

2019 Annotated Bibliography:

Books about refugees with suggested audiences.

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This bibliography was compiled by Meg Pickup, Secretary BR4R in June 2019. We wish to acknowledge Meg for the time and the effort that has gone into producing the list. It is comprehensive but may not contain every suitable book. If you have suggestions to add for next year please contact us through the website.

Please circulate to your colleagues, friends and family.

The list will be uploaded to our website at www.br4r.org.au in the Documents Section. Please feel free to distribute.



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EARLY CHILDHOOD

Buitrago, Jairo, illustrated by Yockteng Rafael, translated by Amado Elisa. (2015). *Two White Rabbits*. (4-7 years).

A young girl and her father, each with just a backpack, make a perilous journey toward a better life. The titular rabbits are exchanged as a gift of friendship between the little girl and a young boy she meets along the way. As father and daughter's trek continues, the rabbits transform into symbols of something beloved (companions), something sacrificial (purity), something hopeful (freedom), and even the threat of something sinister (two ghosts?).

Castel, Caroline (in conjunction with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). (2001). *For Every Child* (4-12 years old)

For Every Child is picture book, which details the 15 most important rights of the child. Each right has a specific illustration in a different style by a different artist around the world. This could lead to a discussion about why people may have to flee from their own country.

Curtis, Jamie Lee, illustrated by Cornell, Laura. (2016). *This is Me: A Story of Who We Are and Where We Come From*. (4+ years).

Writ large across a classroom blackboard is, "Where did you come from because it wasn't here." As the teacher shares her own family tale ("My great-grandmother came from a far, distant place. She came on a boat with just this small case"), she beckons her students to look into an empty suitcase, inviting each child to imagine such a journey: "How would you know in this case what to pack and that once you had left there'd be no coming back?" The book is an interactive, effective reminder that we are indeed a nation of migrants – whether immigrants, slaves, refugees, sojourners, travelers – who all came from somewhere else.

Do, Anh, Do, Suzanne & Whatley Bruce. (2011). *The little refugee* (4-8 years old)

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. It was a dangerous journey, with murderous pirates and terrifying storms, but they managed to survive. Life in suburban Australia was also hard for a small boy with no English and funny lunches. But there was a loving extended family, lots of friends, and always something to laugh about for Anh, his brother Khoa and their sister Tram. And eventually for a young Anh, who tried hard to see the bright side of life no matter what the difficulty, there was triumph. *The Little Refugee* tells the uplifting and inspiring story of the incredible childhood of one of Australia's favourite personalities.

Estela, Lucy & Ottley, Matthew. (2015). *Suri's wall* (4-8 years old)

Eva squeezed Suri's hand. 'What's there? What can you see?' 'What can I see?' Suri looked out over the wall. 'Oh, it's beautiful, let me tell you all about it.' A moving tale of the power of the human spirit brought alive by Lucy Estela and award-winning illustrator Matt Ottley.

Fox, Mem & Gosh, Ronojoy. (2017). *I'm Australian Too* (4-8 years old)

I'm Australian! How about you? Many people from many places have come across the seas to make Australia their home. How Australian is that? From countries near and far, many have made their home in Australia, sharing it with the original inhabitants, and living in peace beneath the Southern Star. Mem Fox celebrates Australia's incredible multicultural heritage in this beautiful book illustrated by Ronojoy Gosh.

George, Angela May. (2016). *Out* (4-7 years old)

A little girl flees her homeland, making a long and treacherous boat journey with her mother to seek asylum in Australia. Starting a new life is challenging, but they work hard to create a new home. Told from the little girl's point of view, the story is both heartbreaking and triumphant, allowing timely and sensitive discussion of what drives people to become refugees and the challenges they face.

Hoffman, Mary. (2003). The Colour of Home (4-8 years old)

This is a fabulous book about the difficulties refugees may face adjusting to a new environment. Hassan feels out of place in a new, cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, then to the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress: the new colours of home.

Kuntz, Doug and Shrodes, Amy. (2017). Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey. (4-6 years).

The true story is about one cat's journey to be reunited with his war-torn family. When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away. But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos. In one moment, he is gone. After an unsuccessful search, his family has to continue their journey, leaving broken-hearted. A few days later, aid workers in Greece find the lost cat. Knowing how much his family has sacrificed already, they are desperate to reunite them with the cat they love so much. A worldwide community comes together to spread the word on the Internet and in the news media, and after several months the impossible happens – Kunkush's family is found, and they finally get their happy ending in their new home.

McCarney, Rosemary. (2017). Where will I live? (4+ year olds)

This stunning photo essay takes a look at the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters, young refugees on the move with very little left except questions. It's hard to imagine, but the images here will help unaffected children understand not only what this must feel like, but also how very lucky they are. The final message is that children, even with uncertain futures, are resilient and can face uncertainty with optimism. With images from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Miller, David. (2005). Refugees (4+ years old)

Two wild ducks become refugees when their swamp is drained. Their journey in search of a new place to live exposes them to danger, rejection and violence before they are given a new home.

Milner, Kate. (2016). My name is not refugee (3-6 years old)

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.

Sanna, Francesca. (2016). The journey (3-6 years old)

Winner of the Amnesty CILIP Honour 2017. With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned. They will have to walk and walk and walk, and although they will see many new and interesting things, it will be difficult 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.

Young, Rebecca & Ottley, Matthew. (2015). Teacup (3-7 years old)

Once there was a boy who had to leave home... and find another. In his bag he carried a book, a bottle and a blanket. In his teacup he held some earth from where he used to play. This is one boy's story of leaving his homeland, surviving a long journey by sea... and finding a safe, new place to call home.

KINDERGARTEN-YEAR 6

Asgedom, Mawi. (2001). *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard*. (10+ years).

At four, Asgedom fled the civil war cleaving Eritrea and Ethiopia, spending three years in a Sudanese refugee camp. In 1983, assisted by World Relief, his family settled in a Chicago suburb. Their new life wasn't easy, but guided by his father, Asgedom worked hard – in school and in life – treating all people with equal respect, whether the “lowliest of beetles” or one of “God's angels.” Encouraged by school administrators, Asgedom went to Harvard on full scholarship, giving the commencement address in 1999 in which he revealed details of his personal story, which became this inspiring bestseller.

Bancks, Tristan. (July, 2019). *Detention*. (10+ years)

A daring escape. A school lockdown. A thrilling chase. What would you risk to save a life? Sima and her family are pressed to the rough, cold ground among fifty others. They lie next to the tall fence designed to keep them in. The wires are cut one by one. When they make their escape, a guard raises the alarm. Shouting, smoke bombs, people tackled to the ground. In the chaos Sima loses her parents. Dad told her to run, so she does, hiding in a school and triggering a lockdown. A boy, Dan, finds her hiding in the toilet block. What should he do? Help her? Dob her in? She's breaking the law, but is it right to lock kids up? And if he helps, should Sima trust him? Or run?

Bassoff, Leah and DeLuca Laura. (2014). *Lost Girl Found*. (8+ years).

Poni's fiercely supportive mother is determined that her daughter will have a different future than her 12-year-old best friend, who endured child marriage only to die in childbirth. But when war destroys her family and their home, Poni's road to survival takes her to a Kenyan refugee camp. With tenacity and courage, she becomes the titular lost girl found. In 1999, when the U.S. State Department allowed the resettlement of young Sudanese refugees, nearly 4,000 Lost Boys arrived in America, but only 89 girls. Co-authors Bassoff and DeLuca give voice to the overlooked Lost Girls. Their hope: “that more girls will get to tell their stories.”

Bergman, Tamar. (1989). *Along the tracks* (5+ years old)

This story recounts the adventures of a young Jewish boy who is driven from his home by the German invasion, becomes a refugee in the Soviet Union, is separated from his family, and undergoes many hardships before enjoying a normal home again.

Buitrago, Jairo, illustrated by Yockteng Rafael, translated by Amado Elisa. (2015). *Two White Rabbits*. (4-7 years).

A young girl and her father, each with just a backpack, make a perilous journey toward a better life. The titular rabbits are exchanged as a gift of friendship between the little girl and a young boy she meets along the way. As father and daughter's trek continues, the rabbits transform into symbols of something beloved (companions), something sacrificial (purity), something hopeful (freedom), and even the threat of something sinister (two ghosts?).

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Cavouras, Czenya. (2007). *Rainbow Bird* (6+ years old)

Rainbow Bird is a deeply moving children's picture book written and illustrated by 14 year old Czenya Cavouras, who is now in high school. Everyone who has had anything to do with refugees and asylum seekers will want to read this book. It tells the story of a refugee journey from a destroyed homeland to a

desolate detention centre and finally, to future of hope. Rainbow Bird is quietly harrowing, has a unique author voice, and is ultimately inspiring and uplifting. (From Australians against Racism - RAR)

Chase, Diana. (2006). No More Borders for Josef (8-9 years old)

Orphaned in the brutal Balkans conflict, thirteen year old Josef is forced to flee dramatically through the forest to the border. Frightened, angry and deeply traumatised he then suffers the uncertainty and boredom of a refugee camp before finally being plucked to safety in Australia by an uncle he never knew existed. Cast adrift from everything familiar to him, Josef must battle with a new culture, a new language and a strange landscape. His strength of character and quiet determination save him from desolation as he forges new friendships, and discovers a world of healing in a native animal refuge. No More Borders for Josef is an emotionally charged and uplifting story that highlights the resilience of youth in the face of trauma and adversity.

Colfer, Eoin and Donkin, Andrew. (2017) Illegal. (9-12 years)

A powerfully moving graphic novel co-authored by New York Times bestselling author Eoin Colfer and the team behind the Artemis Fowl graphic novels that explores the current plight of undocumented immigrants. Ebo is alone. His brother, Kwame, has disappeared, and Ebo knows it can only be to attempt the hazardous journey to Europe, and a better life – the same journey their sister set out on months ago. But Ebo refuses to be left behind in Ghana. He sets out after Kwame and joins him on the quest to reach 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 family.

Conolan, Emily. (2018). Touch the sun: The freedom finders (9-13 years old)

Choose your own destiny and step into the shoes of a Somalian boy escaping war-torn Mogadishu for Australia in 2011 - the next book in this exciting interactive adventure series. To find freedom, you must leave behind everything you've ever known. It is 2011. You want nothing more than to be a journalist in Somalia you're your aunty. But the truth can be dangerous – and when you and your little sister are left alone, you find yourself facing life-and-death choices at every turn. Can you escape a terrorist organisation and find a safe place to call home? You'll be asked to cross a desert on foot, hide below deck in a leaky boat, and put your life in the hands of people smugglers. At every turn, the choice is yours. How far will you go for freedom?

Cornwell, Nicki. (2006). Christophe's Story (8-9 years old)

This book tells the story of eight-year old Christophe who flees the fighting in Rwanda to come to England as a refugee with his family. It is about his difficulty settling in to his new home and also about the notion of telling stories and awareness raising.

Curtis, Jamie Lee, illustrated by Cornell, Laura. (2016). This is Me: A Story of Who We Are and Where We Come From. (4+ years).

