






# Refugee Week 2020

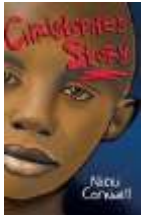

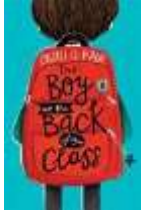
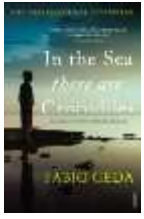


15 June - 21 June

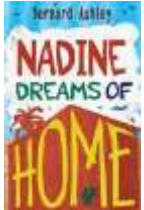
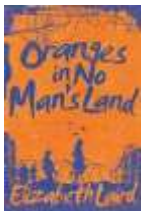
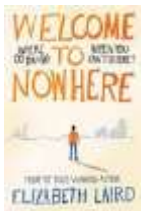

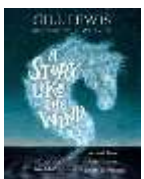
Refugee Week is an annual festival celebrating the contributions, creativity, and resilience of refugees.

**Please note: books marked \* are not suitable for younger or more sensitive readers.**

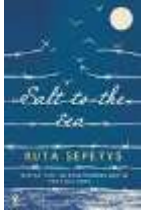
Asylum can be a confusing issue. Here are some books that explore what it really means to flee your home and have to start your life over in a strange land. These books focus on identity, belonging, conflict, migrant and refugee experiences, some of which deal with strong and emotive themes. Included, after the resources list, are some activities that you may enjoy.





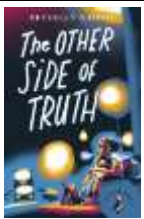
	Title	Author	A Brief Guide...
	<b>Running on the Roof of the World</b>	Jess Butterworth	A richly atmospheric story of friendship, courage and survival. It provides a rare insight into Tibetan culture and raises timely questions about the nature of freedom, without being overtly political. Although there are some distressing moments, these are sensitively handled, and the overriding message is one of hope and compassion.
	<b>Jackdaw Summer</b>	David Almond	Fate leads Liam to find an abandoned baby and as a result his life becomes entwined with that of Oliver, an African boy seeking asylum and Crystal, an emotionally damaged girl. Friendship, loyalty and truth are explored through a cast of complex characters in this compelling story. While often tense, it ends on a note of hope.
	<b>The Bone Sparrow</b>	Zana Fraillon	Born in a refugee camp, Subhi has never seen the outside world. 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: an illiterate young girl who lives near the refugee camp. <i>The Bone Sparrow</i> is a book that will break your heart with its honesty and beauty but is ultimately hopeful and uplifting.

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Christoph's Story</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Nicki Cornwell</b></p>	<p>Christophe arrives as a Rwandan refugee in an English primary school, and initially suffers bullying. When the children hear his story of escape, they appreciate what a special person he is. A short story that revolves around two different literary traditions: storytelling and that of written stories. Like Christophe, readers will gradually appreciate the different benefits of both genres.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Azzi in Between</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sarah Garland</b></p>	<p>This is a moving tale of a refugee family told in graphic novel style. When Azzi and her parents must flee their home because the country is at war, Azzi leaves behind everything she knows and loves, most importantly her grandmother. Azzi arrives in a new, unfamiliar country where she must learn a new language and live among strangers. This is an absorbing, and ultimately uplifting, adventure story.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Boy at the Back of the Class</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Onjali Q Rauf</b></p>	<p>This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria (he is the boy at the back of the class). An inspiring tale encouraging young people to think about what it is to be a good person whatever your circumstances, to challenge prejudice and push for fairness, whenever possible, and realise the power of kindness.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">In the Sea There Are Crocodiles</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fabio Geda</b></p>	<p>Translated from Italian into English, the story of Enaiatollah Akbari's journey from Afghanistan to Italy begins when his mother leaves him at a refugee camp in Pakistan, as she fears for his life if he stays with her in Afghanistan. From here Enaiatollah uses his wits and the help of fellow 'illegals' as he struggles to survive in search of a better life, travelling through Iran, Turkey, Greece and finally Italy on a journey full of perils. This story charts the same story thousands of people undertake every day, Enaiatollah is one of the lucky ones.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Boy 87</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ele Fountain</b></p>	<p>Set in an unnamed country, this is a timely and important book which illuminates the realities of life as a refugee. The first-person narration simply but powerfully conveys Shif's terror at the violence and cruelty he encounters, as well as his sense of loss. The horrors he is escaping are all too real, but this is ultimately a story about the power of kindness and the strength of the human spirit.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">The Island</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Armin Greder</b></p>	<p>This internationally acclaimed, award-winning picture book about prejudice, intolerance and the plight of refugees is astonishing, powerful and timely. Islanders find a man on the beach. He isn't like them. They want to send him back to sea, but they don't want to be responsible for his death. The illustrations are fitting: sombre, menacing and dark-toned.</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Nadine Dreams of Home</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bernard Ashley</b></p>	<p>Nadine and her family find Britain really scary. Britain is not their home. Nadine can't speak English and she has no friends. Her family have fled from the terror of war in their native Goma, and they had to leave her father behind. They don't know if he is alive or dead. Nadine can't make much sense of school, but she is happy when her teacher finds a picture of Goma on the computer. Nadine remembers all the good times she had in Africa. She dreams of how happy she could be again. Then, one night, someone comes banging on her front door... (Dyslexia friendly)</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Oranges in No Man's Land</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elizabeth Laird</b></p>	<p>Ayesha and her young brothers find themselves refugees in a bombed out flat in Beirut with only an elderly grandmother to care for them. When their Grandmother becomes seriously ill, Ayesha quickly realises that no-one else will take responsibility and she undertakes a perilous journey across no man's land to enemy-held territory in search of a doctor and vital medicines. Drawing on personal experience, Elizabeth Laird looks at how daily life continues amid violent conflict.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Welcome to Nowhere</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Elizabeth Laird</b></p>	<p>Omar doesn't know much about politics, nor does he care, he just wants to grow up to be a successful entrepreneur. However, when his older brother, Musa, throws his lot in with the student opposition to the government, everything changes. Soon bombs are falling, people are dying, and Omar and his family have no choice but to flee their homes, and after that their country. A powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Child I</h2>		<p>A group of undocumented children with letters for names, are stuck living in a refugee camp, with stories to tell but no papers to prove them. This heart-breaking, moving tale follows the unaccompanied children and volunteers living in a refugee camp. Every event in the book has really happened to people in a refugee camp, bringing intense poignancy to stories of children picking out breadcrumbs from the mud and searching through rubbish tips for toys. <i>Child I</i> is not an easy read, but it is an important one and it's impossible not to be deeply touched while reading it.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">A Story Like the Wind</h2>		<p>A beautifully illustrated short story of freedom, music, and seeking refuge. A small group of refugees are crowded on to a boat on the sea. They share their stories as the boat travels towards the dream of safety and freedom. Mixed with an exotic story of wild horses and a Dark Lord that rules a kingdom in peril, this is a fable for all who strive to understand.</p>

