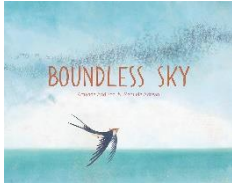


# Refugee and migrant stories booklist

Young Readers Programme

This book list celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. As always when approaching this theme be sensitive to lived experience and emotional responses in your classroom. [Click here](#) to find these titles on Browns Books.

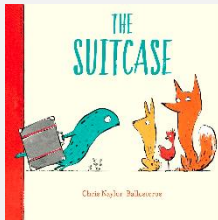
# Picture books



## ***Boundless Sky* by Amanda Addison | A Long Journey Home**

The story weaves together the parallel journeys of a bird and a young refugee named Leila. Through its exploration of themes such as migration, resilience, and the pursuit of a peaceful home, the story not only captivates young readers but also imparts valuable lessons about empathy and understanding. It serves as a meaningful conversation starter for discussions on compassion, diversity, and the shared aspirations that unite us all.

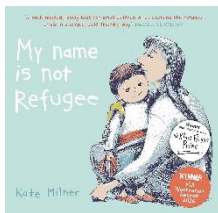
*Interest age: 3-7 Reading age: 5+*



## ***The Suitcase* by Chris Naylor-Ballesteros | Welcoming Strangers**

The story unfolds with the journey of a newcomer who arrives in a foreign land carrying just a suitcase. The stranger appears sad and weary, and the community is unsure how to approach or help. The book not only sparks conversations about immigration and acceptance but also instils a sense of empathy and understanding in young minds.

*Interest age: 4-6 Reading age: 5+*



## ***My Name is Not Refugee* by Kate Milner | Immigration and Identity**

The book follows the conversation between a young boy and his mother about the impending journey on which they are about to embark. They are about to leave home and seek refuge in a new country. It touches upon themes of empathy, understanding, and the shared human experiences that transcend borders.

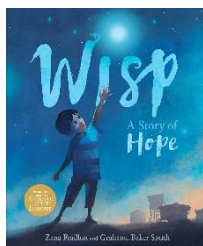
*Interest age: 4-8 Reading age: 5+*



## ***The Little War Cat* by Hiba Noor Khan | War and Home**

Basking in Aleppo's sunlit streets, a little grey cat revels in play around marble mosques, sunbathes under palm trees, and lives a happy life. However, when humans with boots arrive, everything is disrupted. Friends vanish, food disappears, and the sun hides behind thick, black smoke. Alone, scared, and hungry, a kind and patient human comes to her rescue.

*Interest age: 4-8 Reading age: 5+*



## ***Wisp: A Story of Hope* by Zana Fraillon | Immigration and Hope**

An uplifting story that unfolds within the confines of a refugee camp, where a young child dreams of a brighter future. In this enchanting narrative, Fraillon weaves a tapestry of resilience, courage, and the transformative power of belief.

*Interest age: 6-8 Reading age: 6+*

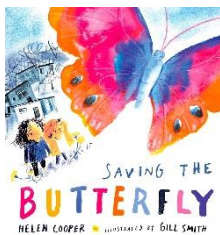
# Picture books



## ***The Day War Came* by Nicola Davies | Refugee Experience and War**

A young girl is forced to flee from her bombarded home country. Even in her newfound refuge, the scars of war linger, haunting her heart and the eyes of those around her who turn away. This book urges readers to recognise the importance of compassion and empathy in addressing the ongoing humanitarian crisis.

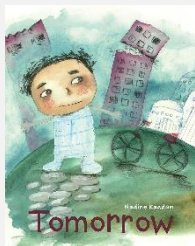
*Interest age: 5-8 Reading age: 6+*



## ***Saving the Butterfly: A Story About Refugees* by Helen Cooper | Family**

In this poetic and powerful tale, a little brother and his big sister navigate the challenges of starting anew after a perilous sea journey. While the little one adapts and makes new friends, his sister remains haunted. The story beautifully unfolds as the siblings attempt to settle in their new home, where the only remnants of the past are the bonds they share.

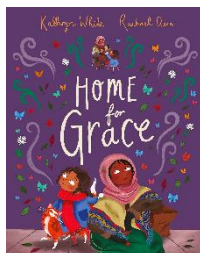
*Interest age: 4-6 Reading age: 5+*



## ***Tomorrow* by Nadine Kaadan | War and Family**

The picture book unfolds the story of Yazan, a boy yearning for the freedom of his pre-war life in Syria. Trapped inside, he resorts to paper planes and a pillow castle, but the reality outside is fraught with danger. This uplifting story beautifully captures the courage of a little boy navigating adversity and the enduring strength of family love in times of conflict.