Writ large across a classroom blackboard is, "Where did you come from because it wasn't here." As the teacher shares her own family tale ("My great-grandmother came from a far, distant place. She came on a boat with just this small case"), she beckons her students to look into an empty suitcase, inviting each child to imagine such a journey: "How would you know in this case what to pack and that once you had left there'd be no coming back?" The book is an interactive, effective reminder that we are indeed a nation of migrants – whether immigrants, slaves, refugees, sojourners, travelers – who all came from somewhere else.

Davidow, Shelley. (1998). The Red Shadow (young readers)

Miri, a young refugee girl, returns home to her village after the end of the war. The story follows the rebuilding of her village and Miri's reunification with her brother and, eventually, her father.

Davies, Nicola. (2019). *The Day War Came*. (5+ years)

A powerful and necessary picture book – the journey of a child forced to become a refugee when war destroys everything she has ever known. When the government refused to allow 3000 child refugees to enter this country in 2016, Nicola Davies was so angry she wrote a poem. It started a campaign for which artists contributed drawings of chairs, symbolising a seat in a classroom, education, kindness, the hope of a future. The poem has become this book, movingly illustrated by Rebecca Cobb and a powerful aid for explaining the ongoing refugee crisis to younger readers.

Day, William. (2017). *Refugees: Migration to Australia* (10-12 years old)

Australia has welcomed refugees and helped them to settle since colonial times. As Australia confirmed its place in world affairs after the Second World War, it accepted thousands of people who were escaping the ruined cities and social upheaval caused by the war. After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese refugees came to Australia, and the current unrest in the Middle East has resulted in many more people seeking a safe sanctuary. Find out about Australia's responses to people arriving as refugees, from colonial times up until the present. Read about the contributions refugees have made to Australia and the challenges they have faced

de Arias, Patricia. (2018). *Marwan's Journey*. (6-7 years)

This is the journey of one boy who longs for a home, and we follow his path, walking hand in hand with him as he looks forward with uncertainty and hopes for a peaceful future. This beautiful, heartfelt story gives a human face to the plight of refugees all over the world. Marwan's journey is everyone's journey.

Del Rizzo, Suzanne (2017). *My Beautiful Birds*. (6-7 years)

When Sami and his family escape Syria as refugees they must leave their home behind, including Sami's beloved pigeons. Though Sami's father assures him that his birds escaped too, Sami can't help but miss them and remember. As he settles into the safety and routine of the refugee camp, Sami finds it hard to enjoy playing with the other children and doing schoolwork again. But before long he finds hope and comfort in the bright blue sky above the desert, just like the sky from home. There are new birds in this sky, too, and caring for them might just be the labour of love Sami needs to feel at home. *My Beautiful Birds* offers a sensitive and realistic portrayal of a child coping with trauma and grief. Sami's story and the book's appealing design will resonate with young readers and offer an opportunity for parents and educators to talk about the struggles of refugees past and present, and the importance of empathy within the global community.

Do, Anh, Do, Suzanne & Whatley Bruce. (2011). *The little refugee* (4-8 years old)

Anh Do nearly didn't make it to Australia. His entire family came close to losing their lives as they escaped from war-torn Vietnam in an overcrowded boat. It was a dangerous journey, with murderous pirates and terrifying storms, but they managed to survive. Life in suburban Australia was also hard for a small boy with no English and funny lunches. But there was a loving extended family, lots of friends, and always something to laugh about for Anh, his brother Khoa and their sister Tram. And eventually for a young Anh, who tried hard to see the bright side of life no matter what the difficulty, there was triumph. *The Little Refugee* tells the uplifting and inspiring story of the incredible childhood of one of Australia's favourite personalities

Ellis Deborah. (2000). *The Breadwinner*. (9+ years).

First in the Breadwinner trio.

Afghanistan: Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. Parvana, her mother, and sisters are prisoners in their own home. With no man to go out to buy food, they face starvation. So Parvana must pretend to be a boy to save her family. It is a dangerous plan, but their only chance. In fear, she goes out – and witnesses the horror of landmines, the brutality of the Taliban, and the desperation of a country trying to survive. But even in despair lies hope . . . Deborah Ellis has been to Afghan refugee camps and has listened to many stories like Parvana's.

Ellis Deborah. (2002). *Parvana's Journey*. (9+ years).

Second in the Breadwinner trio.

A war is raging in Afghanistan as a coalition of Western forces tries to oust the Taliban by bombing the country. Parvana's father has died, and her mother, sister, and brother have gone to a faraway wedding, not knowing what has happened to her father. Parvana doesn't know where they are, but sets out alone to find them – masquerading as a boy. Her journey only becomes more perilous as the bombs begin to fall. Making her way across the desolate Afghan countryside, she meets other children who are strays from the war: an infant boy in a bombed-out village, a nine-year-old girl who believes she has magical powers over land mines, and a boy with one leg. The children travel together because it is easier than being alone. As they forge their own family in the war zone that Afghanistan has become, their resilience, imagination and luck help them survive. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and a glossary provide young readers with background and context. All royalties from the sale of this book go to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. Parvana's Fund supports education projects for Afghan women and children.

Ellis Deborah. (2003). *Mud City*. (9+ years).

Third in the Breadwinner trio.

Parvana's best friend, Shauzia, has escaped the misery of her life in Kabul, only to end up in a refugee camp in Pakistan. She still dreams of seeing the ocean and eventually making a new life in France, but it's hard to imagine when she is living in the Widows' Compound of a muddy, crowded refugee camp outside Peshawar. Shauzia finally decides to leave the camp and try her luck on the streets. Peshawar is dangerous and full of desperately poor and wandering children like herself, but she has Jasper, the dog who followed her down from a shepherds' camp in the mountains, and she knows how to masquerade as a boy and comb the streets for jobs. But life as a street kid is dangerous and terrifying, even with the advantages of a strong will, brave spirit, and good luck. This is a powerful and human story of a feisty, driven girl who tries to take control of her own life. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and glossary to provide young readers with background and context. Royalties from the sale of this book go to Street Kids International.

Ellis Deborah. (2012). *My Name is Parvana*. (9+ years).

She heard the woman's boots walk away down the hall. She stood and waited, listening hard to see if the boots would come back. When she was sure she was alone, the girl finally spoke. 'Yes,' she whispered. 'My name is Parvana.' Fifteen-year-old Parvana has built a new life with her family, and it's the life she's always dreamt of. She's learning in a real school, and teaching too. But this is Afghanistan, and the war is far from over. Many still view the education and freedom of women with suspicion and fear. And that means Parvana – and her family – are in danger. When she's taken away by American soldiers, suspected of being a terrorist, Parvana must find a way to protect her family, and keep her hope alive.

Estela, Lucy & Ottley, Matthew. (2015). *Suri's wall* (4-8 years old)

Eva squeezed Suri's hand. 'What's there? What can you see?' 'What can I see?' Suri looked out over the wall. 'Oh, it's beautiful, let me tell you all about it.' A moving tale of the power of the human spirit brought alive by Lucy Estela and award-winning illustrator Matt Ottley.

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I'm Australian! How about you?

Many people from many places have come across the seas to make Australia their home. How Australian is that? From countries near and far, many have made their home in Australia, sharing it with the original inhabitants, and living in peace beneath the Southern Star. Mem Fox celebrates Australia's incredible multicultural heritage in this beautiful book illustrated by Ronojoy Gosh.

Fraillon, Zara. (2016). *The bone sparrow* (9-12 years old)

Winner of the Readings Young Adult Book Prize 2017

Winner of the Amnesty CILIP Honour 2017

Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother fled the violence of a distant homeland, life behind the fences is all he has ever known. But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, until it is bursting at the limits of his world. The Night Sea brings him gifts, the faraway whales sing to him, and the birds tell their stories. The most vivid story of all, however, is the one that arrives one night in the form of Jimmie, a scruffy, impatient girl who appears from the other side of the wires, and brings a notebook written by the mother she lost. Unable to read it, she relies on Subhi to unravel her own family's love songs and tragedies. Subhi and Jimmie might both find a way to freedom, as their tales unfold. But not until each of them has been braver than ever before.

French, Jackie. (2013). *Refuge: many dreams, one land* (10+ years old)

Brilliant in construct, compelling and extraordinarily moving, this is a book that speaks to each of us and reminds us that while we mightn't be refugees, we are all newcomers to this country and that everyone has a story worth hearing.

When a boat carrying a group of asylum seekers is sunk by a freak wave, Faris wakes from the shipwreck in an Australia he's always dreamed of. There are kangaroos grazing under orange trees and the sky is always blue. On a nearby beach, Faris meets a group of young people who have come from far different times and places. They are also seeking refuge, and each has their own story of why they had to leave their own story of why they had to leave their country to make a new life for themselves. It is only when Faris chooses to return to 'real life' and find his father in Australia that he learns the extraordinary truth about the friends he made in the golden beach. From one of Australia's best-loved authors comes a remarkable story about Australia's long history of migration and the people who make up our country.

Garland, Sarah. (2015). *Azzi in between* (6-9 years old)

Azzi and her parents are in danger. They have to leave their home and escape to another country on a frightening journey by car and boat. In the new country they must learn to speak a new language, find a new home and Azzi must start a new school. With a kind helper at the school, Azzi begins to learn English and understand that she is not the only one who has had to flee her home. She makes a new friend, and with courage and resourcefulness, begins to adapt to her new life. But Grandma has been left behind and Azzi misses her more than anything. Will Azzi ever see her grandma again? Drawing on her own experience of working among refugee families, renowned author and illustrator Sarah Garland tells, with tenderness and humour, an exciting adventure story to be enjoyed by readers of all ages. Endorsed by Amnesty International.

Garvey, Susanne & Pignataro, Anna. (2012). *Ships in the field* (6+ years old)

Australia is an immigrant nation with many stories. Award-winning author Susanne Gervay and award-winning illustrator Anna Pignataro are part of that immigrant and refugee story. Susanne's parents were post-war Hungarian refugees who migrated to Australia. Anna's parents were postwar Italian refugees who migrated to Australia. In a unique collaboration, Susanne and Anna have created a moving and significant picture book, *Ships in the Field*. It crosses boundaries in a universal recognition that children are part of the journey of war, migration, loss and healing. Through warmth, humour, pathos and story within story, it breaks the silence, engaging children, families and community.

George, Angela May. (2016). *Out* (4-7 years old)

A little girl flees her homeland, making a long and treacherous boat journey with her mother to seek asylum in Australia. Starting a new life is challenging, but they work hard to create a new home. Told from the little girl's point of view, the story is both heartbreaking and triumphant, allowing timely and sensitive discussion of what drives people to become refugees and the challenges they face.

Gleitzman, Morris. (2002). *Boy overboard* (9-12 years old)

A story of adventure, ball control and hope. Jamal and Bibi have a dream. To lead Australia to soccer glory in the next World Cup. But first they must face landmines, pirates, storms and assassins. Can Jamal and his family survive their incredible journey and get to Australia? Sometimes, to save the people you love, you have to go overboard.

