

## Refugee Book Reading Campaign 2019 - Children's Book List

### Read a Book About Refugees

There is a great variety of books written about refugees - including award-winning fiction – and books by refugees themselves. Why not borrow one of these from your local library or buy one from your local book shop? Do you have a book club? Maybe you would consider adding one of these titles to the reading list.

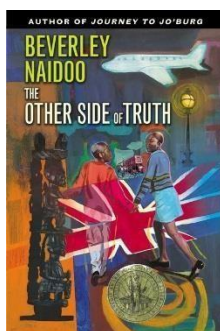
### Older Children/Teenage Fiction/Autobiography



#### **The Kite Runner**

*Author: Khaled Hosseini. Publisher: Bloomsbury. Age: 14+*

The Kite Runner is a deeply moving debut novel. The book tells the story of boyhood friendship cut across class boundaries. Their relationship is imaginatively told against the backdrop of social upheaval in Afghanistan.



#### **The Other Side of Truth**

*Author: Beverley Naidoo. Publisher: Harper Collins/Puffin. Age: 12+.*

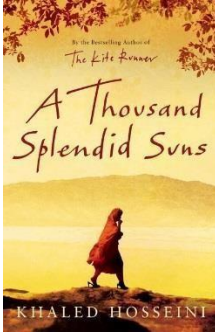
After the murder of their mother, 12-year-old Sade and her younger brother are smuggled out of Nigeria by their journalist father to escape the corrupt military government and growing violence. They are sent to their uncle in London, but when they arrive, he is missing and they are abandoned, passed between foster homes. Their father escapes to England to find them -- but he will be sent back to Nigeria unless Sade can find a way to tell the world what happened to her family.



### **The Mediterranean**

*Author: Armin Greder. Publisher: Allen & Unwin. Age: 12-18*

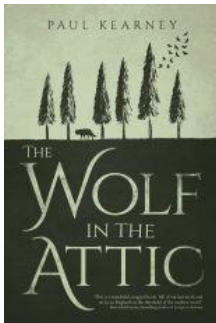
Precarious boats navigate the waters of the sea, from south to north. And more often than not, it is not only hope that drowns. A devastating indictment of our society's treatment of refugees by the creator of *The Island*.



### **A Thousand Splendid Suns**

*Author: Khaled Hosseini. Publisher: Bloomsbury.*

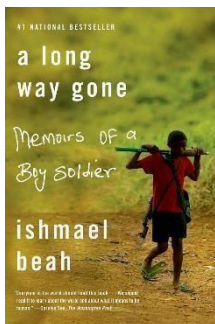
It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war, where personal lives—the struggle to survive, raise a family, find happiness—are inextricable from the history playing out around them.



### **The Wolf in the Attic**

*Author: Paul Kearney. Publisher: Solaris.*

A novel that will enchant readers of J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Philip Pullman. The fantastical appears in the middle of 1920's Oxford as a young refugee looking to escape her grim reality rubs shoulders with two of the founding fathers of modern fantasy, Tolkien and Lewis. 1920s Oxford: home to C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien... and Anna Francis, a young Greek refugee looking to escape the grim reality of her new life. That day, she'll lose everything in her life, and find the only real friend she may ever know.



### **A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Child Soldier**

*Author: Ishmael Beah. Publisher: Sarah Crichton Books.*

Beah tells of how he fled his community in war-torn Sierra Leone after seeing his family massacred and his village razed. At 13 he was coerced into joining the government army, where young soldiers were forcibly given cocaine and cannabis, indoctrinated with ideas of revenge and forced to commit atrocious crimes.



## You ng Chil dr en’s Fi ct ion /Aut obi ography (Age 7 -12)



### **A Dangerous Crossing**

*Author: Jane Mitchell, Publisher: Little Island Books*

Ghalib Shenu is a 13-year old boy of Kurdish origin who lives in Syria. He doesn't want to leave his home, but Kobani has become too dangerous. His family has no choice but to leave everything behind and try for a new life elsewhere. Together, they start out on a terrible journey that leads them through dark and dangerous places. Ghalib comes under fire, is caught in a tear-gas attack, experiences the wretched and hopeless life of a refugee camp, and he still has to face the perils of a voyage in a boat that is far from seaworthy. Based on the experiences of real Syrian families, this is the story of bravery and solidarity in the face of despair.

