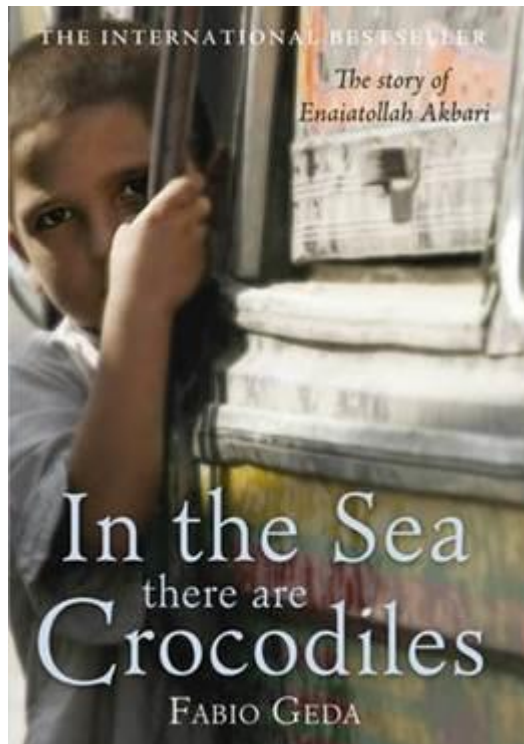

BOOKS

REFUGEE WEEK – TITLES AVAILABLE AS E BOOKS OR E AUDIO BOOKS

In The Sea There Are Crocodiles



Author: Fabio Geda **Translator:** Howard Curtis

Publisher: David Fickling Books

First published in Italian, the story of Enaiatollah Akbari's journey from Afghanistan to Italy has now been translated into English.

Enaiatollah's journey 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 and is forced to do the most difficult thing a mother can do. From here Enaiatollah uses his wits and the help of fellow 'illegals' as he struggles to survive in search of a better life. This search takes him through Iran, Turkey, Greece and finally Italy on a journey full of perils.

On the way he does all kinds of jobs from selling sweets on the roadside to working on building sites in terrible working conditions and travels in various dangerous ways, under lorries, in inflatable dinghys and walking across mountains. He meets all sorts of people, those who try to stop him and a few that help him on his way, we learn the methods of people trafficking and the industry that has built up around it. Enaiatollah's story is told in an understated yet engaging way.

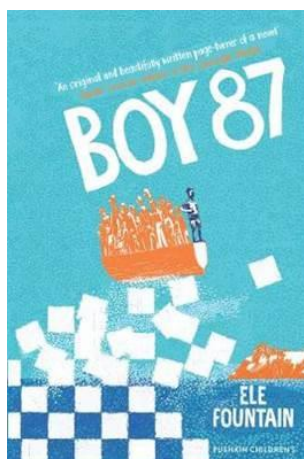
This story charts the same story thousands of people undertake every day, Enaiatollah is one of the lucky ones. This important book will make you realise the ridiculous nature of nation states and boundaries and how lucky we are to be born in Europe.

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 10+

E book & e audio book

Boy 87



(7 reviews with an average rating of 5 out of 5)

Author: Ele Fountain

Publisher: Pushkin Children's

Fourteen-year-old Shif and his best friend Bini are ordinary boys with big ambitions, but their world implodes when they attract the attention of the military "giffa". Wrenched from their families, they're sent to a remote desert prison, where their cellmates are barely clinging to live.

However, the boys' arrival sparks hope in the imprisoned men, and they give everything to ensure their escape. Reaching the nearest town, Shif has only just begun the perilous journey which he hopes will end in safety and freedom.

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.

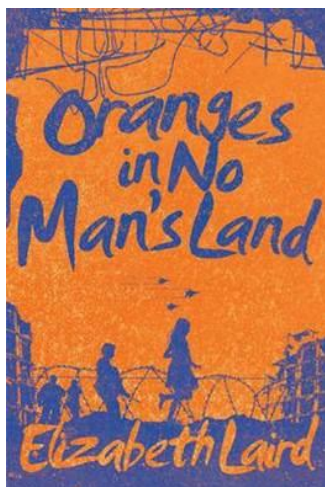
Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+

E book & e audio book

Oranges in No Man's Land

(15 reviews with an average rating of 5 out of 5)



Author: Elizabeth Laird

Publisher: Pan Macmillan

Young children are the innocent victims of war and Ayesha is no exception. With her father abroad looking for work and her mother killed in a rocket attack, Ayesha and her young brothers find themselves refugees in a bombed out flat in Beirut with only an elderly grandmother to care for them.