Gleitzman, Morris. (2004). *Girl Underground* (10-12 years old)

This novel tells the story of Bridget and Menzies, who devise a daring plan to rescue two kids, Jamal and Bibi, from a desert detention centre.

Glynne, Andy. (2015). *Seeking refuge: Ali's story* (9-11 years old)

This is the real-life story of 10-year-old refugee Ali who, accompanied by his grandmother, flees his home country of Afghanistan to avoid the conflict caused by the war. Told in Ali's own words, it documents his feelings of alienation, separation and suffering that war can place on immigrant children and their families, and the thread of hope that can help them to overcome their ordeal. The Seeking Refuge stories were originally produced as award-winning animations for BBC Learning by Mosaic Films. This story was created by Salvatore Maldonado and Andy Glynne. These stories deal with the topics of war, separation, immigration and what it means to be a refugee. Ali's Story - A Journey from Afghanistan can be used to open up discussions for any age range about seeking asylum. Other titles in the series include Julianne's Story - A Journey from Zimbabwe, Navid's Story - A Journey from Iran, Rachel's Story - A Journey from Eurasia, and Hamid's Story - A Journey from Eritrea. Ideal for tying into Refugee Week. The films also explore the feelings of isolation that children can experience when they try to adapt to life in a strange country.

Glynne, Andy. (2016). *Seeking refuge: Julianne's story* (7+ years old)

This picture book captures a real-life account of a young girl's journey from Zimbabwe to seek asylum in a new country. This picture book tells the story of 12-year-old refugee Julianne. At the age of three Julianne was separated from her mother due to the conflicts happening in her home country of Zimbabwe. Told in Julianne's own words, the story tells of her distress and isolation while growing up in an African orphanage, until an incredible chance meeting with her mother reunites the two of them. They apply for political asylum and are finally able to re-establish a life together in their new host country. The BAFTA award-winning Seeking Refuge stories were originally produced as animations for the BBC. These powerful and evocative stories have now been captured in book form as rich, visual testimonies of the torment, hope and resolution of young refugees who are seeking asylum and adjusting to life in new countries all over the world. The series of five books form an excellent cross-curricular resource that looks at asylum, war, separation and integration and what it is to be a refugee today making them ideal for tying into Refugee Week.

Goode, Katherine. (1997). *Jumping to Heaven* (9+ years old)

Children from Bosnia, Cambodia, El Salvador, Herzegovina, Iraq, Sudan, and Vietnam who have come to Australia to escape persecution are given a voice in this collection of short stories compiled from interviews with refugees. Written for a more mature youth, the stories evoke the sad, scary, thought provoking, and sometimes amusing experiences of children and families who have displayed extraordinary courage and hope. This collection offers insight that seeks to bridge the gap between refugees and their new host communities, and gives youth a global perspective on the refugee experience. It is recommended for children over 13 years.

Gratz, Alan. (2017) *Refugee*. (9+ years)

The book revolves around three main characters from three different eras; Nazi Germany, 1990s Cuba, and modern Syria.

Hawke, Rosanne. (2004). *Soraya the Storyteller* (9-14 year olds)

Aimed at upper primary students, this story tells of 11-year old Soraya. Soraya is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan living under the shadow of Australia's former temporary protection visa system. As she adapts

to life in Australia, she is haunted by both her father's absence and the fear that she may have to return to Afghanistan. To console herself, she begins writing stories.

Heffernan, John & McLean Andrew. (2000). My dog (10-12 years old)

Alija's only companion is his dog, but his optimism and courage in the face of adversity and loneliness is touching and inspiring. This extraordinary book deals with the tragedy of Bosnia and the reality of ethnic cleansing and civil war for civilians.

Hoffman, Mary. (2003). The Colour of Home (4-8 years old)

This is a fabulous book about the difficulties refugees may face adjusting to a new environment. Hassan feels out of place in a new, cold, grey country. At school, he paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, then to the refugee camp and on to England. But gradually things change. When Hassan's parents put up his next picture on the wall, Hassan notices the maroon prayer mat, a bright green cushion and his sister Naima's pink dress: the new colours of home.

Hosseini, Khaled. (2018). Sea Prayer. (8+ years)

On a moonlit beach a father cradles his sleeping son as they wait for dawn to break and a boat to arrive. He speaks to his boy of the long summers of his childhood, recalling his grandfather's house in Syria, the stirring of olive trees in the breeze, the bleating of his grandmother's goat, the clanking of her cooking pots. And he remembers, too, the bustling city of Homs with its crowded lanes, its mosque and grand souk, in the days before the sky spat bombs and they had to flee. When the sun rises they and those around them will gather their possessions and embark on a perilous sea journey in search of a new home.

Humphreys, Jessica Dee. (2016). Child Soldier: When Boys and Girls Are Used in War. (10+ years).

Michel Chikwanine was only five-years-old when he was abducted from outside his school by rebel soldiers in The Democratic Republic of Congo. Child Soldier tells the story of his happy life before the abduction, his time with the rebel militia, his escape from their clutches and finally the worsening situation and growing unrest for Michel and his family and his eventual immigration to Canada with his mother. Despite his young age, Michel never gives up. It is his resilience and courage that helped him to stay alive during his time with the rebels. As a young man, Michel now travels the world to inspire others to believe that their actions can make a difference. He is an accomplished public speaker and someone whose voice and story resonates with people all over the globe.

Kim, Patti. illustrated by Sánchez, Sonia. (2016) Here I am. (6+ years)

A young boy boards an airplane with his family and arrives in a new city. When he enters a virtually empty apartment, he longs for his brightly lit family home somewhere far away. He treasures his one memento, a red seed that holds within its tininess all the wonderful, comforting memories of back home. His strange and unfamiliar new life improves dramatically when he finds his first friend. A wordless wonder suitable for all ages.

Kemp, Clare M. G. (1999). My Brother is a Soldier (8-10 years old)

This story tells of the return of a child soldier to his village in Africa and the problems he faces in trying to reintegrate and lead a normal life.

Kobald, Irena & Blackwood, Freya. (2014). My Two Blankets (9-12 years old)

My Two Blankets tells the story of a young girl who is making a new home in Australia and focuses on her experiences of learning an additional language. Through this wonderfully written and illustrated book that is both for children and about children, we are prompted to think carefully about critical issues that dominate the world globally and locally. Taking the time to read this picture book provides an excellent opportunity to consider impacts of war, forced movement of people and experiences of resettlement from a child's perspective.

Kramer, Lynn. (1998). Cry Baby (8-12 years old)

Cry Baby is a story of a young refugee girl who finds herself in a new home after fleeing from war. Zion has difficulty making new friends because the other children see her as different. However, she overcomes this by demonstrating through a heroic act that she is really no different from the other children.

Kuntz, Doug and Shrodes, Amy. (2017). Lost and Found Cat: The True Story of Kunkush's Incredible Journey. (4-6 years).

The true story is about one cat's journey to be reunited with his war-torn family. When an Iraqi family is forced to flee their home, they can't bear to leave their beloved cat, Kunkush, behind. So they carry him with them from Iraq to Greece, keeping their secret passenger hidden away. But during the crowded boat crossing to Greece, his carrier breaks and the frightened cat runs from the chaos. In one moment, he is gone. After an unsuccessful search, his family has to continue their journey, leaving broken-hearted. A few days later, aid workers in Greece find the lost cat. Knowing how much his family has sacrificed already, they are desperate to reunite them with the cat they love so much. A worldwide community comes together to spread the word on the Internet and in the news media, and after several months the impossible happens – Kunkush's family is found, and they finally get their happy ending in their new home.

Leatherdale, Mary Beth. (2017). Stormy Seas: Stories of Young Boat Refugees. (10+ years)

The phenomenon of desperate refugees risking their lives to reach safety is not new. For hundreds of years, people have left behind family, friends, and all they know in hope of a better life. This book presents five true stories about young people who lived through the harrowing experience of setting sail in search of asylum: Ruth and her family board the St. Louis to escape Nazism; Phu sets out alone from war-torn Vietnam; José tries to reach the U.S. from Cuba; Najeeba flees Afghanistan and the Taliban; Mohamed, an orphan, runs from his village on the Ivory Coast.

Laird, Elizabeth. (1991). Kiss the Dust (9-11 years old)

This book tells the story of Tara and her family as they are forced to flee Iraq because of her father's involvement in the Kurdish resistance movement. Suitable for 12 – 17 year olds, the story details the plight of a family who become refugees.

Lofthouse, Liz & Ingpen, Robert. (2007). Ziba came on a boat (9-13 years old)

Based on real events, this is the moving story of a little refugee girl whose family has lost almost everything. This beautiful picture book takes us on her brave journey to make a new life, far from home.

Marsden, John & Ottley, Matthew. (2008). Home and away (11+ year olds)

A dramatic picture book for older readers that poses the question – what would happen if a typical Australian family found themselves refugees?

Martin, Sibylla. (1999). On the Other Side of the Hill (7-12 years old)

In this story, Jacques finds himself in a refugee camp and has trouble making friends with the local children. However, a football match between the children from the refugee camp and the local populations brings the children together.

Martin, Sibylla. (1998). The Lost Children (7-12 years old)

The Lost Children recounts the story of how young Ibuka becomes separated from her family when fleeing her home and comes to find herself, along with her younger brother, at a centre for lost children.

Mason Helen. (2017). Leaving my Homeland (Series): A Refugee's Journey from Afghanistan. (8-11 years)

Members of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University in Toronto, Canada introduce younger readers to the refugee experience, from leaving, to surviving, to adapting in new homes. Woven through the

contextual history of each country – cultural, socioeconomic, political – is a child's journey. This book focuses on Sonita, whose parents are Afghan refugees.

Mason Helen. (2017). *Leaving my Homeland (Series): A Refugee's Journey from Syria*. (8-11 years)

Members of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University in Toronto, Canada introduce younger readers to the refugee experience, from leaving, to surviving, to adapting in new homes. Woven through the contextual history of each country – cultural, socioeconomic, political – is a child's journey. This book focuses on Roj, displaced by war in Syria, who escapes to a refugee camp in Turkey before finally being granted asylum in Germany

Mattingley, Christobel. (1993). *No Gun for Asmir* (9-11 years old)

War has come to Asmir's home in Sarajevo. He is torn from his father, his home and everything he has known. He becomes a refugee. This is a story of courage you will never forget.

McCarney, Rosemary. (2017). *Where Will I Live?* (4+ years).

This stunning photo essay of images from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, takes a look at the thousands of children around the world who have been forced to flee war, terror, hunger and natural disasters, young refugees on the move with very little left except questions. It's hard to imagine, but the images here will help unaffected children understand not only what this must feel like, but also how very lucky they are. The final message is that children, even with uncertain futures, are resilient and can face uncertainty with optimism.

Milway Katie Smith. (2017). *The Banana-Leaf Ball: How Play Can Change the World*. (6-9 years).

