

REFUGEE WEEK KIDS' ACTIVITIES

This Refugee Week we want to fill our windows, streets and classrooms with messages of welcome! We have put together some simple creative activities for children to do either at school or at home. These activities are designed for younger children, but at the bottom of the page we have included some ideas for older children. The focus is on compassion, kindness and showing welcome to those who need it.

Please do share everything you create with us. We love sharing your messages of welcome!

EXPLAIN

This week is Refugee Week. What is a refugee? We recommend you present this in your own style. The key facts:

Refugees are people just like you and me.

People who have been forced to leave their home because it is no longer safe. This could be because of war or persecution.

Sometimes refugees come to the UK to be safe, join family and restart their lives.

To escape danger, people leave their homes to try and reach a place of safety.

Sometimes people have to walk, other people take boats and some take planes. Some people's journeys can take a very long time and can be dangerous.

DISCUSS

If you had to leave your house, what would you take? What makes you feel safe and reminds you of home?

My mum's roast potatoes, because...



My pet rabbit, because...



Hugs from my family, because...



CHOOSE
LOVE

CREATE

Draw, paint, make or write about one object that makes you feel safe or reminds you of home.

REFLECT

It can sometimes be very scary and lonely travelling to somewhere new - especially for someone who has had to leave their home and maybe even their whole family. What kinds of things would you do to help people feel welcome and safe?

If someone felt sad I would tell them a joke.



I would make someone feel welcome by giving them cake.



When we get a new neighbour we go and say hello and show them my favourite local places.



CREATE AND COMPILE

Make a WELCOME WALL, a big montage of everyone's drawings and creations celebrating everyone's ideas of safety, home and welcome.



**CHOOSE
LOVE**

Additional activities & activities for older children:

CHOOSE WELCOME MANIFESTO

Reflect on how important welcome is to making people feel safe and building a positive community, and then write your own WELCOME MANIFESTO.

Some examples:

- We will always share what we have.
- We will always smile and be friendly.
- I will always learn from other people and never make assumptions.

CHOOSE WELCOME POSTER

Make a WELCOME POSTER to hang in your window at home, at school, in your bedroom or anywhere else you like. It could be a drawing or it could say a statement like, 'I choose welcome!'.

BOOKLIST

Pick something from our Refugee Experience Booklist on the next page. All these books explore themes such as identity, belonging, conflict, and refugee experiences.

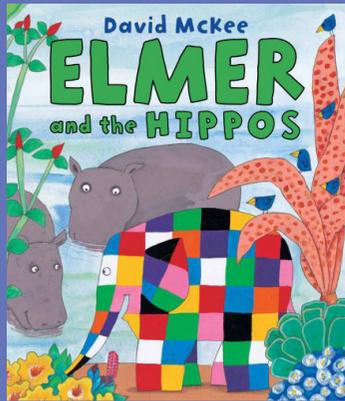


Please do share your creations with us! This could be photos of your WELCOME WALL, videos of readings from your Welcome Manifestos or any other moments of hope and happiness that happen during the activities.

You can do this via email: contact@choose.love or tag us [@chooselove](https://www.instagram.com/chooselove) on Instagram and Twitter. We will share your creations on our social media throughout Refugee Week. Please do get consent from parents or carers before sharing children's photos online.

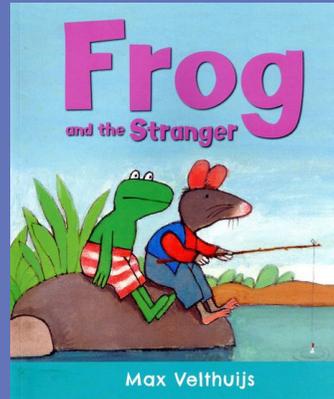
REFUGEE EXPERIENCE BOOKLIST

KEY STAGE 1



Elmer and the Hippos by David McKee

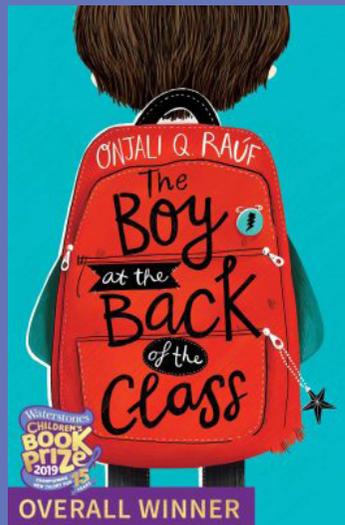
The elephants are not happy – the hippos have come to share the river because theirs has dried up. When they complain to Elmer that the river is over-crowded, everyone's favourite patchwork elephant sets off to see if he can find a solution.