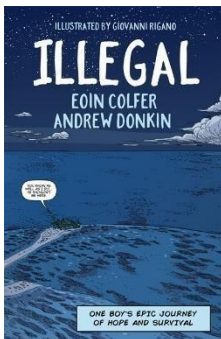


### **The Boy who fell of the Mayflower**

*Author: P.J. Lynch, Publisher: Candlewick Press*

At a young age, John Howland learned what it meant to take advantage of an opportunity. Leaving the docks of London on the Mayflower as an indentured servant to Pilgrim John Carver, John Howland little knew that he was embarking on the adventure of a lifetime.

“For adult readers, Nathaniel Philbrick’s 2006 “Mayflower” rescued the tale from banality, and now the distinguished Irish illustrator P.J. Lynch has done the same for children.” New York Times



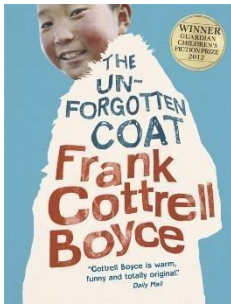
### **Illegal**

*Authors: Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin, Publisher: Hodder Children’s Books, Age range: 9-12 years*

Graphic Novel: 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. Ebo's 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.

This is a powerful and timely story about one boy's epic journey across Africa to Europe, a graphic novel for all children with glorious colour artwork throughout



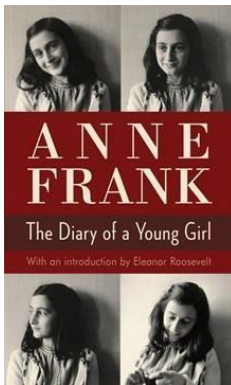


### **The Unforgotten Coat**

*Author: Frank Cottrell Boyce Age 9+*

Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy as she recollects a wonderful friendship that was abruptly ended when Chingis and his family were forced to return to Mongolia. Told with the humour, warmth and brilliance of detail which characterizes Frank Cottrell Boyce's writing, this magical and compelling story is

enriched by stunning and atmospheric Polaroid photos. "Funny, sad, haunting and original...A tricky, magical delight." - Kirkus Reviews

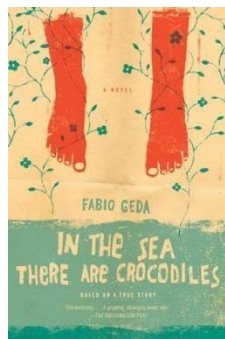


### **Diary of a Young Girl**

*Author: Anne Frank Age: 11+.*

Discovered in the attic in which she spent the last years of her life, Anne Frank's remarkable diary has since become a world classic. In 1942, with Nazis occupying Holland, a 13-year-old Jewish girl and her family fled their home in Amsterdam and went into hiding. For the next two years, until their whereabouts were betrayed to the Gestapo, they and another family lived cloistered in the "Secret Annex" of an old office building. Cut off from the outside world, they faced hunger, boredom, the constant cruelties of living in confined quarters, and the ever-present threat of discovery and death. In her diary Anne Frank recorded vivid impressions of her

experiences during this period. Her account offers a fascinating commentary on human courage and frailty and a compelling self-portrait of a sensitive and spirited young woman whose promise was tragically cut short.

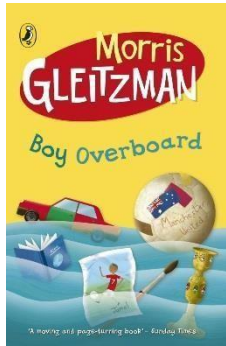


### **In the Sea There Are Crocodiles**

*Author: Fabio Geda. Publisher: Random House. Age: 10+.*

Geda recounts the true story of 10-year-old Enaiatollah's 5-year ordeal from Afghanistan to Italy, where he seeks political asylum at age 15, having endured dangerous border crossings, trekking across bitterly cold mountain pathways for days or being stuffed into the false bottom of a truck. "A remarkable, heart-warming story of courage and endurance in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles... truly inspirational" -The Irish Examiner.