Separated from his family when they were forced to flee their home, a young East African boy named Deo lives alone in the Lukole refugee camp in Tanzania. With scarce resources at the camp, bullies have formed gangs to steal what they can, and a leader named Remy has begun targeting Deo. Then one day a coach gathers all the children to play soccer. Though Deo loves soccer and has even made his own ball out of banana leaves, he's unsure at first about joining in when he sees Remy on the field. But as Deo and the other boys get drawn into the game, everything begins to change. Their shared joy in playing provides the children – including Remy – with a sense of belonging. "Ball by ball, practice by practice, children who were once afraid of each other laugh together," the book explains, and "no one feels so alone anymore." Katie Smith Milway's inspiring tale, based on a true story shows how a desperate situation can be improved by finding common ground through play. It provides a perfect starting point for discussing the social justice issues surrounding the growing number of refugees worldwide. Furthermore, the book examines the value of using sports to build pro-social behaviour, particularly as it relates to bullying. By depicting characters who change and evolve over the course of the story, kids of all backgrounds and experiences will find something positive to relate to. The back matter contains information about the "real" Deo, instructions for games that build trust and inclusion through play, and suggestions for how to support play-based not for profit organisations.

Miller, David. (2005). *Refugees* (4+ years old)

Two wild ducks become refugees when their swamp is drained. Their journey in search of a new place to live exposes them to danger, rejection and violence before they are given a new home.

Milner, Kate. (2016). *My name is not refugee* (3-6 years old)

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 difficult 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.

Oliver, Narelle. (2005). *Dancing the boom-cha-cha boogie* (6+ years old)

Three homeless little murmels are washed up on the shore of a strange land. Everything here is unfamiliar, and there are no friends to help them – or so it seems. Will they ever play hopsplotch or dance the boom-cha-cha boogie again? An appealing fantasy adventure that is also an allegory about identity and being foreign. It is an ideal book to introduce young children to the complex subject of the treatment of refugees.

Park Linda Sue. (2005). *A long walk to water* (9-11 years old)

From a Newbery Medalist ("A Single Shard") comes a mesmerizing novel based on a true story. "A Long Walk to Water" begins as two stories, told in alternating sections, about a girl in Sudan in 2008 and a boy in Sudan in 1985.

Phi, Bao. (2017). *A Different Pond*. (7+ years)

A Different Pond is an unforgettable story about a simple event – a long-ago fishing trip. As a young boy, Bao Phi awoke early, hours before his father's long workday began, to fish on the shores of a small pond in Minneapolis. Unlike many other anglers, Bao and his father fished for food, not recreation. A successful catch meant a fed family. Between hope-filled casts, Bao's father told him about a different pond in their homeland of Vietnam.

Philip, Nicola. (2019). *A Grain of Hope*. (8+ years)

This beautifully illustrated picture book for older readers tells a dual story (on facing pages) of a dog and a refugee girl, whose stories mirror each other . . . until the end. It is an ideal way to facilitate discussions with children (and adults!) about Australia's treatment of asylum seekers in detention centres. It includes facts about refugees at the end.

Pinkney, Andrea Davis. (2014). *The Red Pencil*. (9+ years)

Life in Amira's peaceful Sudanese village is shattered when Janjaweed attackers arrive, unleashing unspeakable horrors. After losing nearly everything, Amira needs to find the strength to make the long journey on foot to safety at a refugee camp. She begins to lose hope, until the gift of a simple red pencil opens her mind – and all kinds of possibilities.

Quilty Ben (2018). *Home: Drawings by Syrian Children*. (10+ years)

A collection of drawings by Syrian children, the most vulnerable victims of a brutal civil war, curated by Archibald Prize winner Ben Quilty, with a Foreword by Man Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan. Ben Quilty has assembled this heartbreaking and awe-inspiring collection of drawings by Syrian children. These drawings form an extraordinary testament to the resilience of a generation of survivors whose childhood has been shaped by the worst war of our century. Their art speaks directly to us all as human beings, and we have an obligation to listen closely and seriously. Proceeds from the sale of this book will directly support World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces, early childhood and basic education projects in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

Rodger, Ellen. (2017). *Leaving my Homeland (Series): A Refugee's Journey from Iraq*. (8-11 years)

Members of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University in Toronto, Canada introduce younger readers to the refugee experience, from leaving, to surviving, to adapting in new homes. Woven through the contextual history of each country – cultural, socioeconomic, political – is a child's journey. This book focuses on Zainab, whose prosperous family in Iraq must start again in the U.S.

Roberts, Ceri. (June 2018). *Children in our world: Refugees and migrants* (5-8 years old)

The Children in Our World picture book series helps children make sense of the larger issues and crises that dominate the news in a sensitive and appropriate manner. With relatable comparisons, carefully researched text and striking illustrations, children can begin to understand who refugees and migrants are, why they've left their homes, where they live and what readers can do to help those in need.

Where issues aren't appropriate to describe in words, Hanane Kai's striking and sensitive illustrations help children visualise who refugees and migrants are, in images that are suited to their age and disposition.

The series forms an excellent cross-curricular resource that looks at refugees, war, poverty and racism making them ideal for tying into Refugee Week and discussions on current affairs.

Robinson, Anthony & Young, Annemarie. (2008). Gervelie's Journey: A refugee diary (8-12 years old)

This is a true story of a young refugee. In 1995, Gervelie was born in the Republic of Congo. In 1997 fighting broke out in her home city and they had to flee to safety. Her father's political connections mean that they are still unable to return home. This is Gervelie's story, told using photographs from her own life. At the time of writing, Gervelie and her father were living in the UK, waiting to hear if their case for asylum would be accepted.

Robinson, Anthony & Young, Annemarie. (2009). Hazmat's Journey: A refugee diary (8-12 years old)

This story tells of Hazmat from Chechnya, who stepped on a landmine on his way to school. His leg had to be amputated and eventually he and his father came to the UK for expert treatment. As it was unsafe for them to return home, the family sought asylum in the UK. Eventually Hazmat's mother and sister joined them in London and now the family are learning to adapt to their new life after the horror of living in a war zone. This poignant, and at times harrowing, story reveals the bravery of Hazmat and his family in facing and overcoming their circumstances to start a new life.

Robinson, Anthony & Young, Annemarie. (2009). Mohammed's Journey: A refugee diary (7-12 years old)

This is a true story of an Iraqi-Kurdish refugee child and his flight from his home in Kirkuk to the UK. This is the story of Mohammed's escape from Iraq by bus, on horseback, in an inflatable raft on a raging river and, finally, hiding in a lorry on a ship. It covers his journey from Kirkuk to the Iraq-Iran border, through Iran, into Turkey and then on to England and safety. Gervelie

Robinson, Anthony & Young, Annemarie. (2011). Meltem's Journey: A refugee diary (8-12 years old)

Meltem's Journey describes as a family flees the Kurdish region of Turkey after Meltem's father is badly beaten by soldiers. When their application for asylum is rejected in Germany, they undertake a desperate journey to Britain, unable to return to Turkey because of the circumstances of their departure. It takes 9 years for their application to succeed in Britain, but not before many stressful incidents, periods of detention and threats of deportation. Meltem's story is told in her own words, in diary format, and conveys memorably the emotional highs and lows of her experiences.

Rodger, Ellen. (2017). Leaving my Homeland (Series): A Refugee's Journey from The Democratic Republic of the Congo. (8-11 years)

Members of the Centre for Refugee Studies at York University in Toronto, Canada introduce younger readers to the refugee experience, from leaving, to surviving, to adapting in new homes. Woven through the contextual history of each country – cultural, socioeconomic, political – is a child's journey. This book focuses on Etienne, who was stolen from his family in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and forced into being a child soldier.

Rutter, Jill & Candappa, Mano. (1998). Why do they have to fight? Refugee children's stories from Bosnia, Kurdistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka (7-18 years old)

Most of the testimonies used in this book were collected during a research project about refugee children. The book serves as a valuable resource for teachers, with the issues behind asylum and refugees are brought to life by these children's stories and testimonies.

[Ruurs, Margriet. \(2017\). Stepping stones: A refugee family's journey \(6-10 years old\)](#)

A unique dual-language (English and Arabic) picture book about the Syrian refugee crisis inspired by the stone artwork of Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr.

A girl called Rama describes how life changed as conditions got worse in her small town in Syria, and how she and her family finally escaped, undergoing many hardships along the way. When I was little, not so long ago, my brother, Sami, our friends and I played on sunbaked soil. We laughed, ran across rocks and sand, free as birds. Then the birds stopped singing. People began to leave our village. First a trickle, then a stream, across dusty fields under a burning sun, a stream driven by hope. Mothers, fathers, children, seeking a better place, a better life. Rama and her family are forced to leave behind everything they know and love. With only what they can carry on their backs, Rama's family sets out to find refuge in Europe. Syrian artist Nizar Ali Badr's stunning stone images illustrate Margriet Ruurs's thoughtful and moving story.

[Sanna, Francesca. \(2016\). The journey \(3-6 years old\)](#)

Winner of the Amnesty CILIP Honour 2017

With haunting echoes of the current refugee crisis this beautifully illustrated book explores the unimaginable decisions made as a family leave their home and everything they know to escape the turmoil and tragedy brought by war. This book will stay with you long after the last page is turned. Francesca is an Italian illustrator and graphic designer who moved to Switzerland to follow her dream to work as an illustrator. She graduated in 2015 from the Lucerne School of Art and Design with a Master of Design with focus on Illustration. The Journey is her first picture book.

[Senzai, N.H. \(2018\). Escape from Aleppo. \(8+ years\).](#)

Nadia stands at the centre of attention in her parents' elegant dining room. This is the best day of my life, she thinks. Everyone is about to sing "Happy Birthday," when her uncle calls from the living room, "Baba, brothers, you need to see this." Reluctantly, she follows her family into the other room. On TV, a reporter stands near an overturned vegetable cart on a dusty street. Beside it is a mound of smouldering ashes. The reporter explains that a vegetable vendor in the city of Tunis burned himself alive, protesting corrupt government officials who have been harassing his business. Nadia frowns.

It is December 17, 2010: Nadia's twelfth birthday and the beginning of the Arab Spring. Soon anti-government protests erupt across the Middle East and, one by one, countries are thrown into turmoil. As civil war flares in Syria and bombs fall across Nadia's home city of Aleppo, her family decides to flee to safety. Inspired by current events, this novel sheds light on the complicated situation in Syria that has led to an international refugee crisis, and tells the story of one girl's journey to safety.

[Serrailier, Ian & Jones, Matt. \(2012\). The silver sword \(9-12 years old\)](#)

Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage. which kept the Balicki children and their orphan friend Jan alive through the four years of occupation when they had to fend for themselves. And afterwards it inspired them to keep going on the exhausting and dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents. Based on true accounts, this is a moving story of life during and after the Second World War. First published in 1956, it has never been out of print.

[Tan, Shaun. \(2006\). The arrival \(10-14 years old\)](#)

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey. The Arrival has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place. Sited as No 35 in The Times 100 Best Books of all time.

