

# Ethnic Minority Achievement newsletter



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## Key dates and celebrations during June 2022

May 2022

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This edition includes:

1. **Refugee Week 2022** – The theme this year is ‘Healing’.
  2. **Ukraine**
  3. **Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month** - This year our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is 'What Makes a Home?'
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### Refugee Week 2022 is 20 – 26 June

The theme this year is ‘Healing’. Through creativity and conversations, Refugee Week 2022 will be a celebration of community, mutual care, and the human ability to start again.

#### Useful resources:

[Refugee Week 2022 Event Organiser Pack](#)

[Refugee Week](#)

[Refugee Week 2022 | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[Migration Terms and Definitions | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[Explain refugees to KS1 children](#)

[Build on your KS2 pupils' knowledge and raise awareness](#)

[Help your kids understand refugees](#)

[Online tour: Migration objects in the collection | Royal Museums Greenwich](#)

[Migration, Heritage and Belonging Project](#)

[Helping refugees is helping everyone. And every country that embraces them will win](#)

#### Children's Books about Refugees & Immigration

[Books to Help Kids Understand What It's Like to Be a Refugee | Brightly \(readbrightly.com\)](#)

[11 of the best books for teaching and learning about refugees \(teachwire.net\)](#)

[Refugees - 40 books to raise awareness | LoveReading4Kids](#)

[Books for Topics: Refugees & Immigration](#) – also see a list in the appendixes section.

#### Some questions to explore

- What does healing mean?
- What do we learn from refugees in terms of ‘healing’ process and hopes they hold?
- What can we do to make refugees to truly feel safe?

#### Some topics to revisit or explore further?

What is Refugee Week?

Who is a refugee?

Refugee narratives

Migration, Identity and Belonging

## Ukraine

[Ukrainian educational and language resources, books and audiobooks](#)

Educating pupils about the conflict in Ukraine.

[Those who have become Refugees](#)

[Working for Peace](#)

[Danger, Sadness, Peace](#)

[Prayers for Ukraine Powerpoint](#)

[Prayers for Ukraine Script for Powerpoint](#)

### Some useful links for child appropriate information

One of the best is BBC Newsround <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround> the videos and features are constantly being updated.

*War in Ukraine – What do the words mean?* Is a useful resource explaining some of the key words used in News programmes. Find it here <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/60536983>

Education Hub – *Help for teachers and families to talk to pupils about Russia's invasion of Ukraine and how to help them avoid misinformation.*

Picture News – [Ukraine Collective Worship Powerpoint](#)

Prayer Space in Schools – [Helping Children and Young People to Reflect and Pray](#)

British Red Cross – [Relevant Well being Activities, How to Talk about Conflict and Adult Wellbeing Resources](#)

## Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month

Every June since 2008, people from across the UK have celebrated Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month. Through celebration, education and raising awareness, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month helps to tackle prejudice, challenge myths and to amplify the voices of Gypsies, Roma and Travellers in wider society.

This year our theme for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month is **'What Makes a Home?'**

[Gypsy, Roma and Traveller History Month 2022 - Friends, Families and Travellers \(gypsy-traveller.org\)](#)

Download the 'What Makes a Home' GRTHM participation packs below or order a pack to be posted to you using [this form](#).

Participation pack for the general public - [Download here](#)

Participation pack for schools - [Download here](#)

Participation pack for local authorities - [Download here](#)

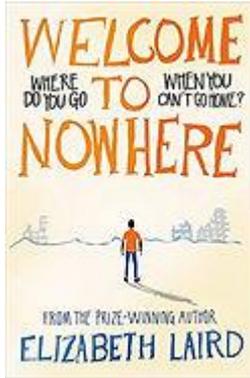
GRTHM Selfie photocard - [Download here](#)

Poster timeline of significant dates in history for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers - [Download here](#)

Language cards of key phrases in Irish Cant, Scottish Cant and Romani dialects - [Download here](#)

What Makes A Home Storytelling cards - [Download here](#)

[Free resource to celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month | Travellers Times](#)



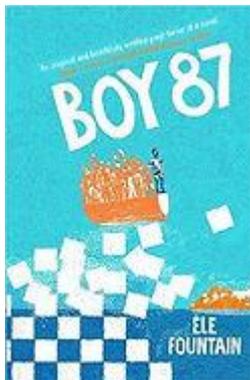
Welcome to Nowhere  
Elizabeth Laird

"This story is one that stayed in my thoughts for a long time after reading it. It tells the story of Omar and his family who live in Syria. Civil War breaks out and impacts on the family in different ways, eventually leading to them to flee Syria and become refugees. This realistic, moving story is an important read in opening children's eyes and helping them to understand the plight of refugees. I couldn't put it down."