	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Shadow</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Morpurgo</b></p>	<p>A powerful novel from Michael Morpurgo. Never have Aman and his mother needed a friend more than when a Springer Spaniel appears - thin and war-ravaged - in the mouth of their Afghan cave. Befriended by the brave and loyal stray dog, Shadow, they survive a treacherous trip across war-ravaged Afghanistan. But now they are in danger again - can Shadow help them one more time? an unflinching account of the treatment of asylum seekers.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Now is the Time for Running</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Michael Williams</b></p>	<p>Deo escapes his rural Zimbabwean village with his older brother, Innocent, whose learning difficulties and obsessive behaviour prove both a problem and an unlikely bonus. Together they flee across country in search of the South African they believe to be their father. A tough and heart-rending story that reveals their passion for football, and their determination to honour the memory of their family.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Illegal</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eoin Colfer &amp; Andrew Donkin</b></p>	<p><i>Illegal</i> tells the story of Ebo, a 12-year-old boy who flees grinding poverty, zero opportunities and a drunken uncle in his small village in Africa. His brother Kwame and sister Sisi have already left in the hope of a better life in Europe and he's determined to find them. Although Ebo's story is fictional, every element of it has been inspired by facts. This graphic novel is thought-provoking, profound, sensitive and totally gripping.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Looking at the Stars</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Jo Cotterill</b></p>	<p>Amina is headstrong and outspoken; sometimes she speaks before she thinks things through and can get lost in her own imagination. This sounds harmless enough, but Amina and her family are living under a dangerous dictatorship through a time of national crisis. 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 hometown and head for a refugee camp. A surprising story of family, friendship and hope.</p>
	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Refugee Boy</h2>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Benjamin Zephaniah</b></p>	<p>Alem Kelo's father is from Ethiopia and his mother is from Eritrea. With the countries at war, the family faces persecution and violence in each place. In an act of desperation, Alem's dad takes him to London to 'celebrate' his 14th birthday and abandons him there to seek asylum while he returns to fight for peace at home. This unforgettable story follows Alem's attempts to find his feet in a confusing and often hostile country.</p>