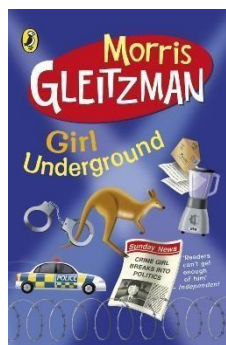




### Boy Overboard

*Author: Morris Gleitzman. Publisher: Puffin. Age: 10+.*

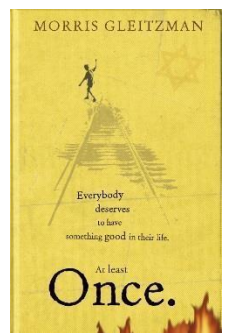
When it is discovered that Jamal's mother has been secretly running a school, the family must leave their home immediately and begin a long and dangerous journey to Australia. The children survive separation from their parents, hunger, and violent smugglers only to find that Australia isn't as welcoming as they had thought. However, even though they face an uncertain future, Jamal, Bibi and their parents know that as long as they are together, that is all that matters.



### Girl Underground

*Author: Morris Gleitzman. Publisher: Puffin. Age: 10+.*

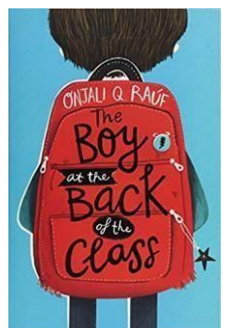
This exciting sequel to "Boy Overboard" introduces Bridget, a quiet girl who is trying to fit in at a posh new school. Then she finds out that her new friend, Menzies, has a pen pal called Jamal, a refugee boy from Afghanistan held in a detention centre. When daring appeals to the government and the prime minister himself fail to set Jamal and his sister free, Bridget and Menzies decide to take matters into their own hands. Sometimes the only way to make things happen is to do them yourself.



### The Once Trilogy: Once, Then and Now

*Author: Morris Gleitzman. Publisher: Puffin. Age: 10+.*

Felix is lucky. Unlike the other children in the orphanage, he's certain his parents will come back for him one day. And whatever the Nazis do and however many books they burn, Felix's imagination provides him and his companions with an endless supply of stories - stories that protect them when they're on the run, shield them from the violent madness all around, give them hope when all seems lost, and one day may even save Felix's life.

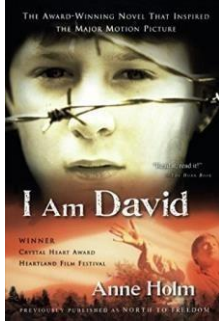


### The Boy at the Back of the Class

*Author: Onjali Q. Rauf. Publisher: Orion. Age 8+*

When Ahmet, a refugee boy from Syria, arrives at school he doesn't talk or smile, and always disappears at lunch. Not everyone is nice to him, even some of the teachers aren't friendly. What Ahmet doesn't know is how much life is going to change when a group of his classmates decide to be his friend, and come up with an exciting adventure to help him.

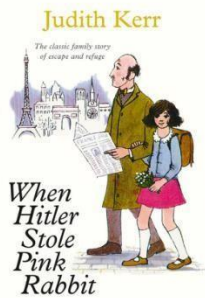




### **I am David**

*Author: Anne Holm. Publisher: Methuen Young Books. Age: 9+*

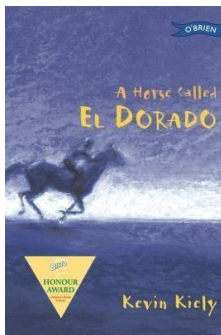
This is the tale of a young boy who has spent all of his known life in a concentration camp and the story begins as he is helped to escape by one of the guards. David struggles to cope in this strange new world, where his only resources are a compass, a few crusts of bread, his two aching feet, and some vague advice to seek refuge in Denmark.



### **When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit**

*Author: Judith Kerr. Publisher: Harper Collins. Age: 9+.*

In 1933 a young Jewish girl is forced to flee to Switzerland with her family as Hitler is elected to office. The story tells of their struggle to adapt to a new life as a refugee family.