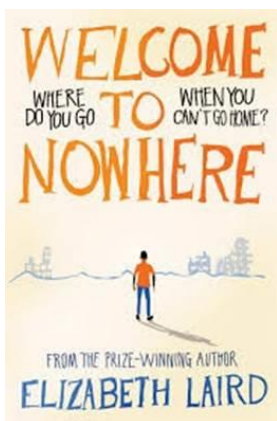
When their Grandmother becomes seriously ill, Ayesha quickly realises that no-one else will take responsibility and she undertakes a perilous journey across no man's land to enemy-held territory in search of a doctor and vital medicines.

Drawing on personal experience, Elizabeth Laird looks at how daily life continues in the midst of violent conflict and paints a vivid and disturbing picture of a city devastated by civil war and the effects on just some of those caught up in it.

Interest age: 8+

Reading age: 9+

Welcome to Nowhere



Author: Elizabeth Laird

Publisher: Pan Macmillan

Twelve-year-old Omar and his family live in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria. 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.

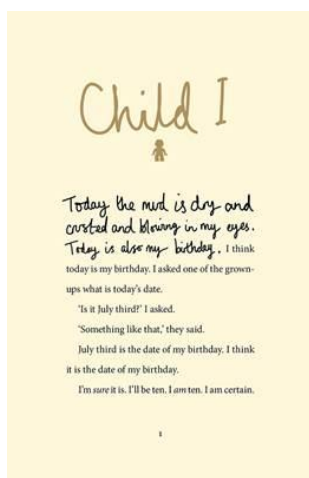
Laird, as always, takes on a complex international issue and deftly translates it for younger readers. While clearly about the Syrian civil war and refugee crisis, this book is perfect for developing understanding amongst children and teenagers regarding conflict and the resulting exodus of people anywhere.

Joint winners of the UKLA Book Award in 2018: 7-11 category.

Interest age: 11+

Reading age: 9+

Child I



Author: Steve Tasane

Publisher: Faber & Faber

Child I thinks it's their birthday. They can't be certain, because none of the adults in the camp are really sure what date it is, but they decide now is the right time to tell their story.

This heartbreaking, moving tale follows the unaccompanied children and volunteers living in a refugee camp and it's impossible not to be deeply touched while reading it.

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.

Even in the darkest of circumstances, they're still children – which can make the events of the novel even harder to bear.

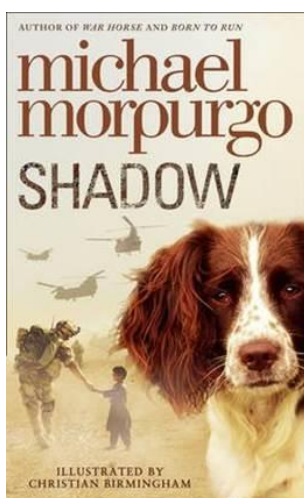
Steve Tasane's spare prose is the perfect way to tell the story, and even though none of the children in the book have names, their personalities shine through – from I's endlessly good nature and constant requests to play to V's stubborn, bold and loveable feistiness.

Child I is not an easy read, but it is an important one, and it will help children – and, for that matter, adults - consider those who are less fortunate than them.

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+

Shadow



(3 reviews with an average rating of 5 out of 5)

Author: Sir Michael Morpurgo

Publisher: HarperCollins Children's Books

Befriended by a brave and loyal stray dog, Shadow, Aman and his mother survive a treacherous trip across war-ravaged Afghanistan. But now they are in danger again - can Shadow help them one more time?

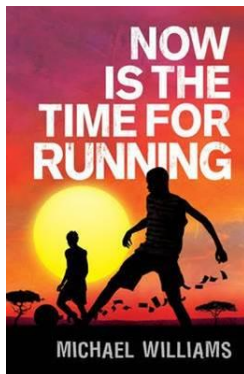
This is a candid exploration of the injustices of war, at home and away, and an unflinching account of the treatment of asylum

seekers. The book includes explanatory notes on the war in Afghanistan and the Yarl's Wood immigration detention centre.

Interest age: 9+

Reading age: 9+

Now is the Time for Running



Author: Michael Williams

Publisher: Tamarind Books

Deo's family life is destroyed when government forces kill most of the inhabitants of his rural Zimbabwean village, including his beloved mother and grandfather. He escapes 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, witnessing terrible atrocities inflicted by troops, and hostility against refugees along the way.