The Arrival  
Shaun Tan

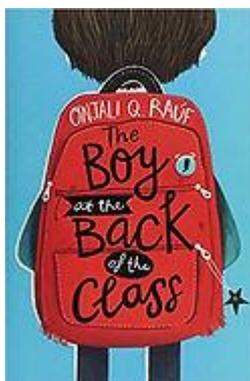
"This fantastic picture book captures migration and immigration so well. The pictures are amazing and my Y6 children were so engaged; they produced some of their best writing in fact. The discussions we had around the topic were incredible as the book can be linked to tolerance and other British values so it is cross-curricular, as well as being able to link geography and history (make any link to migration e.g. during WWII) too. I would highly recommend this book for UKS2 and beyond, and possibly even Y4."



Boy 87  
Ele Fountain

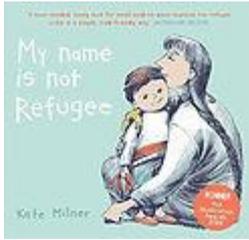
"A harrowing account of how one boy makes the journey to freedom and ultimately safety. Eye opening to anyone who is new to the subject and a must share in classrooms."

Read the full review of this book on [Paul's blog here](#).



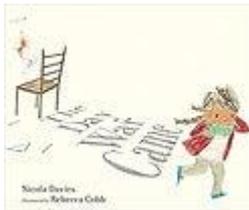
The Boy at the Back of the Class  
Onjali Q. Rauf

"It is truly lovely - pitched just right to build empathy, promote kindness, and encourage readers to challenge stereotypes and question opinions that may not be based on fact. I love it! .....filled with so much warmth and truth, pitched perfectly for stimulating some really great discussions with my youngsters!"

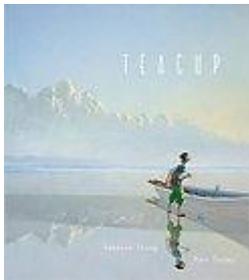


My Name is Not Refugee  
Kate Milner

"Written and illustrated in an accessible format for children of all ages to understand the plight of a refugee family as they try to cope in a new environment. The direct questions involve the reader or give an adult the chance to develop discussion."



The Day War Came  
Nicola Davies & Rebecca Cobb

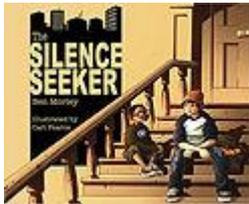


Teacup  
Rebecca Young & Matt Ottley

"*"Once there was a boy who had to leave his home...and find another."* So begins the beautifully told story about weathering the journeys of life. "Teacup" is gently written with lyrical text and stunning artwork. The illustrations are epic and widescreen and the story is subtle and light. The boy's teacup holds only a small amount of earth from his childhood, but little

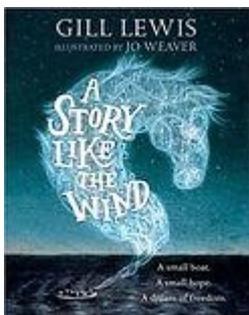
does the boy know that something is growing inside.

Teacup is a book about growing up or immigration or the importance of home or possibly none of those things. What it is however, is profound, stunning and a book to lose time in exploring its nuance and beauty."



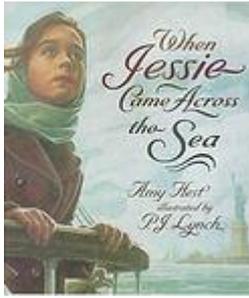
The Silence Seeker  
Ben Morley & Carl Pearce

"A great tale of how an asylum-seeking family move next door to an American family, and the boys of both families make friends, even though they don't share the same language. Raises lots of questions about the world, and great for the 'kindness' virtue. Suitable for KS1 and KS2."



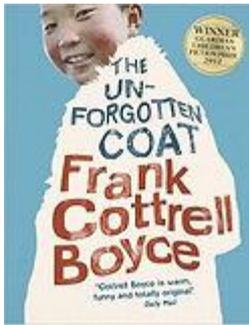
A Story Like The Wind  
Gill Lewis & Jo Weaver

"A very special and quite beautiful book from award-winning Gill Lewis, magnificently illustrated by Jo Weaver. It tells the moving tale of Rami, one of many refugees crowded into a boat sailing towards their dream of a safe refuge. As they travel, they tell their stories and Rami has his violin which when played, weaves the most lyrical story of freedom. A stunning, rich, emotive book."



When Jessie Came Across the Sea  
Amy Hest

"This is the story of an immigrant to the US; a young Jewish girl sailing from Eastern Europe and leaving everything she knows to start a new life. Beautiful illustrations make this a sophisticated picture book to be appreciated by older children too."