*Interest age: 4-6 Reading age: 6+*



## ***Home for Grace* by Kathryn White | Refugee Experience and Empathy**

When Jess and her mum befriend Grace, who appeared in a shop doorway with a cat named Luna, they navigate questions about her past and concerns for the future. A powerful exploration of homelessness, highlighting the importance of kindness and understanding.

*Interest age: 6-8 Reading age: 6+*

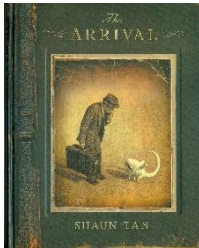


## ***The Journey* by Francesca Sanna | Immigration and Home**

*The Journey* is told through the eyes of a young child whose family's safe world is shattered by the arrival of war. It is a powerful and poignant exploration of a refugee experience.

*Interest age: 7-9 Reading age: 7+*

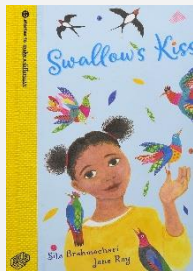
# Picture & chapter books



## ***The Arrival* by Shaun Tan | Refugee Experience and Belonging**

We follow a young man who packs his bags, bidding farewell to his family to embark on a new life in a foreign land. The narrative unfolds as we share in his struggles, from communication barriers to finding shelter, employment, and sustenance. The story interweaves the experiences of other immigrants, culminating in a hopeful reunion with his family and the promise of a brighter future.

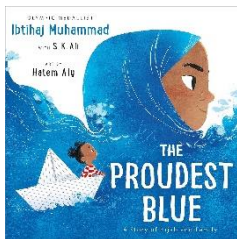
*Interest age: 8-9 Reading age: 8+*



## ***Swallow's Kiss* by Sita Brahmachari | Refugee Experience and Empathy**

Blessing, a young girl living a new life with her Mama, holds onto the hope that her Papa will find them. The discovery of a lost bag of paper Wish Birds sets Blessing on a heartwarming journey, following the trail of wishes to a community that crafted them, leading to new friendships.

*Interest age: 7-11 Reading age: 7+*



## ***The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali | Refugee Experience and Home**

Asiya's hijab is blue, the same colour as the ocean and sky. It waves to the world with a radiant smile. It is Faizah's first day of school, and her sister Asiya's first day of wearing her hijab. This beautifully crafted narrative delves into themes of identity, resilience, and the warmth of familial bonds.

*Interest age: 6-8 Reading age: 6+*



## ***The Last Garden* by Rachel Ip | War and Empathy**

Amidst the turmoil of a war-ravaged city, a young girl tends to the last remaining garden carefully. However, her neighbours are leaving; everyone is leaving because of the war. "The garden will be alone if I leave too..." thinks the little girl. With beautiful illustrations, *The Last Garden* serves as the perfect story to spark conversations on war and migration with younger children.

*Interest age: 6-8 Reading age: 6+*

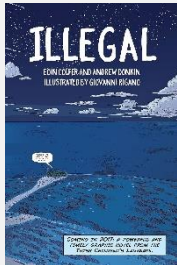


## ***Leaf* by Sandra Dieckmann | Newcomers and Friendship**

An illustrated tale that unfolds in a magical forest. When a polar bear arrives unexpectedly, the woodland animals are wary. Yet Leaf, a curious fox, befriends the outsider, uncovering the importance of acceptance and the beauty of diversity.

*Interest age: 4-7 Reading age: 5+*

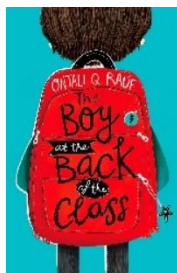
# Chapter books



## ***Illegal* by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin | Journey and Hope**

The graphic novel tells the story of Ebo, a 12-year-old boy who tries to escape his village. Driven by the hope of reuniting with his brother Kwame and sister Sisi, who have already ventured to Europe in search of a better life, Ebo embarks on a perilous journey across the Sahara Desert. The book is beautifully illustrated and takes readers on a powerful and timely journey.

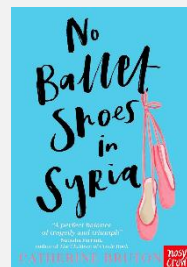
*Interest age: 10-16 Reading age: 10+*



## ***The Boy at the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf | Kindness and Friendship**

This is a heartwarming tale of four children and their kindness towards Ahmet, a Syrian refugee. With curiosity, bravery and innocence, they break stereotypes, inspiring readers to be good people, no matter their circumstances. An inspiring story about the power of kindness and friendships.