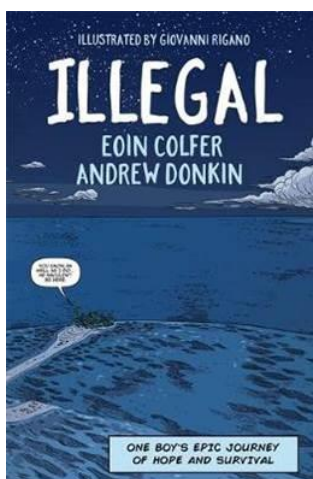
Williams reveals the many hardships the two boys face, but also their tremendous faith in the promise of a better life ahead, as well as their passion for football, and their determination to honour the memory of their family.

It's a tough and heart-rending story, but one that needs telling.

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 10+

Illegal



Author: Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin and **Illustrator:** Giovanni Rigano

Publisher: Hodder Children's Books

Illegal 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 en route.

Before he even can hope to find a boat to get him to Europe, Ebo has to make the perilous journey across Sahara desert. And then the boat

he manages to find passage on (for a small fortune) is a small six-person rubber dinghy, now carrying 14 passengers...

The story is heart-stoppingly powerful and many readers will devour it one sitting. The images are of course absolutely integral and beautifully drawn by Giovanni Rigano. Ebo is a wonderful hero: so resourceful, hard working, clever, brave and funny.

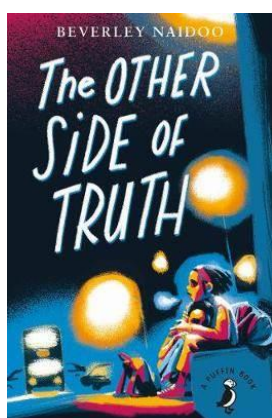
Although Ebo's story is fictional, every element of it has been inspired by facts, based on extensive interviews and research. At the back of the book, these stories are acknowledged, including the moving story of "Helen", adapted in comic form.

An absolute must-read, this graphic novel is thought-provoking, profound, sensitive and totally gripping.

Interest age: 10+

Reading age: 10+

The Other Side of Truth



Author: Beverley Naidoo

Publisher: Puffin

Femi and Sade's father is a journalist, a truth-teller, and someone who gets on the wrong side of the Nigerian authorities. When their mother is shot dead in front of them, the bullet was meant for him.

Sade and her brother are ripped from their comfortable, happy life and sent to England for their safety – illegally and against their will.

This novel wholly deserves its classic status. *The Other Side of Truth* won the Carnegie Medal in 2000 but the trauma and murder endured by Sade and her family, and their experience of fleeing the familiar to become refugees in an alien country, is still relevant and poignant.

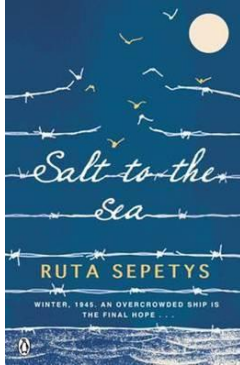
Seen through the eyes of two brave, but frightened, children, this is a story of terror, loss, love and humanity.

Naidoo never falls into the trap of making this a narrative of white saviours, or painting England as a rescuing paradise: Femi and Sade are traumatised, and they want to go home. Their struggle is theirs, their bravery comes from their identity and although they find friends in England, their longing for Nigeria, the past and home is unquenchable and the author never shies away from exploring their complex emotions.

Interest age: 11-16

Reading age: 10+

Salt to the Sea



Author: Ruta Sepetys

Publisher: Puffin

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.

Without food or possessions, a small group band together in an attempt to reach the boats taking civilians to safety. Among them are Joana, Florian and Emilia - a heavily pregnant 15-year-old Polish girl. Their cross-country trek is brutal and violent - but will the boat be any better?

This heart-breaking historical fiction highlights the devastation wrought by war on the lives of innocent civilians. Despite the divide in the group, the protagonists see no differences between themselves. They are all just desperate refugees searching for safety. Each chapter is told from a different character's perspective, allowing insight into their backgrounds and war-torn lives.

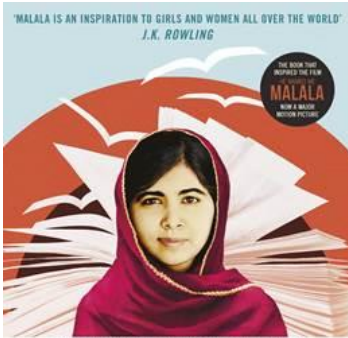
For this book, Sepetys exhaustively researched the devastating sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*, a German evacuation ship, in which an estimated 9,000 people drowned. Her fictional account of this tragic event is brilliantly written and tremendously sad.

Winner of the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2017.

Interest age: 15+

Reading age: 15+

I am Malala



(27 reviews with an average rating of 5 out of 5)

Author: Malala Yousafzai

Publisher: Hachette Children's Group

The story of Malala Yousafzai's life is extraordinary and massively life-affirming.