The Unforgotten Coat  
Frank Cottrell Boyce

"A brilliant story about the realities of illegal immigration as experienced by two Mongolian brothers who arrive at a Bootle primary school in Liverpool."



Tomorrow  
Nadine Kadaan

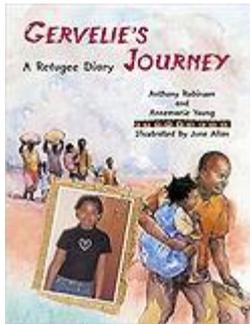
"Nadine Kadaan brings to life the story of Yazan, a Syrian boy who is stuck inside the house – no school, no play and parents distracted by war...Tomorrow is a story from young Yazan's viewpoint – what is important to a young boy? Meeting his friends, playing with his new bike that has a special bell that goes TINGALINGALING! He even misses school and his friends.

This is a story for every child in every part of the world – because this is a tragedy of our contemporary world. Children who are growing up now in the UK or in any other continent should be given the opportunity to understand and empathise with their peers in war-torn cities and countries."



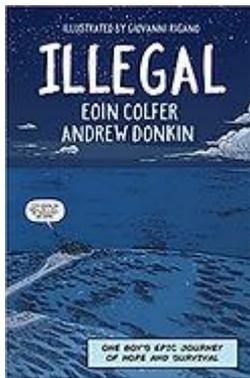
Leaf  
Sandra Dieckmann

This colourful, beautifully illustrated tale is thoughtful and heart-warming. When a strange, white creature arrives in the wild woods, he is ignored by all the animals. He is a stranger and outsider and strangers and outsiders cannot be trusted. One day, the animals watch as the creature tries to fly back home, on wings made of leaves. But where is home? A moving story with an important message about how we treat others."



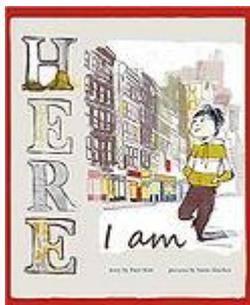
Gervelie's Journey: A Refugee Diary  
Anthony Robinson, Annemarie Young & June Allan

"Brilliant text telling the true story of a girl who was displaced from Congo, travelled to other countries in Africa, was further displaced again before finally seeking asylum in the UK. Told in the child's voice, using a combination of photographs, artwork and text. Allows Y4 upwards to study different points of a refugee's journey and to understand the reasons that asylum seekers arrive in Europe. Have used it as a base for 4 weeks of literacy during a topic on migration, children's rights and democracy."



Illegal  
Eoin Colfer, Andrew Donkin & Giovanni Rigano

"Aimed at year 6+, Illegal is a graphic novel about a boy named Ebo and his journey from Africa to Europe. A family orientated story, it shows the painful reality of families torn apart and the determination, and hope, of a reunion. I would love there to be more books about Ebo, as epic and dangerous as his journey is, only part of his struggle has been told, and like all refugees who make it to Europe... it really is only the beginning."



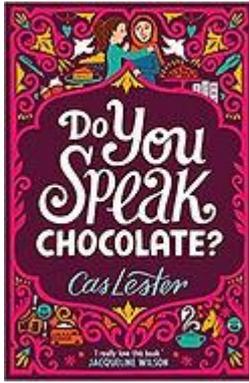
Here I am  
Patti Kim & Sonia Sanchez

"In this wordless picture book Here I am, Patti Kim and Sonia Sánchez bring the awe, the unfamiliarity of a new city to a young immigrant. As there are no words, children who are in similar situations (sadly more of them nowadays), can fill it in with their own unique stories. It's a great book to initiate questions and discussions, interpret feelings and importantly be empathetic - wear the shoes of an immigrant or a refugee as you walk through your own city - what do you see?"



Who are Refugees and Migrants? What Makes People Leave their Homes?  
And Other Big Question  
Michael Rosen & Annemarie Young

"A non-fiction text that explores refugees from a historical and global perspective. Suitable for KS2, this book includes case studies of different people's experiences of immigration as well as raising questions to stir further thinking and discussion around the topic."

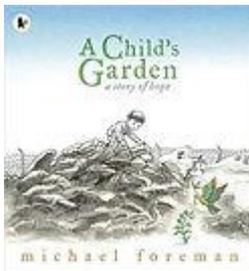


Don't Stop Thinking About Tomorrow (KS3+)  
Siobhan Curham

"A well told, honest story about the hidden (and often ignored) issues some young people in our society are dealing with every day. Heart breaking and heart warming in equal measures. A book that should be read by every teenager.

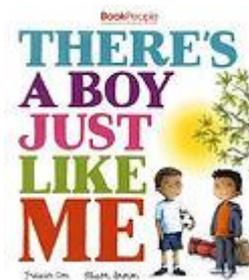
Stevie is a (friendless) young career, struggling with her mum's depression, poverty and school life, who meets a young Syrian refugee - Hafiz. Hafiz has his own struggles, forced to flee Syria (alone - leaving his home, family and friends behind) to endure the arduous and life threatening journey to his Aunt and Uncle in the UK.

