual feelings are intimated sensitively. Most importantly they are both very creative and this has a significant bearing on their stories. Jo Cotterill’s Amina is a fine storyteller, inspired by the stars in the sky, and this helps to give hope to the people in the refugee camp where she and her sister find themselves.

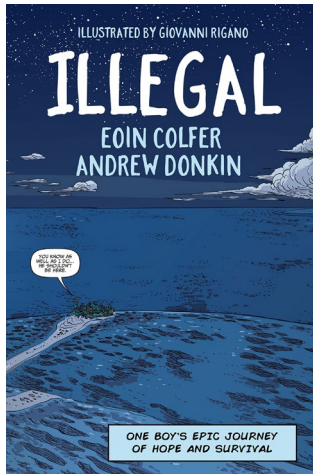


**Child Soldier. When Boys and Girls Are Used in War by Jessica Dee Humphreys and Michel Chikwanine, illustrated by Claudia Dávila.**

Watts 9781445145655

This is the true story of the book’s co-author Michel Chikwanine, himself a former child soldier in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Captured at the age of five, Michel relates what happened to him, some of the horrors he endured, how he escaped and, with the help of his family, coped with the consequences. He now lives in Canada and he actively campaigns around issues of poverty and conflict. A comic strip style is used to illustrate the book which makes it accessible although some of the more disturbing content needs to be shared carefully with younger children, even bearing in mind Michel’s own age at the time of his experiences. Some of the background is conveyed in the text of his story and this is expanded on in notes at the end of the book.

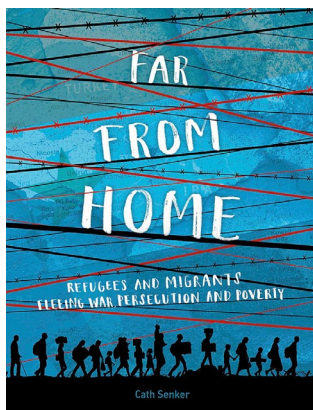




***Illegal* by Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin and Giovanni Rigano**

Hodder 9781444931686

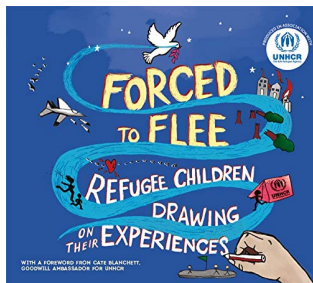
This graphic novel tells the story of Ebo who follows his brother Kwame so that they can make the perilous journey from Africa to Europe to join their sister Sisi together. The chapters alternate between ‘now’ and ‘then’, building up a picture of the circumstances in which the two boys find themselves. This book is suitable for a younger audience than *Alpha* (see below) which tells a similar story, based on the harrowing experiences of many migrants and readers will empathise with the resourceful central character of twelve year old Ebo.



***Far from Home* by Cath Senker**

Watts 9781445155203

The subtitle of this book is ‘Refugees and Migrants Fleeing War, Persecution and Poverty’ and it is a well-researched description of their situation in the contemporary world. The inclusion of case studies gives insights into the huge variety of circumstances in which human beings find themselves.

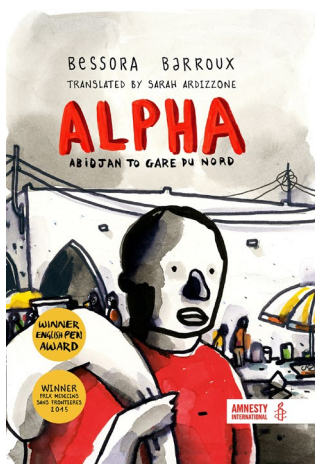


***Forced to Flee. Refugee Children Drawing on Their Experiences* by Laura Padoan and Matthew Saltmarsh**

Watts 9781445166285

Published in association with UNHCR (The UN Refugee Agency), this book provides a general picture of the situation of refugees in the world today with a particular emphasis on Syria, South Sudan and Central America. At its heart, however, are drawings produced by refugee children and young people, ranging in age from 7 to 17, depicting their experiences. It’s very disturbing to see the horrific circumstances they have lived through and to acknowledge their feelings expressed in this way.

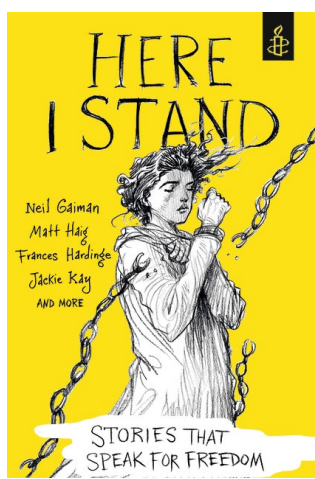
## Key Stage 4 and Adults



### ***Alpha* by Bessora & Barroux, translated from French by Sarah Ardizzone**

The Bucket List 9781911370000

Reading the personal story in this graphic novel brings home the realities behind what is happening to many migrants and in particular the uncertainties they face. Alpha – a man from Côte d'Ivoire – tells how he attempts to travel from Abidjan to Paris, searching for his wife and son who have gone there in pursuit of a better life and because they believe their relatives are there. He tells his tale in a matter of fact tone but it is far from being devoid of emotion. The harshness and difficulties, the confusion of not being clear where you are, the long periods staying in one place to earn enough to continue, the dangers and the bureaucracy he meets all come across, but so do the companionship and caring for others he finds along the way. The reader travels with Alpha, not knowing whether he will reach his destination or whether he will find his family. Illustrator Barroux has used felt tip pens and a notebook from a supermarket – the kind of materials that would be available to Alpha – to create his illustrations. Alpha is primarily a book for teenagers and adults but teachers can make their own judgement about whether they could share it with older primary children if they know them well. It deals impressively with an important subject for all human beings in the world today. A CLPE book of the week <https://www.clpe.org.uk/alpha-bessora-and-barroux>



### ***Here I Stand. Stories That Speak for Freedom* edited by Amnesty International UK**

Walker 9781406373646

The twenty-five contributors to this book provide a wide range of thought-provoking stories and poems about human rights which will stimulate discussion among teenagers and adults. Many of the stories have content that renders them not generally suitable for use in primary schools but it's an important read for teachers. Contributors include Jackie Kay, Neil Gaiman, Bali Rai, Sarah Crossan, Frances Hardinge, John Boyne, A. L. Kennedy, Sita Brahmachari, Amy Leon, Matt Haig, Kevin Brooks.

Teachers' notes for this book can be found here:

[http://www.walker.co.uk/UserFiles/file/Using Fiction Here I Stand.pdf](http://www.walker.co.uk/UserFiles/file/Using_Fiction_Here_I_Stand.pdf)

## For All Ages



### ***Migrations. Open Hearts. Open Borders* edited by The International Centre for the Picture Book in Society**

Otter-Barry Books 9781910959800

Illustrators from around the world were invited to contribute to an exhibition called 'Migrations' by sending an illustration and an accompanying message on a postcard. Over fifty of them were selected to be reproduced in this beautiful compact volume. Readers can admire and explore the artwork – each picture created using an illustrator's own unique style and techniques and each one including a representation of a bird. The postcards are divided into four broad themes: Departures, Long Journeys, Arrivals; Hope for the Future.