Walker, Bic. (2011). *A safe place to live (Juvenile)*

Bic Walker escaped with her family from Vietnam as a refugee in 1979 when she was 3 years old. This is a true story based on her journey to Australia.

Walters, Eric. (2014). *Walking home (10+ years old)*

Set in both the wilds and slums of Kenya, a powerful story about a brother and sister's brave journey to find a place to call home. 13-year-old Muchoki and his younger sister, Jata, can barely recognize what's become of their lives. Only weeks ago they lived in a bustling Kenyan village, going to school, playing soccer with friends, and helping at their parents' store. But sudden political violence has killed their father and destroyed their home. Now, Muchoki, Jata, and their ailing mother live in a tent in an overcrowded refugee camp. By day, they try to fend off hunger and boredom. By night, their fears about the future are harder to keep at bay. Driven by both hope and desperation, Muchoki and Jata set off on what seems like an impossible journey: to walk hundreds of kilometers to find their last remaining family.

Wild, Margaret & Blackwood, Freya. (2013). *The treasure box (5+ years old)*

A moving and ultimately hopeful look at what we hold most dear -- and carry with us -- when we are forced to flee our homes because of war. When the enemy bombs the library, everything burns, and only one book survives. As war rages around them, Peter and his father, alongside so many refugees, flee their home, taking with them a treasure box that holds something rarer than rubies and more precious than gold. They journey through mud and rain and long cold nights, and soon survival becomes more important than any possession. But as the years go by, Peter never forgets the treasure box, and one day he returns to find it. This moving story from celebrated author Margaret Wild is illustrated with Freya Blackwood's subtly affecting artwork, which incorporates pages of children's books in translation. The result is a haunting and beautiful tale of the power of stories and the resilience of the human spirit.

Wilkes, Sybella. (2000). *One Day We Had To Run!: Refugee children tell their stories in words and paintings (9+ years old)*

This book tells the stories of three children who were forced to become refugees. The children's stories and paintings are set against background information about Somalia, Sudan and Ethiopia, which helps to explain why refugees have been forced to flee from these countries. The roles of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Save the Children are outlined, and ideas for using this book in the school classroom are also included.

Wilkes Sybella. (2010). *Out of Iraq: Refugees' Stories in Words, Paintings and Music. (11+ years).*

Through a mosaic of history, politics, statistics, and true stories from Iraqi refugees, author and UNHCR Senior Communications Officer Sybella Wilkes provides a window into the everyday lives of war survivors. The struggles that the children – the youngest, most tragic victims – must face are the most disturbing and challenging of all.

Williams Karen Lynn, and Mohammed, Khadra. (2007). *Four Feet, Two Sandals. (10-12 years)*

Two young Afghani girls living in a refugee camp in Pakistan share a precious pair of sandals brought by relief workers. When relief workers bring used clothing to the refugee camp, everyone scrambles to grab whatever they can. Ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly, until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. As the girls go about their routines washing clothes in the river, waiting in long lines for water, and watching for their names to appear on the list to go to America the sandals remind them that friendship is what is most important. *Four Feet, Two Sandals* was inspired by a refugee girl who asked the authors why there were no books about children like her. With warm colours and sensitive brush strokes, this book portrays the strength, courage, and hope of refugees around the world, whose daily existence is marked by uncertainty and fear.

Young, Rebecca & Ottley, Matthew. (2015). Teacup (3-7 years old)

Once there was a boy who had to leave home... and find another. In his bag he carried a book, a bottle and a blanket. In his teacup he held some earth from where he used to play. This is one boys story of leaving his homeland, surviving a long journey by sea... and finding a safe, new place to call home.

Zephaniah, Benjamin. (2001). Refugee Boy (10-14 years old)

A novel for young adults about the complex issue of refugees. Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London – even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...A powerful, gripping new novel from the popular Benjamin Zephaniah.

SECONDARY

[Abdel-Fattah, Rada. \(2016\). *When Michael met Mina* \(14+ years old\)](#)

When Michael meets Mina, they are at a rally for refugees - standing on opposite sides. Mina fled Afghanistan with her mother via a refugee camp, a leaky boat and a detention centre. Michael's parents have founded a new political party called Aussie Values. They want to stop the boats. Mina wants to stop the hate. When Mina wins a scholarship to Michael's private school, their lives crash together blindingly.

Winner of the People's Choice Award in the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards 2017

Winner of the Victorian Premier's Literary Award for Writing for Young Adults 2017

[Abdelrazaq, Leila. \(2015\). *Baddawi*. \(13+ years\).](#)

Palestinian American activist Abdelrazaq prefaces her webcomic-turned-printed book: "I don't draw Baddawi because this story is unique. I draw it because it is a common story that is not frequently told." Palestinians, she explains, "make up the largest refugee population in the world, numbering more than five million." Her father was one of those displaced, born in a Lebanese refugee camp called Baddawi after his family's Palestinian village was destroyed in 1948. Through her own extended history, Abdelrazaq draws poignant attention to refugees worldwide: "I see Palestinian refugees (and for that matter, refugees in general) portrayed as objects of suffering to be pitied, defined by circumstance, rather than subjects of their own individual narratives to be empathized with."

[Asgedom, Mawi. \(2001\). *Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard*. \(10+ years\).](#)

At four, Asgedom fled the civil war cleaving Eritrea and Ethiopia, spending three years in a Sudanese refugee camp. In 1983, assisted by World Relief, his family settled in a Chicago suburb. Their new life wasn't easy, but guided by his father, Asgedom worked hard – in school and in life – treating all people with equal respect, whether the "lowliest of beetles" or one of "God's angels." Encouraged by school administrators, Asgedom went to Harvard on full scholarship, giving the commencement address in 1999 in which he revealed details of his personal story, which became this inspiring bestseller.

[Atkins, Clare. \(2018\). *Between us* \(12+ years old\)](#)

Is it possible for two very different teenagers to fall in love despite high barbed-wire fences and a political wilderness between them? Anahita is passionate, curious and determined. She is also an Iranian asylum seeker who is only allowed out of detention to attend school. On weekdays, during school hours, she can be a 'regular Australian girl'. Jono needs the distraction of an infatuation. In the past year his mum has walked out, he's been dumped and his sister has moved away. Lost and depressed, Jono feels as if he's been left behind with his Vietnamese single father, Kenny. Kenny is struggling to work out the rules in his new job; he recently started work as a guard at the Wickham Point Detention Centre. He tells Anahita to look out for Jono at school, but quickly comes to regret this, spiraling into suspicion and mistrust. Who is this girl, really? What is her story? Is she a genuine refugee or a queue jumper? As Jono and Anahita grow closer, Kenny starts snooping behind the scenes...

[Boyne, John. \(2007\). *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* \(12-14 year olds\)](#)

When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move from their home to a new house far far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence running alongside stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people he can see in the distance. But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different to his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

Boyne, John. (2015). *The boy on the top of the mountain* (12+ year olds)

The Boy at the Top of the Mountain is another historical fiction about World War II and how young impressionable people can be corrupted in the face of evil. This is a different take on the issue of refugees because it examines how people act out their bigotry on others they see as inferior to them. When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy Austrian household. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Pierrot is quickly taken under Hitler's wing and thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets, and betrayal where people freely engage in inhumane behaviour. Will Pierrot be able to escape from the clutches of evil.

Bui, Thi. (2017). *The Best We Could Do*. (13+ years)

This beautifully illustrated and emotional story is an evocative memoir about the search for a better future and a longing for the past. Exploring the anguish of immigration and the lasting effects that displacement has on a child and her family, Bui documents the story of her family's daring escape after the fall of South Vietnam in the 1970s, and the difficulties they faced building new lives for themselves. At the heart of Bui's story is a universal struggle: While adjusting to life as a first-time mother, she ultimately discovers what it means to be a parent the endless sacrifices, the unnoticed gestures, and the depths of unspoken love.

Cleave, Chris. (2008). *Little Bee*. (16+ years)

From the author of the international bestseller *Incendiary* comes a haunting novel about the tenuous friendship that blooms between two disparate strangers—one an illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London.

Conolan, Emily. (2018). *Touch the sun: The freedom finders* (9-13 years old)

Choose your own destiny and step into the shoes of a Somali boy escaping war-torn Mogadishu for Australia in 2011 - the next book in this exciting interactive adventure series. To find freedom, you must leave behind everything you've ever known. It is 2011. You want nothing more than to be a journalist in Somalia you're your aunty. But the truth can be dangerous - and when you and your little sister are left alone, you find yourself facing life-and-death choices at every turn. Can you escape a terrorist organisation and find a safe place to call home? You'll be asked to cross a desert on foot, hide below deck in a leaky boat, and put your life in the hands of people smugglers. At every turn, the choice is yours. How far will you go for freedom?

Day, William. (2017). *Refugees: Migration to Australia* (10-18)

Australia has welcomed refugees and helped them to settle since colonial times. As Australia confirmed its place in world affairs after the Second World War, it accepted thousands of people who were escaping the ruined cities and social upheaval caused by the war. After the fall of Saigon, thousands of Vietnamese refugees came to Australia, and the current unrest in the Middle East has resulted in many more people seeking a safe sanctuary. Find out about Australia's responses to people arriving as refugees, from colonial times up until the present. Read about the contributions refugees have made to Australia and the challenges they have faced.

Dechian, Sonja, Millar, Heather & Sallis, Eva. (2004). *Dark Dreams: Australian Refugee Stories by young writers aged 11-20* (12-18 years old)

"These stories will remind you that these unbearable events did not happen far away, to people we pity from a distance – a view the nightly news, especially now, too easily encourages. These events and histories are carried in the heart and mind of the person next to you, these experiences are with us, beside us..." (Dr Eva Sallis, editor).

Deng, Alphonsion, Ajak, Benjamin, Deng, Benson and Bernstein, Judy A. (2005). *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan*. (13+ years)

Between 1987 and 1989, Alepho, Benjamin, and Benson, like tens of thousands of young boys, took flight from the massacres of Sudan's civil war. They became known as the Lost Boys. With little more than the clothes on their backs, sometimes not even that, they streamed out over Sudan in search of refuge. Their journey led them first to Ethiopia and then, driven back into Sudan, toward Kenya. They walked nearly one thousand miles, sustained only by the sheer will to live. *They Poured Fire on Us from the Sky* is the three boys' account of that unimaginable journey. With the candour and the purity of their child's-eye-vision, Alephonsian, Benjamin, and Benson recall by turns: how they endured the hunger and strength-sapping illnesses-dysentery, malaria, and yellow fever; how they dodged the life-threatening predators-lions, snakes, crocodiles and soldiers alike-that dogged their footsteps; and how they grappled with a war that threatened continually to overwhelm them. Their story is a lyrical, captivating, timeless portrait of a childhood hurled into wartime and how they had the good fortune and belief in themselves to survive.