Frog and the Stranger by Max Velthuis

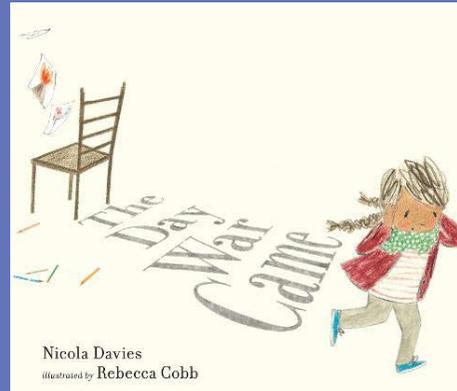
Frog's friends are unhappy when Rat, a stranger, sets up camp at the edge of the woods. But Frog doesn't mind that Rat is different and they become friends. Soon, Frog's friends learn that different does not mean bad and that their ideas about rats were all wrong.

LOWER KEY STAGE 2



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf, illustrated by Pippa Curnick

Told with heart and humour, The Boy at the Back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.



The Day War Came by Nicola Davies and Rebecca Cobb

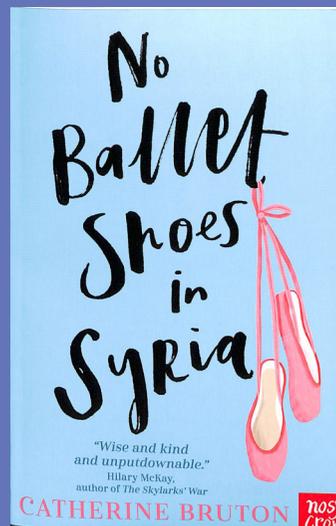
When the government refused to allow 3,000 child refugees to enter the UK in 2016, Nicola Davies was so angry she wrote a poem. It's that poem that forms the text of this book about a child forced to become a refugee when war destroys everything she has ever known.

UPPER KEY STAGE 2/KEY STAGE 3



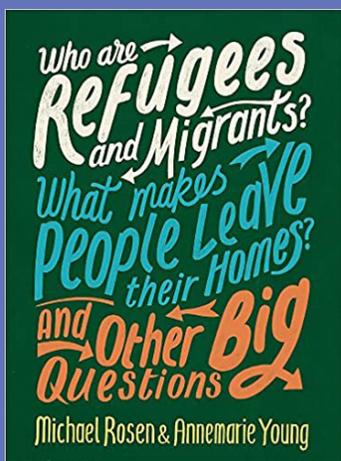
Boy, Everywhere by A. M. Dassu

The story of the journey taken by Sami and his family from privilege to poverty, across countries and continents, from a comfortable life in Damascus to a prison in Manchester.



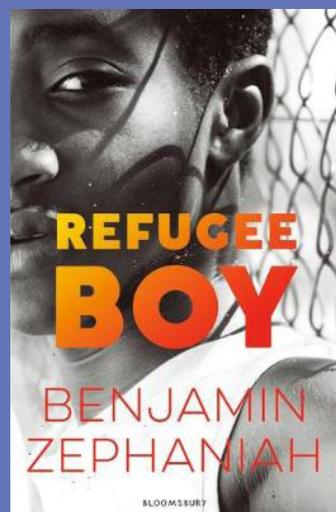
No Ballet Shoes in Syria by Catherine Bruton

Aya is eleven years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the formidable dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship. But at the same time, Aya and her family must fight to be allowed to remain in the country, to make a home for themselves and to find Aya's father – separated from the rest of the family during the journey from Syria.



Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave Their Homes? And Other Big Questions by Anne-Marie Young and Michael Rosen

A much needed look behind the headlines raising questions which will help young people think deeply and constructively about what is happening in the world today.



Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, his mother Eritrean. Their countries are at war, and Alem is welcome in neither place. So Alem is excited to spend a holiday in London with his father – until he wakes up to find him gone. What seems like a betrayal is in fact an act of love, but now Alem is alone in a strange country, and he must forge his own path.

Choose Love does whatever it takes to provide refugees and displaced people with everything from lifesaving rescue boats to food and legal advice. We support over 150 fast-acting community organisations around the world – all powered by a vision of a world that chooses love and justice every day, for everyone. www.choose.love

**CHOOSE
LOVE**