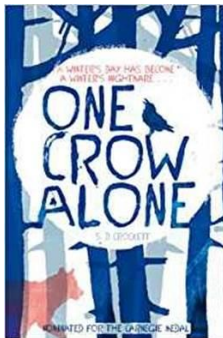
Malala was born in the Swat valley in Pakistan during turbulent times of trouble and terror. Religious fundamentalists tried to deny her and other girls an education. Targeted and shot because of her belief and bravery to stand up against this prejudice, Malala's breath-taking story is shocking, exciting and surprising.

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.

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 13+

One Crow Alone



Author: Sophie Crockett

Publisher: Macmillan

In the midst of a seemingly never-ending winter, Magda gradually loses all the things that give her life direction and meaning. Her grandmother is dead, the other inhabitants of her small Polish village have been evacuated and her mother is hundreds of miles away in London.

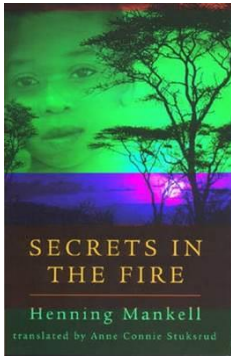
She eventually finds a way to reach London with the help of Ivan, an enigmatic and unreliable nomad. But London isn't as she expected and instead of finding her mother's welcoming arms, the pair find themselves walking into a nightmare.

From the author of *After the Snow*, this powerful young adult novel creates an apocalyptic vision of global climate change. Crockett explores the best and worst aspects of human nature and the value of self-reliance

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 11+

Secrets in the Fire



Author: Henning Mankell **Translator:** Anne Stuksrud

Publisher: Allen & Unwin Children's Books

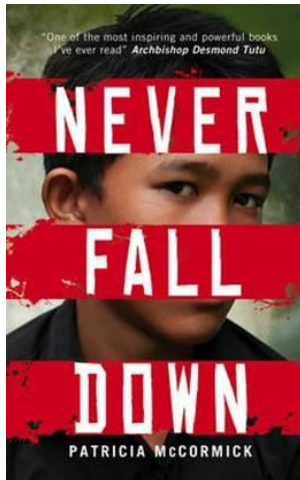
Sofia and her family flee their Mozambique village after her father is killed by bandits. They attempt to start afresh, but the dangers of war are ever-present, and Sofia is forced to rebuild her life again when she and her sister are involved in a landmine explosion.

This beautiful story of tragedy and hope succeeds in being an eminently positive read, delivered with sensitivity but without sentimentality.

Interest age: 13+

Reading age: 12+

Never Fall Down



Author: Patricia McCormick

Publisher: Doubleday

For young and carefree Arn, life is an adventure. He loves to play soldier and visit the local river with his best friend Hong, where they jump around like frogs. Yet, when the Khumer Rouge comes into power, Arn's world is turned upside down. With this new rule comes terror and with death all around him, Arn must fight for survival. Separated from his family, Arn is soon forced to into hard labour, starvation and crime.

Patricia McCormick sheds light on the history of Cambodia in this moving story. Based on the true story of Arn Chorn-Pond, now an activist, this is a powerful and inspiring novel that will stay with readers long after they have finished the book. Dealing with some difficult issues and including graphic scenes throughout, this book is not suited to younger or more sensitive readers.

Interest age: 15+

Reading age: 14+

Looking at the Stars



Author: Jo Cotterill

Publisher: Bodley Head

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. These actions are seen as rebellion, even a stray smile can get you noticed for the wrong reasons so Amina can't hide her excitement when the 'liberation' arrives to take the power from the Kwana and restore it to the people.

She is sure that a new life is just around the corner, but when her brother goes missing and is feared to have joined the rebels Amina and the rest of her family get a visit from the officials that will tear their lives apart. Amina and her sister set out for one of the country's aid camps that promises security and refuge, but the reality is that too many people are seeking the same things and the camp is just another type of a limited life.

This brutal reality and the tragic story act as a sharp contrast to the free spirit and strong will of our feisty heroine. Amina finds her talents in storytelling, bringing comfort to herself and those around her in their darkest hours. She is honest and brave but remains believable in her acts of defiance.

The stars in the sky are the inspiration for her stories; they are magical and boundless and enchant both the reader and Amina's audience. Violence and the other disturbing images are not dwelled on unnecessarily, but the horror of Amina's situation is clear and present. Like Amina, Cotterill has re-focussed her gaze, and in *Looking at the Stars* the reader finds a surprising story of family, friendship and hope.

Interest age: 12+

Reading age: 12+