DePrince, Michaela. (2015). *Hope in a ballet shoe* (15-18 years old)

Hope in a Ballet Shoe tells the story of Michaela DePrince. Growing up in war-torn Sierra Leone, she witnesses atrocities that no child ever should. Her father is killed by rebels and her mother dies of famine. Sent to an orphanage, Michaela is mistreated and she sees the brutal murder of her favourite teacher. Michaela and her best friend are adopted by an American couple and Michaela begins to take dance lessons. But life in the States isn't without difficulties. Unfortunately, tragedy can find its way to Michaela in America, too, and her past can feel like it's haunting her. The world of ballet is a racist one, and Michaela has to fight for a place amongst the ballet elite, hearing the words 'America's not ready for a black girl ballerina.' And yet... Today, Michaela DePrince is an international ballet star, dancing for The Dutch National Ballet at the age of nineteen. This is a heart-breaking, inspiring autobiography by a teenager who shows us that, beyond everything, there is always hope for a better future.

Eggers, David. (2006). *What is the What* (13+ years)

What Is the What is the epic novel based on the life of Valentino Achak Deng who, along with thousands of other children – the so-called Lost Boys – was forced to leave his village in Sudan at the age of seven and trek hundreds of miles by foot, pursued by militias, government bombers, and wild animals, crossing the deserts of three countries to find freedom. When he finally is resettled in the United States, he finds a life full of promise, but also heartache and myriad new challenges. Moving, suspenseful, and unexpectedly funny, *What Is the What* is an astonishing novel that illuminates the lives of millions through one extraordinary man.

Ellis Deborah. (2000). *The Breadwinner*. (9+ years).

First in the Breadwinner trio.

Afghanistan: Parvana's father is arrested and taken away by Taliban soldiers. Under Taliban law, women and girls are not allowed to leave the house on their own. Parvana, her mother, and sisters are prisoners in their own home. With no man to go out to buy food, they face starvation. So Parvana must pretend to be a boy to save her family. It is a dangerous plan, but their only chance. In fear, she goes out – and witnesses the horror of landmines, the brutality of the Taliban, and the desperation of a country trying to survive. But even in despair lies hope . . . Deborah Ellis has been to Afghan refugee camps and has listened to many stories like Parvana's.

Ellis Deborah. (2002). *Parvana's Journey*. (9+ years).

Second in the Breadwinner trio.

A war is raging in Afghanistan as a coalition of Western forces tries to oust the Taliban by bombing the country. Parvana's father has died, and her mother, sister, and brother have gone to a faraway wedding, not knowing what has happened to her father. Parvana doesn't know where they are, but sets out alone to find

them – masquerading as a boy. Her journey only becomes more perilous as the bombs begin to fall. Making her way across the desolate Afghan countryside, she meets other children who are strays from the war: an infant boy in a bombed-out village, a nine-year-old girl who believes she has magical powers over land mines, and a boy with one leg. The children travel together because it is easier than being alone. As they forge their own family in the war zone that Afghanistan has become, their resilience, imagination and luck help them survive. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and a glossary provide young readers with background and context. All royalties from the sale of this book go to Canadian Women for Women in Afghanistan. Parvana's Fund supports education projects for Afghan women and children.

Ellis, Deborah. (2003). *Shauzia* (12-16 year olds)

This powerful companion to *Parvana* and *Parvana's Journey* tells the gripping story of a young girl's fight to make a life for herself outside the refugee camps on the borders of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Ellis Deborah. (2003). *Mud City*. (9+ years).

Third in the Breadwinner trio.

Parvana's best friend, Shauzia, has escaped the misery of her life in Kabul, only to end up in a refugee camp in Pakistan. She still dreams of seeing the ocean and eventually making a new life in France, but it's hard to imagine when she is living in the Widows' Compound of a muddy, crowded refugee camp outside Peshawar. Shauzia finally decides to leave the camp and try her luck on the streets. Peshawar is dangerous and full of desperately poor and wandering children like herself, but she has Jasper, the dog who followed her down from a shepherds' camp in the mountains, and she knows how to masquerade as a boy and comb the streets for jobs. But life as a street kid is dangerous and terrifying, even with the advantages of a strong will, brave spirit, and good luck. This is a powerful and human story of a feisty, driven girl who tries to take control of her own life. The reissue includes a new cover and map, and an updated author's note and glossary to provide young readers with background and context. Royalties from the sale of this book go to Street Kids International.

Ellis, Deborah. (2010). *Children of War: Voices of Iraqi Refugees*. (12+ years).

Written five years after the United States and its allies invaded Iraq – but with true democracy still out of sight – Deborah Ellis turns her attention to the war's most tragic victims: Iraqi children. She interviews more than 20 young Iraqis, mostly refugees living in Jordan, but also a few trying to build new lives in North America. Some families left Iraq with money; others are penniless, ill, or disabled. Most of the parents are working illegally or not at all, and the fear of deportation is a constant threat. The children speak for themselves, with little editorial comment, and their stories are frank, harrowing, and often reveal a surprising resilience in surviving the consequences of a war in which they played no part.

Ellis Deborah. (2012). *My Name is Parvana*. (9+ years).

She heard the woman's boots walk away down the hall. She stood and waited, listening hard to see if the boots would come back. When she was sure she was alone, the girl finally spoke. 'Yes,' she whispered. 'My name is Parvana.' Fifteen-year-old Parvana has built a new life with her family, and it's the life she's always dreamt of. She's learning in a real school, and teaching too. But this is Afghanistan, and the war is far from over. Many still view the education and freedom of women with suspicion and fear. And that means Parvana – and her family – are in danger. When she's taken away by American soldiers, suspected of being a terrorist, Parvana must find a way to protect her family, and keep her hope alive.

Ellis Deborah. (2018). *Kids of Kabul: Living Bravely through a Never-Ending War*. (12-14 years).

In *Kids of Kabul*, Ellis introduces 27 girls and boys, ages 11 to 17. All have survived horrors, yet their resilience is remarkable: "At school I have learned that there are better ways to do things than all this war, war, war all the time. It's the younger generation that will change that. My generation. Me," says Mustala,

13. Testimony from Sigrullah, 14, attests to the saving power of books: "I am happiest when I am in this library. All of our problems can be solved with these books."

Evans, Alwyn. (2004). *Walk in My Shoes* (14-15 year olds)

Aimed at secondary students, this book tells of an Afghan refugee, Gulnessa, who struggles to establish a life for herself and her family in Australia. They are confined in a detention centre for asylum seekers, and forced to prove their refugee status.

Erpenbeck, Jenny. (2017) *Go, Went, Gone*. (16+ years)

Go, Went, Gone is the masterful new novel by the acclaimed German writer Jenny Erpenbeck, "one of the most significant German-language novelists of her generation" (*The Millions*). The novel tells the tale of Richard, a retired classics professor who lives in Berlin. His wife has died, and he lives a routine existence until one day he spies some African refugees staging a hunger strike in Alexanderplatz. Curiosity turns to compassion and an inner transformation, as he visits their shelter, interviews them, and becomes embroiled in their harrowing fates. *Go, Went, Gone* is a scathing indictment of Western policy toward the European refugee crisis, but also a touching portrait of a man who finds he has more in common with the Africans than he realizes. Exquisitely translated by Susan Bernofsky, *Go, Went, Gone* addresses one of the most pivotal issues of our time, facing it head-on in a voice that is both nostalgic and frightening.

Farish, Terry. (2012). *The Good Braider*. (15-18 years)

In spare free verse laced with unforgettable images, Viola's strikingly original voice sings out the story of her family's journey from war-torn Sudan, to Cairo, and finally to Portland, Maine. Here, in the sometimes too close embrace of the local Southern Sudanese Community, she dreams of South Sudan while she tries to navigate the strange world of America—a world where a girl can wear a short skirt, get a tattoo, or even date a boy; a world that puts her into sharp conflict with her traditional mother who, like Viola, is struggling to braid together the strands of a displaced life. Terry Farish's story haunting novel is not only a riveting of escape and survival, but the universal tale of a young immigrant's struggle to build a life on the cusp of two cultures.

Fraillon, Zana. (2016). *The Bone Sparrow*. (13+ years).

Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother fled the violence of a distant homeland, life behind the fences is all he has ever known. But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, until it is bursting at the limits of his world. The night sea brings him gifts, the faraway whales sing to him, and the birds tell their stories. The most vivid story of all, however, is the one that arrives one night in the form of Jimmie, a scruffy, impatient girl who appears from the other side of the wires, and brings a notebook written by the mother she lost. Unable to read it, she relies on Subhi to unravel her own family's love songs and tragedies. Subhi and Jimmie might both find a way to freedom, as their tales unfold. But not until each of them has been braver than ever before.

Francis, Victoria. (1999). *Letters to Grandma Grace* (12-14 years old)

An African refugee family's experiences in their country of asylum are told through letters from the children to their Grandma Grace. The letters illustrate the difficulties and hardships they face in adapting to their new home.

French, Jackie. (2013). *Refuge: many dreams, one land* (10+ years old)

Brilliant in construct, compelling and extraordinarily moving, this is a book that speaks to each of us and reminds us that while we mightn't be refugees, we are all newcomers to this country and that everyone has a story worth hearing. When a boat carrying a group of asylum seekers is sunk by a freak wave, Faris wakes from the shipwreck in an Australia he's always dreamed of. There are kangaroos grazing under orange trees and the sky is always blue. On a nearby beach, Faris meets a group of young people who have come from far different times and places. They are also seeking refuge, and each has their own story of why they had to leave their own story of why they had to leave their country to make a new life for themselves. It is only

when Faris chooses to return to 'real life' and find his father in Australia that he learns the extraordinary truth about the friends he made in the golden beach. From one of Australia's best-loved authors comes a remarkable story about Australia's long history of migration and the people who make up our country.

Geda, Fabio, translated by Curtis, Howard. (2010). *In the Sea there are Crocodiles*. (12+years)

This novel's protagonist, Afghan-born Enaiatollah Akbariis, is a real person, just ten years old – "I say ten, although I'm not entirely sure when I was born" – when his harrowing odyssey crosses five countries. Italy is where Enaiatollah meets author Geda, "an Italian novelist who works with children under duress," whom Enaiatollah entrusts to "write his story down, so that people who had suffered similar things could know they were not alone, and so that others might understand them better."

Gleeson, Libby (1998). *Refuge* (12+ years old)

Andrew's sister, Anna, believes in fighting for causes and is getting Andrew involved. It means he has to keep secrets from the people he cares about. It means breaking the law and eventually seeking refuge. Dramatic novel for older readers. Andrew's sister Anna is trying to shelter a girl fleeing from a hostile regime. Andrew doesn't want to become involved in breaking the law and deceiving his parents, but does he have a choice?

Greder, Armin. (2007). *The Island* (14-15 years old)

When the people of the Island discover a man and a tattered raft on their beach, they are reluctant to take him in. He doesn't look like them. But they cannot send him back to the sea where he will surely perish. Instead, they put him aside but even that doesn't solve their problem. The Island is an astonishing and powerful picture book about refugees, xenophobia, multiculturalism, social politics and human rights. It tackles big themes in subtle ways with a fable-like text and stunning artwork that will provoke discussion for upper primary and secondary school levels about issues that remain so much a part of our national discourse.