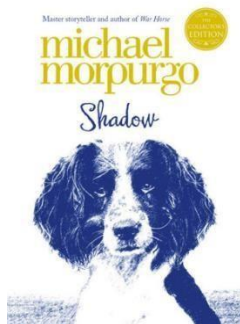


### **A Horse Called El Dorado**

*Author: Kevin Kiely. Publisher: O'Brien Press. Age: 10-12.*

In the commune at the edge of a forest in Colombia, life is blissful. Until the Guerrillas come. Then Pepe must flee with his mother to the city, leaving behind his favourite horse El Dorado. His future looks grim until his Irish grandparents offer him another chance. But can thirteen-year-old Pepe go all on his own to this strange, cold land, the birthplace of his father? And what future awaits him there? Will he ever have the chance to ride his beloved horses again? "The hazardous journey from Colombia to Ireland: a story of dreams and our need to fulfill them." -

Robert Dunbar, The Irish Times. Bisto Honour Award Winner 2006. Shortlisted for Scottish Highland Children's Book Awards (Scotland) 2006.

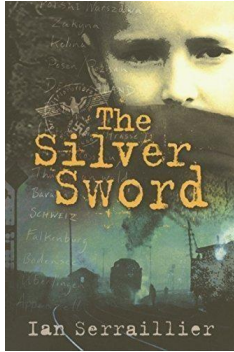


### **Shadow**

*Author: Michael Morpurgo Publisher: Harper Collins*

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. Nursed back to health by Aman, the dog becomes a constant companion, a shadow, and that's what Aman decides to call her. But life in Afghanistan becomes more dangerous by the moment. Eventually, Aman, his mother and Shadow find the courage to embark upon the treacherous journey from war-torn Afghanistan to the safety of a relative's home in Manchester, England.

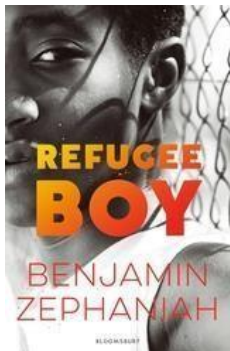




### **The Silver Sword**

*Author: Ian Serraillier. Publisher: Red Fox. Age: 9+.*

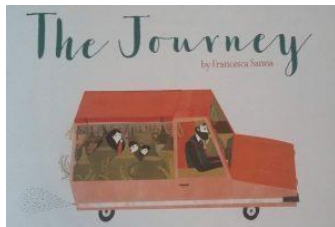
This is a story about how the Balicki family is torn apart by the Germans from their home in Warsaw, Poland, in 1940, and how they succeed in reuniting themselves in Switzerland at the end of the war. Of course, after five years of extraordinary deprivation, fear and grief, the Balickis are not much like the people that they were before the war started. The children have grown up. But, in time, they are all ready to make a new start.



### **Refugee Boy**

*Author: Benjamin Zephaniah. Publisher: Bloomsbury. Age: 10+.*

A powerful and popular novel telling the story of a young boy left in the UK by his parents to start a better life away from the political problems in Ethiopia. The story deals with his experience in a strange new country and how he adjusts to his new life in the UK.

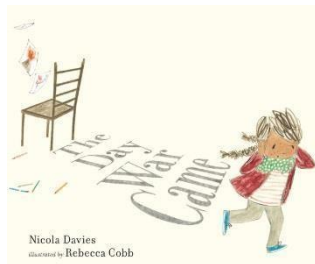


### **The Journey**

*Author: Francesca Sanna. Publisher: Flying Eye Books. Age: 5-8*

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. Based on her own interactions with people forced to seek a new home, and

told from the perspective of a young child, Francesca Sanna has created a beautiful illustrated and sensitive book that is full of significance for our time.



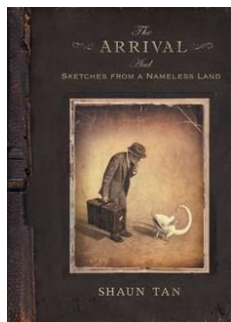
### **The Day War Came**

*Author: Nicola Davies. Publisher: Walker Books. Age: 5-8*

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... A powerful and necessary picture



book – the journey of a child forced to become a refugee when war destroys everything she has ever known.

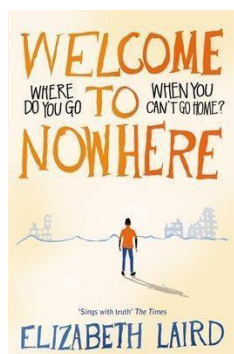


### **The Arrival**

*Author: Shaun Tan. Publisher: Hodder Children's Books. Age: 6+*

The Arrival is a migrant story told as a series of wordless images that might seem to come from a long forgotten time. A man leaves his wife and child in an impoverished town, seeking better prospects in an unknown country on the other side of a

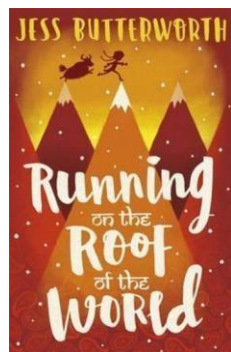
vast ocean.