	Title	Author	A Brief Guide...
	<b>*Alpha: Abidjan to Gare du Nord</b>	<b>Bessora &amp; Barroux</b>	Alpha is leaving the Ivory Coast where he has lived all his life. His wife and child have already left, and they've agreed to meet at Gare du Nord in France. But Alpha's journey with people traffickers, through inhuman refugee camps and on the overcrowded boats across perilous waters, is unimaginably awful. A powerful, terrible, and essential story. This Graphic Novel highlights the terror and hopelessness experienced by someone forced to leave their own country in search of a future.
	<b>*The Ones that Disappeared</b>	<b>Zana Fraillon</b>	Esra, Miran and Isa are enslaved children, kidnapped by a ruthless gang after they lost their families fleeing from war. As the book begins, they are locked underground, with only water from the sprinkler to drink. Beaten and brutalised emotionally as well as physically, they still hold onto hope. Finally, they escape their prison, but Miran is separated from the others. This a harrowing read. It is best suited to older readers, unafraid to tackle difficult subjects.
	<b>*Salt to the Sea</b>	<b>Ruta Sepetys</b>	In 1945, the Second World War is drawing to a bloody end. For the German people and their surrounding allies, it is a time to flee from the approaching Russian army, whose terrifying reputation for rape and slaughter precede them. Based on the true story of the sinking of the <i>Wilhelm Gustloff</i> , a German evacuation ship, in which an estimated 9,000 people drowned, this book is brilliantly written and tremendously sad.
	<b>I Am Malala</b>	<b>Malala Yousafzai</b>	This is the real-life story of one of the most incredible and inspirational young people in the world. Reading this book might just change the way you think and feel. It encourages everyone to stand up for what is right. The story of Malala Yousafzai's life is extraordinary and massively life-affirming. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes, so she fought for her right to be educated.
	<b>*Never Fall Down</b>	<b>Patricia McCormick</b>	Based on the true story of Arn Chorn-Pond, now an activist, this is a powerful and inspiring novel, dealing with some difficult issues, and including graphic scenes throughout. Set in Cambodia at the time when the Khmer Rouge came into power, Arn goes from being young and carefree to being separated from his family, forced to into hard labour, starvation, and crime. <b>NOT SUITABLE FOR YOUNGER OR MORE SENSITIVE READERS.</b>

	<p><b>*Say You're One of Them</b></p>	<p><b>Uwem Akpan</b></p>	<p>These extraordinary stories centre on African conflicts as seen through the eyes of children and describes their resilience and endurance in heartbreaking detail. From child trafficking to inter-religious conflicts, Uwem Akpan reveals in beautiful prose the resilience and endurance of children faced with the harsh consequences of deprivation and terror.</p>
	<p><b>Here I Stand</b></p>	<p><b>Amnesty International</b></p>	<p>A varied and thought-provoking collection of short stories and poems for teens with a conscience, with contributions from Frances Hardinge, Sarah Crossan, Matt Haig, Neil Gaiman and many more. Through short stories and poetry, twenty-five leading authors and illustrators explore the top human rights issues facing young people today. Now is the time to take a stand and make a difference.</p>
	<p><b>Who are refugees and migrants? What makes people leave their homes? And other big questions</b></p>	<p><b>Michael Rosen &amp; Annemarie Young</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>After Tomorrow</b></p>	<p><b>Gillian Cross</b></p>	<p>What if you woke up tomorrow and everything had changed? Money is worthless. Your friends are gone. Armed robbers roam the streets. No one is safe. Suddenly you're a refugee. After Tomorrow is an unflinchingly poignant but ultimately hopeful story, exploring the struggle for survival within refugee camps.</p>
	<p><b>The Other Side of Truth</b></p>	<p><b>Beverley Naidoo</b></p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p><b>Red Leaves</b></p>	<p><b>Sita Brahmachari</b></p>	<p>This story features 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.</p>

# Theme of Refugee Week 2020: 'Imagine'

Imagine you are in your room one evening, getting on with your homework like you always do. Then your mum bursts in and throws a suitcase onto your bed.

“Get packing. We’ve got to leave, and we won’t be coming back. You’ve got ten minutes.”

What would you take? What would you pack into your suitcase? Food? Clothes? Deodorant and hair gel? Or would you make space for a few treasured possessions? What couldn’t you bear to leave behind? There’s an activity for you here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/nz2-e-52475-term-1-week-1-year-7-and-8-chapter-chat-pack-your-refugee-suitcase-activity-sheet>

It might sound like the beginning of a film or book, but it has been a grim reality for many, many people all around the world.

“Many children’s novels and even picture books possess great power to open up new worlds and inspire a capacity for empathy. Being able to empathise makes it easier to be kind, tolerant and willing to consider other points of view. It makes it harder to adopt prejudiced stances, helps to guard against aggression and conflict and may even encourage people to take positive action on behalf of others. It also helps young people to put their own problems in perspective. These are all values that lie at the heart of human rights – and we can find them in many novels and picture books.”

(Amnesty International)

‘It is through literature, not simply literacy, that we learn to understand and empathise ... Through literature, we can find our place in the world, feel we belong and discover our sense of responsibility.’

(Michael Morpurgo)

Activities for you to get involved:

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts-19/1-share-a-story/> To listen to stories and imagine life through the eyes of someone seeking safety.

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts-19/4-feel-the-beat/> For a special playlist of tracks that are by artists from refugee backgrounds

<https://refugeeweek.org.uk/simple-acts-19/6-write-a-poem/> to write a poem.