Hamilton, Fiona and Burnside, Julian. (2015). *Pictures in My Heart* (15+ years)

Pictures in my Heart explores the lives of a group of Afghan refugees who arrived in Australia by boat in 1999 and 2001. They lived and worked in the regional city of Murray Bridge in South Australia on Temporary Protection Visas while awaiting permanent protection. When an important figure in their community committed suicide, they began to participate in a health program that culminated in the artworks, stories and photographs in this book. *Pictures in my Heart* is a deeply personal account of what these men and their families endured, both in Afghanistan and Australia, and how they persevered.

Hawke, Rosanne. (2004). *Soraya the Storyteller* (9-12 year olds)

Aimed at upper primary students, this story tells of 11-year old Soraya. Soraya is an asylum seeker from Afghanistan living under the shadow of Australia's former temporary protection visa system. As she adapts to life in Australia, she is haunted by both her father's absence and the fear that she may have to return to Afghanistan. To console herself, she begins writing stories.

Lofthouse, Liz & Ingpen, Robert. (2007). *Ziba came on a boat* (9-13 years old)

Based on real events, this is the moving story of a little refugee girl whose family has lost almost everything. This beautiful picture book takes us on her brave journey to make a new life, far from home.

Marsden, John & Ottley, Matthew. (2008). *Home and away* (11+ year olds)

A dramatic picture book for older readers that poses the question – what would happen if a typical Australian family found themselves refugees?

Mermix Theatre Company. (2016). *The Journey of Halima* (young adults)

The 'Mermix' non-profit theatre company based in Greece has created a fairytale titled 'The Journey of Halima', based on Syrian folk tales, in order to keep refugee children company during their own journey from the war zone they escaped to their destination countries, and to sensitize all children to the problems

refugees face. Published as a trilingual book (Arabic – Farsi – English), it will be distributed free of charge to refugee children. Apart from the printed version, a digital version of the fairytale will be available free of charge, translated into several languages at www.thejourneyofhalima.com.

Moorehead, Caroline. (2005). *Human Cargo: A Journey Among Refugees*. (13+ years)

Traveling for nearly two years and across four continents, Caroline Moorehead takes readers on a journey to understand why millions of people are forced to abandon their homes, possessions, and families in order to find a place where they may, quite literally, be allowed to live. Moorehead's experience living and working with refugees puts a human face on the news, providing unforgettable portraits of the refugees she meets in Cairo, Guinea, Sicily, Lebanon, England, Australia, Finland, and at the U.S.-Mexico border. *Human Cargo* changes our understanding of what it means to have and lose a place in the world, and reveals how the refugee "problem" is on a par with global crises such as terrorism and world hunger.

Naidoo, Beverley. (2003). *The Other Side of Truth* (12-14 years old)

Aimed at teenagers, this topical novel is set during 1995 in the aftermath of Ken Saro-Wiwa's execution in Nigeria for alleged political crimes. *The Other Side of Truth* tackles multiple themes, most importantly injustice, the right to freedom of speech, the complexities of political asylum, bullying and, ultimately, the strength of the family.

Oron, Judie. (2010). *Cry of the Giraffe*. (12+ years).

The centuries-long history of Jews in Ethiopia does not protect them from derision and abuse from their countrymen. With growing violence compounded by unrelenting religious persecution, Wuditu and her family begin an arduous trek to a refugee camp in the Sudan, following promises that they will be rescued and evacuated to Jerusalem. For Canadian journalist Oron, this little-known history of Ethiopian Jewish refugees is also part of her own personal journey: two of her characters became her daughters.

Perkins, Mitali. (2010). *Bamboo People*. (12+ years).

Inspired by three years of living in Thailand and visiting refugee camps along the Thai-Burmese border, Perkins follows the lives of two boys on opposite sides of the war they inherited. City-educated Chiko is abducted to be trained as a soldier. Tu Reh finds Chiko when he becomes the sole survivor of a mine blast. Trapped by inhumane conditions, both must learn to rely on their own morals to counter the fighting and hatred, despite the imminent threat to kill or be killed.

Provoost, Annie. (1997). *Falling* (15-18 years old)

A powerful, disturbing book about racial tensions, intolerance, and the seductive appeal of right-wing extremism, this story explores the difficult pathways of love, fear, anger and forgiveness. *Falling* in love. *Falling* under the influence. *Falling* into temptation. *Falling* ill. *Falling* apart. *Falling* from grace. Lucas had no idea there were so many painful ways to fall. Through a long summer of oppressive heat and suspense, Lucas becomes aware of many things he does not understand. What can his grandfather have done during the war to provoke such hostility in his own hometown? Why is there growing crime and tension in the neighbourhood? What is his attitude to immigrants and refugees? How should he respond to his new friend, Benoit, whose arguments confuse and compel him, or to Caitlin, with her enigmatic ways and her beautiful, sad dancing? And how should he act when the crisis comes? A deep, disturbing book about the inexorable influence of the past on the present, the seductive power of extreme nationalism and racism, the complexities of moral and political choice, and the gulf between intentions and consequences; a haunting story of love, fear, anger and forgiveness. *Falling* was first published in Belgium. It has won five major literary awards, topped bestseller lists and been translated into many languages. With her sharp prose and unswerving gaze, Anne Provoost probes personal and social dilemmas that are increasingly relevant to Australians.

[Quilty Ben \(2018\). *Home: Drawings by Syrian Children*. \(10+ years\)](#)

A collection of drawings by Syrian children, the most vulnerable victims of a brutal civil war, curated by Archibald Prize winner Ben Quilty, with a Foreword by Man Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan. Ben Quilty has assembled this heartbreaking and awe-inspiring collection of drawings by Syrian children. These drawings form an extraordinary testament to the resilience of a generation of survivors whose childhood has been shaped by the worst war of our century. Their art speaks directly to us all as human beings, and we have an obligation to listen closely and seriously. Proceeds from the sale of this book will directly support World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces, early childhood and basic education projects in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

[Quinn Z T \(2018\). *Sanlundia*. \(16+ years\)](#)

Maggie just wanted to help. That's why she worked on the island of Sanlundia, despite the callous indifference of the guards, the bumbling absurdity of her managers, the infuriating stubbornness of the bureaucrats running the camps and the pointless suffering of the detainees. That's why she became determined to tell the truth. That's why she suddenly disappeared, without a trace. A journalist becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to Maggie, desperate to understand the true enormity of events on Sanlundia, a remote tropical island invaded by five allied nations and turned into a dumping ground for asylum seekers, refugees, illegal immigrants and any foreigner deemed undesirable by their host governments. The story explores the relationship between power, alienation and empathy. It follows Maggie's experience on the island, her ultimate fate and considers the price we all pay when we allow the strong to abuse the weak.

[Rosoff, Meg. \(2004\). *How I Live Now* \(12+ years old\)](#)

Fifteen-year-old Daisy is sent from Manhattan to England to visit her aunt and cousins she's never met: three boys near her age, and their little sister. Her aunt goes away on business soon after Daisy arrives. The next day bombs go off as London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy. As power fails, and systems fail, the farm becomes more isolated. Despite the war, it's a kind of Eden, with no adults in charge and no rules, a place where Daisy's uncanny bond with her cousins grows into something rare and extraordinary. But the war is everywhere, and Daisy and her cousins must lead each other into a world that is unknown in the scariest, most elemental way. A riveting and astonishing story.

[Rosselson, Leon. \(2002\). *Home is a Place Called Nowhere* \(12+ years old\)](#)

Suitable for teenagers, this topical, fast-paced novel deals with issues of discrimination and prejudice against refugees. Amina runs away to London after a crisis in her adoptive family, hoping to track down her mother and to discover the truth about her apparent abandonment. Paul, an older and more streetwise runaway, helps her to make contact with the refugee community. It is by listening to other people and their stories that she comes, finally, to understand her own.

[Rutter, Jill & Candappa, Mano. \(1998\). *Why do they have to fight? Refugee children's stories from Bosnia, Kurdistan, Somalia and Sri Lanka* \(7-18 years old\)](#)

Most of the testimonies used in this book were collected during a research project about refugee children. The book serves as a valuable resource for teachers, with the issues behind asylum and refugees brought to life by these children's stories and testimonies.

[Senker, Cath. \(2011\). *Global Issues: Refugees* \(12-14 years old\)](#)

This information book quotes extensively from mixed-media sources to examine responses to refugee issues in different parts of the world and to debate notions of bias and prejudice. Combining photographs and varied texts in a lively format, it presents real-life case studies showing why people become refugees alongside a range of media viewpoints on their treatment in host societies.

[Serraillier, Ian & Jones, Matt. \(2012\). *The silver sword* \(9-12 years old\)](#)

Although the silver sword was only a paper knife, it became the symbol of hope and courage, which kept the Balicki children and their orphan friend Jan alive through the four years of occupation when they had to fend for themselves. And afterwards it inspired them to keep going on the exhausting and dangerous journey from war-torn Poland to Switzerland, where they hoped to find their parents. Based on true accounts, this is a moving story of life during and after the Second World War. First published in 1956, it has never been out of print.

[Tan, Shaun. \(2006\). *The arrival* \(10-14 years old\)](#)

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey.

The Arrival has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place. Sited as No 35 in The Times 100 Best Books of all time.

[Walters, Eric. \(2014\). *Walking home* \(10+ years old\)](#)

Set in both the wilds and slums of Kenya, a powerful story about a brother and sister's brave journey to find a place to call home. 13-year-old Muchoki and his younger sister, Jata, can barely recognize what's become of their lives. Only weeks ago they lived in a bustling Kenyan village, going to school, playing soccer with friends, and helping at their parents' store. But sudden political violence has killed their father and destroyed their home. Now, Muchoki, Jata, and their ailing mother live in a tent in an overcrowded refugee camp. By day, they try to fend off hunger and boredom. By night, their fears about the future are harder to keep at bay. Driven by both hope and desperation, Muchoki and Jata set off on what seems like an impossible journey: to walk hundreds of kilometers to find their last remaining family.

[Wamariya, Clemantine. \(2018\). *The Girl Who Smiled Beads: A Story of War and What Comes After.* \(13+ years\)](#)

A riveting tale of dislocation, survival, and the power of stories to break or save us. Clemantine Wamariya was six years old when her mother and father began to speak in whispers, when neighbours began to disappear, and when she heard the loud, ugly sounds her brother said were thunder. In 1994, she and her fifteen-year-old sister, Clare, fled the Rwandan massacre and spent the next six years wandering through seven African countries, searching for safety-perpetually hungry, imprisoned and abused, enduring and escaping refugee camps, finding unexpected kindness, witnessing inhuman cruelty. They did not know whether their parents were dead or alive. When Clemantine was twelve, she and her sister were granted refugee status in the United States, where she embarked on another journey, ultimately graduating from Yale. Yet the years of being treated as less than human, of going hungry and seeing death, could not be erased. She felt at the same time six years old and one hundred years old. In *The Girl Who Smiled Beads*, Clemantine provokes us to look beyond the label of 'victim' and recognize the power of the imagination to transcend even the most profound injuries and aftershocks. Devastating yet beautiful, and bracingly original, it is a powerful testament to her commitment to constructing a life on her own terms.

