



Refugee Week Author spotlight



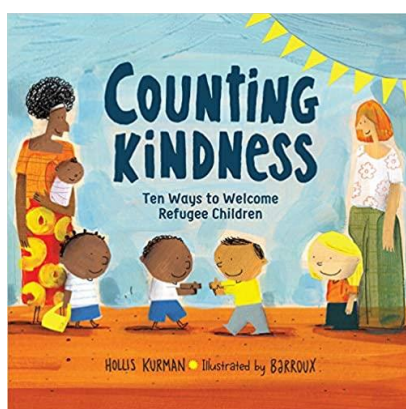
To mark Refugee week, we have put together our own recommended reading list.

Written by people who first came to the UK as refugees or those who have worked closely with refugees, these books tell the painful and inspiring stories of ordinary people who have been forced to make extraordinary journeys and sacrifices in order to seek safety.

Read, share and discuss the books so the voices of refugees are heard.

Counting kindness, 10 ways to welcome Refugee children- Hollis Kurman

A compassionate counting book that captures the power of a welcoming community. Teach children about refugees and how each kindness can help them find a new home. Arriving in a new place can be daunting, especially when the newcomers are young. But this beautiful counting book helps readers see the journey of finding a new home and the joys of being welcomed into a new community.



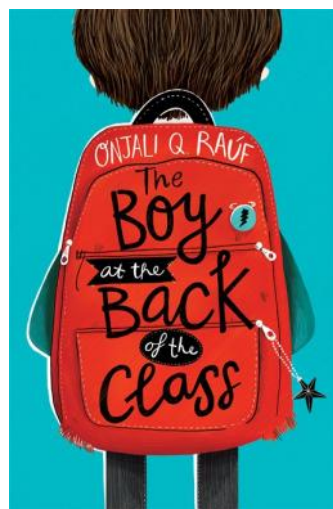
The boy at the back of the class – Onjali Rauf

This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria (he is the boy at the back of the class).

Through their sensitivity, curiosity, ingenuity, bravery and innocent niceness, they make a massive impact on Ahmet's life, friends, class, school, community and wider world. There's a lovely lack of stereotyping on gender and backstory for the narrator, which adds to the message of not judging people before you know them.

An inspiring and sweet tale that will help children think about what it is to be a good person whatever your circumstances (the narrator is from a poor background with a single parent mum who struggles to make ends meet), and challenge prejudice and push for fairness, whenever possible.

This is a beautiful, open-hearted debut from Onjali Q Rauf that should help children be the best they can be and realise the power of kindness.



The Journey- Francesca Sanna

A young family's safe world is turned upside down when war arrives, spreading its blackness across their lives and forcing them to flee in search of safety. Told through the eyes of one of the children, the story follows their journey across hills and through forests, over enormous walls and stormy seas, encountering things both wondrous and scary in their search for a new home.

What is it like to leave everything behind and travel miles and miles to somewhere unfamiliar and strange? This incredibly poignant story introduces the concept of refugees with straightforward language, tackling this difficult subject with truth and clarity. Strikingly beautiful illustrations convey all the emotions of the storyteller through a brilliant interplay of changing colours and perspectives, darkness and light.

The unspecified time and setting makes *The Journey* quite universal; the fear of the unknown balanced out by hope and dreams for the future.



Orange is no man's land- Elizabeth Laird

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

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

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