### **Welcome to Nowhere**

*Author: Elizabeth Laird. Publisher: Macmillan. Age: 9-11*

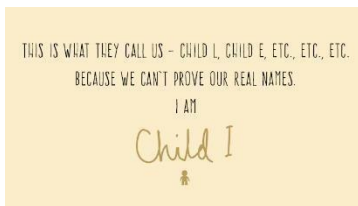
Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. Omar doesn't care about politics - all he wants is to grow up to become a successful businessman who will take the world by storm. But when his clever older brother, Musa, gets mixed up with some young political activists, everything changes... Welcome to Nowhere is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war by the award-winning author Elizabeth Laird.



### **Running on the Roof of the World**

*Author: Jess Butterworth. Publisher: Orion Children's Books. Age: 9-12*

Join 12-year-old Tash and her best friend Sam in a story of adventure, survival and hope, set in the vivid Himalayan landscape of Tibet and India. Filled with friendship, love and courage, this young girl's thrilling journey to save her parents is an ideal read for children aged 9-12.



### **Child I**

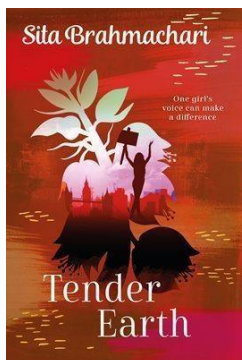
*Author: Steve Tasane. Publisher: Faber & Faber. Age: 9-11*

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. As they try to forge a new family amongst themselves, they also long to keep





memories of their old identities alive. Will they be heard and believed? And what will happen to them if they aren't?

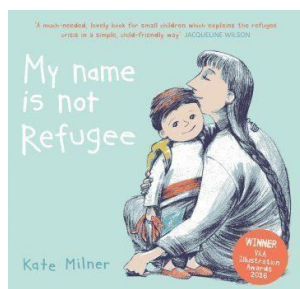


### **Tender Earth**

*Author: Sita Brahmachari. Publisher: Macmillan Children's Books. Age: 9-11*

Laila Levenson has always been the baby of the family, but now with her older siblings, Mira and Krish, leaving home just as she starts secondary school, everything feels like it's changing... can the reappearance of Nana Josie's Protest Book and the spirit it releases in Laila, her friends and her local community, help her find her own voice and discover what she truly believes in? A powerful chime rings through Laila's mind, guiding her to walk the footsteps of the past on her way to discover her own future.

## **Very Young Children (2-6)**

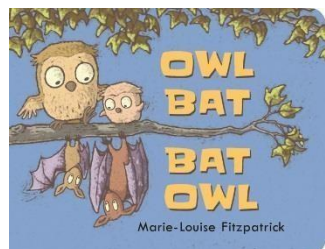


### **My name is not refugee**

*Author: Kate Milner. Publisher: Barrington Stoke. Age: 2-5*

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 hard 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.



### **Owl Bat, Bat Owl**

*Author: Marie Louise Fitzpatrick. Publisher: Barrington Stoke. Age: 2-4*

From award-winning author and illustrator, Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick, comes a stunning wordless board book 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...





### **Welcome**

*Author: Barroux. Publisher: Egmont Books. Age: 3-6*

Three lost polar bears search for a new home in this timely book from award-winning French illustrator Barroux. His beautiful story was inspired by the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis and promotes inclusiveness and welcomeness for children.



### **Everybody's Welcome**

*Author: Patricia Hegarty. Publisher: Caterpillar Books. Age: 3-6*

Wouldn't it be great if you could build a home that opened its doors to everyone – tall or short, fat or thin, rich or poor... Well, perhaps if everybody pitches in to help, one little mouse can achieve that dream. This heart-warming story is brought to life with clever die-cuts and playful illustrations.



### **King of the Sky**

*Author: Nicola Davies. Publisher: Walker Books. Age: 4-9*

A breathtaking new picture book by children's author Nicola Davies, illustrated by Laura Carlin. 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.