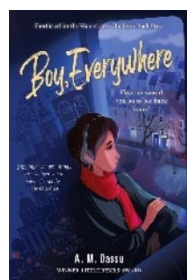
*Interest age: 7-11 Reading age: 10+*



## ***No Ballet Shoes in Syria* by Catherine Bruton | Resilience and Friendships**

The story follows Aya, a Syrian asylum seeker in Manchester, weaving a poignant tale of resilience and friendship. Aya's passion for ballet meets hope in the form of a class led by Miss Helena. This heartwarming story, ideal for those who seek optimism amid challenges, beautifully captivates readers.

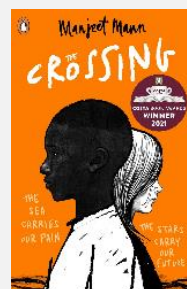
*Interest age: 9-11 Reading age: 9+*



## ***Boy, Everywhere* by A. M. Dassu | War and Family**

13-year-old Sami enjoys a peaceful life in Damascus until a bomb shatters his world. Fleeing Syria, his journey across Europe unveils the harsh reality of danger, poverty, and fear faced by refugees. Sami's story sheds light on the broader refugee experience. A timely and honest narrative essential for school libraries.

*Interest age: 9-11 Reading age: 9+*



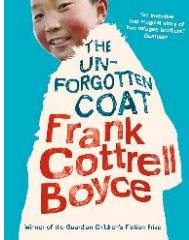
## ***The Crossing* by Manjeet Mann | Immigration and Family**

In a poignant tale of loss and survival, *The Crossing* follows Natalie and Sammy, two teenagers facing distinct challenges that intertwine in unexpected ways. Natalie seeks solace in swimming after her mother's death, while Sammy flees war-torn Eritrea. With raw dialogue and poignant events, this book serves as a crucial and empathetic exploration of the challenges faced by young people in war.

*Interest age: 12-14 Reading age: 10+*



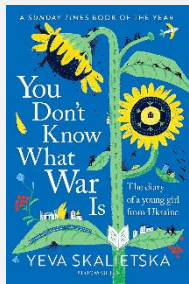
# Chapter books & poems



## ***The Unforgotten Coat* by Frank Cottrell Boyce | Refugee Experience and Friendships**

Two brothers from Mongolia are trying to fit in with their classmates in Liverpool. With Cottrell Boyce's trademark humour and warmth, readers embark on a delightful journey from Liverpool's streets to the vast steppe of Mongolia.

Interest age: 9-12 Reading age: 9+



## ***You Don't Know What War Is: The Diary of a Young Girl from Ukraine* by Yeva Skalietska | Immigration and War**

In the book, Yeva recounts the harrowing impact of the Russian invasion of Ukraine through her 12-year-old eyes. From the innocence of a birthday bowling party to the horrors of war in Kharkiv, Yeva's diary captures her fear, resilience, and eventual displacement to Dublin, Ireland. A poignant narrative illustrating the profound effects of conflict on ordinary lives.

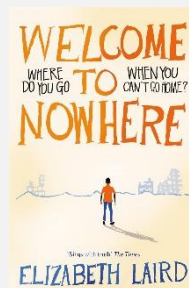
Interest age: 9-11 Reading age: 9+



## ***Front Desk* by Kelly Yang | Immigration and Family**

The story unfolds with a young girl named Mia Tang. She's funny, spirited, and loves writing at the front desk of her parents' motel. They have recently immigrated from China to the USA, marking the beginning of a brand-new chapter in their lives. It's a warm, exhilarating novel that centres around themes of family, immigration and identity.

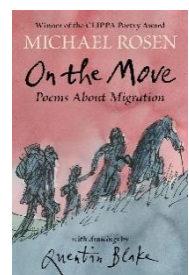
Interest age: 9-11 Reading age: 9+



## ***Welcome to Nowhere* by Elizabeth Laird | Refugee Experience and Conflict**

The novel starts with a journey that delves into the harsh realities faced by a Syrian family caught in the crossfire of war. Laird's compelling narrative follows the protagonist, 12-year-old Omar, as his life takes an unexpected turn amidst the chaos of conflict. It serves as a powerful educational tool, providing readers, especially young adults, with a nuanced understanding of the refugee experience.

Interest age: 9-11 Reading age: 9+



## ***On the Move: Poems About Migration* by Michael Rosen | Historical and War**

A poignant collection that explores the diverse experiences of migration through the artistry of poetry. With insightful verses, the author captures the emotions, challenges and hopes of those on the move. A powerful and thought-provoking journey through the lens of poetic expression.

Interest age: 9-12 Reading age: 9+