[Wilkes Sybella. \(2010\). *Out of Iraq: Refugees' Stories in Words, Paintings and Music.* \(11+ years\).](#)

Through a mosaic of history, politics, statistics, and true stories from Iraqi refugees, author and UNHCR Senior Communications Officer Sybella Wilkes provides a window into the everyday lives of war survivors. The struggles that the children – the youngest, most tragic victims – must face are the most disturbing and challenging of all.

Williams, Mary. (2013). *Brothers in Hope: Story of the Lost Boys of Sudan* (8-9 years old)

Based on true events, this moving picture book tells the story of Garang, an 8 year old Sudanese boy forced to embark on an epic journey across deserts and mountains to Ethiopia and eventually to Kenya after his family and village are overtaken by war whilst he is away tending cattle. He joins a band of over 1000 boys, some as young as 5, who share his predicament. Despite the hardships of a perilous journey and years spent in refugee camps, Garang occupies himself with the welfare of younger boys, seizes any educational opportunity, and never loses hope of a new life in a permanent place of safety.

Zephaniah, Benjamin. (2001). *Refugee Boy* (10-14 year olds)

A novel for young adults about the complex issue of refugees. Alem is on holiday with his father for a few days in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and is very excited. They have a great few days together until one morning when Alem wakes up in the bed and breakfast they are staying at to find the unthinkable. His father has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. Alem's father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia both he and Alem's mother felt Alem would be safer in London – even though it is breaking their hearts to do this. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother, who has now gone missing...A powerful, gripping new novel from the popular Benjamin Zephaniah.

ADULT

[Abulhawa, Susan. \(2006\). *Mornings in Jenin*](#)

Mornings in Jenin is a multi-generational story about a Palestinian family. Forcibly removed from the olive-farming village of Ein Hod by the newly formed state of Israel in 1948, the Abulhejos are displaced to live in canvas tents in the Jenin refugee camp. We follow the Abulhejo family as they live through a half-century of violent history. Amidst the loss and fear, hatred and pain, as their tents are replaced by more forebodingly permanent cinderblock huts, there is always the waiting, waiting to return to a lost home. The novel's voice is that of Amal, the granddaughter of the old village patriarch, a bright, sensitive girl who makes it out of the camps, only to return years later, to marry and bear a child.

Through her eyes, with her evolving vision, we get the story of her brothers, one who is kidnapped to be raised Jewish, one who will end with bombs strapped to his middle. But of the many interwoven stories, stretching backward and forward in time, none is more important than Amal's own. Her story is one of love and loss, of childhood and marriage and parenthood, and finally the need to share her history with her daughter, to preserve the greatest love she has.

Set against one of the twentieth century's most intractable political conflicts, *Mornings in Jenin* is a deeply human novel – a novel of history, identity, friendship, love, terrorism, surrender, courage, and hope. Its power forces us to take a fresh look at one of the defining conflicts of our lifetimes.

[Beah, Ishmael. \(2007\). *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*](#)

At the age of twelve, Ishmael Beah fled attacking rebels in Sierra Leone and wandered a land rendered unrecognisable by violence. By thirteen, he'd been picked up by the Government army, and Beah, at heart a gentle boy, found that he was capable of truly terrible acts. At sixteen, he was removed from fighting by UNICEF, and through the help of staff at his rehabilitation centre, he learned how to forgive himself, to regain his humanity, and, finally to heal.

[Boochani Behrouz. \(2018\). *No Friend but the Mountains*](#)

Winner of the 2019 Victorian Premier's Literary Awards for Non-fiction and Literature

Writing from Manus Prison

This is an autobiographical account of Kurdish journalist Behrouz Boochani's perilous journey to Christmas Island and his subsequent incarceration in an Australian government immigration detention facility on Manus Island since 2013. The book was laboriously tapped out on a mobile phone and translated from the Farsi by Dr Omid Tofighian. It is a voice of witness, an act of survival, a lyric first-hand account, a cry of resistance and a vivid portrait through five years of incarceration and exile.

[Cleave, Chris. \(2008\). *Little Bee*](#)

From the author of the international bestseller *Incendiary* comes a haunting novel about the tenuous friendship that blooms between two disparate strangers—one an illegal Nigerian refugee, the other a recent widow from suburban London.

[Erpenbeck, Jenny. \(2017\). *Go, Went, Gone*](#)

Go, Went, Gone is the masterful new novel by the acclaimed German writer Jenny Erpenbeck, "one of the most significant German-language novelists of her generation" (*The Millions*). The novel tells the tale of Richard, a retired classics professor who lives in Berlin. His wife has died, and he lives a routine existence until one day he spies some African refugees staging a hunger strike in Alexanderplatz. Curiosity turns to compassion and an inner transformation, as he visits their shelter, interviews them, and becomes embroiled in their harrowing fates. *Go, Went, Gone* is a scathing indictment of Western policy toward the European refugee crisis, but also a touching portrait of a man who finds he has more in common with the Africans than

he realizes. Exquisitely translated by Susan Bernofsky, *Go, Went, Gone* addresses one of the most pivotal issues of our time, facing it head-on in a voice that is both nostalgic and frightening.

[Gibb, Camilla. \(2011\). *Sweetness in the Belly*](#)

Sweetness in the Belly tells the story of Lilly, orphaned at the age of eight in Morocco after the murder of her British parents. Taken in and raised in a Sufi shrine, Lilly eventually makes her way to Ethiopia before being forced to flee to London as a refugee. It is a poignant examination of an outside search for home.

[Green, Michael, Neville, Angelica, Dao, Andrea, Afflick, Dana and Merope, Sienna. \(Eds.\). \(2017\). *They Cannot Take the Sky*](#)

For more than two decades, Australia has locked up people who arrive here fleeing persecution – sometimes briefly, sometimes for years. In *They Cannot Take the Sky* those people tell their stories, in their own words. Speaking from inside immigration detention on Manus Island and Nauru, or from within the Australian community after their release, the narrators reveal not only their extraordinary journeys and their daily struggles but also their meditations on love, death, hope and injustice. Their candid testimonies are at times shocking and hilarious, surprising and devastating. They are witnesses from the edge of human experience. The first-person narratives in *They Cannot Take the Sky* range from epic life stories to heartbreaking vignettes. The narrators who have shared their stories have done so despite the culture of silence surrounding immigration detention, and the real risks faced by those who speak out. Once you have heard their voices, you will never forget them.

[Hamid, Mohsin. \(2017\). *Exit West*](#)

An astonishingly visionary love story that imagines the forces that drive ordinary people from their homes into the uncertain embrace of new lands. In a country teetering on the brink of civil war, two young people meet – sensual, fiercely independent Nadia and gentle, restrained Saeed. They embark on a furtive love affair, and are soon cloistered in a premature intimacy by the unrest roiling their city. When it explodes, turning familiar streets into a patchwork of checkpoints and bomb blasts, they begin to hear whispers about doors – doors that can whisk people far away, if perilously and for a price. As the violence escalates, Nadia and Saeed decide that they no longer have a choice. Leaving their homeland and their old lives behind, they find a door and step through. *Exit West* follows these remarkable characters as they emerge into an alien and uncertain future, struggling to hold on to each other, to their past, to the very sense of who they are. Profoundly intimate and powerfully inventive, it tells an unforgettable story of love, loyalty, and courage that is both completely of our time and for all time.

[Kingsley, Patrick. \(2016\). *The New Odyssey: The Story of Europe's Refugee Crisis*](#)

Europe is facing a wave of migration unmatched since the end of World War II – and no one has reported on this crisis in more depth or breadth than the Guardian's migration correspondent, Patrick Kingsley. Throughout 2015, Kingsley travelled to 17 countries along the migrant trail, meeting hundreds of refugees making epic odysseys across deserts, seas and mountains to reach the holy grail of Europe. This is Kingsley's unparalleled account of who these voyagers are. It's about why they keep coming, and how they do it. It's about the smugglers who help them on their way, and the coastguards who rescue them at the other end. The volunteers that feed them, the hoteliers that house them, and the border guards trying to keep them out. And the politicians looking the other way.

[Quilty Ben \(2018\). *Home: Drawings by Syrian Children*](#)

A collection of drawings by Syrian children, the most vulnerable victims of a brutal civil war, curated by Archibald Prize winner Ben Quilty, with a Foreword by Man Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan. Ben Quilty has assembled this heartbreaking and awe-inspiring collection of drawings by Syrian children. These drawings form an extraordinary testament to the resilience of a generation of survivors whose childhood has been shaped by the worst war of our century. Their art speaks directly to us all as human beings, and we have an

obligation to listen closely and seriously. Proceeds from the sale of this book will directly support World Vision's Child Friendly Spaces, early childhood and basic education projects in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Iraq.

Serong Jock. (2018). On the Java Ridge

On the Java Ridge is a political thriller. Isi Natoli the skipper of the Java Ridge and a group of Australian surf tourists are anchored off the Indonesian island of Dana. In the Canberra office of Cassius Calvert, Minister for Border Integrity, a federal election looms and a hard line new policy on asylum-seekers is being rolled out. Not far from Dana, the Takalar is having engine trouble. Among the passengers on board fleeing from persecution are Roya and her mother, and Roya's unborn sister. The storm now closing in on the Takalar and the Java Ridge will mean catastrophe for them all.

Smith, Ali. (2019). Spring

Spring is the third in a seasonal quartet following the publication of Autumn and Winter. The dynamic novel captures the many turmoils of life in the contemporary U.K. It revolves around three people – Richard, Brit and Florence. Richard Lease is an over-the-hill TV and film director mourning his recently deceased collaborator, Paddy. Brit is a security guard at a migrant detention facility. Florence is a pseudo-messianic young girl seemingly capable of inspiring empathy in even the darkest of hearts. The three mismatched characters travel together, on their way to an old battlefield where the violence acts of yesteryear and the present day will converge. As the story evolves the question 'what unites Katherine Mansfield, Charlie Chaplin, Shakespeare, Rilke, Beethoven, Brexit, the present, the past, the north, the south, the east, the west, a man mourning lost times, a woman trapped in modern times?' is answered.

Wilson, Rohan. (2019). Daughter of Bad Times

Rin Braden is almost ready to give up on life after the heartbreaking death of her lover Yamaan and the everyday dread of working for her mother's corrupt private prison company. But through a miracle Yamaan has survived. Yamaan, an environmental refugee from the Maldives turns up in an immigration detention facility in Australia via Sri Lanka. He trades his labour for a supposedly safe place to live, but it is no ordinary facility. It's Eaglehawk MTC, a manufactory built by her mother's company to exploit the flood of environmental refugees. Now Rin must find a way to free Yamaan before the ghosts of her past and a string of bad choices catch up with them both. In its vision of the future, Daughter of Bad Times explores the truth about a growing inhumanity, as profit becomes the priority.