These two ordinary teenagers, forced together at school, find a friendship they were not expecting. Each has a passion - Stevie with her love of music and Hafiz with his love of football. Despite their differences and (until the end) not truly understanding the other's struggles, their friendship gives them each a glimpse of what happiness is."



A Child's Garden: A Story of Hope  
Michael Foreman

"Beautiful and thought-provoking picture book for upper KS2 looking at a modern conflict with displaced children on one side of a barrier contained by soldiers and uses stunning imagery and inference of a vine growing across a divide. The implication is that this is the Palestinian/Israeli conflict although it does not need to be used in this context. The children I have used this with were blown away by the imagery and loved looking at this book over and over again."

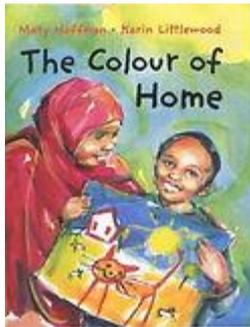


There's a Boy Just Like Me  
Frasier Cox & Alison Brown

"A touching story of friendship about a boy and a refugee written by a 9 year old boy and superbly illustrated by Alison Brown."

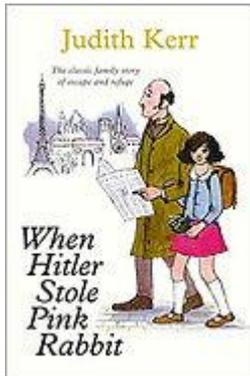
Do You Speak Chocolate?  
Cas Lester

"When new girl Nadima arrives at school speaking very little English she struggles to make friends until Jas reaches out a hand of friendship by sharing her chocolate. Nadima's experiences as a refugee are incredibly difficult for her friends to relate to, they can never truly understand what her life was like in Syria. This thoughtful story cleverly captures the fear and brutality she has experienced in a powerful and moving way."



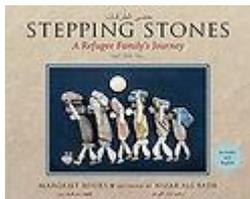
The Colour of Home  
Mary Hoffman & Karin Littlewood

"Beautiful picture book about a Somali boy arriving in a UK classroom as a refugee. It shows (very gently) the trauma he has experienced and the way in which he learns to overcome some of his fears and experiences through art and colour as a healing process. Has a beautiful message of hope."



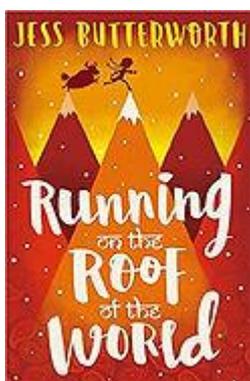
When Hitler stole Pink Rabbit  
Judith Kerr

"The marvellous Judith Kerr draws on her own experience as a wartime refugee to tell the story of nine year old Anna, forced to flee Germany with her family. Everything is told from Anna's point of view, so children can empathise; many will recognise her dilemma over whether to pack the new toy dog or beloved pink rabbit. The child's point of view gives the book power and poignancy, but Anna's resilience and spirit make this a positive book, although the subject is so sad. It lives on in the memory and is, as Michael Morpurgo says, "life-enhancing!"



Stepping stones: A refugee family's journey  
Margriet Ruurs, Nizar Ali Badr & Falah Raheem

"An emotional and gripping yet gentle read, this bilingual picturebook (Arabic/English) is suitable for all ages and reading abilities. Rama and her family's story set in Syria will prompt plenty of discussion about home, family and the migrant experience. The simply amazing artwork, created using stones, expresses the emotions underpinning the refugee narrative and will pull creative responses from even the youngest reader. The biographical notes accompanying this collaborative work tell a story that is as wonderful as the book itself and enrich the whole. A must have book for every school or classroom library."



Running On The Roof Of The World  
Jess Butterworth

"So many children in our world live in conflict and war zones every day, and face perilous journeys to find somewhere they can live in peace, without fear. Books that tell their stories with empathy, compassion and understanding, as shown in Running On The Roof Of The World, deserve a place in every School Library and Class Library from Upper Key Stage 2 onwards.

Tash lives in Tibet. She knows the rules. She knows what happens to people who don't follow them. The people taken by the Wujing don't ever return. Rule Number One: Don't run in front of a soldier. Rule Number Two: Never look at a soldier. Rule Number Three: Say as little as possible. Rule Number Four: Never draw attention to yourself. And, there are two words banned in Tibet, two words you must never say: Dalai Lama.



When a man sets himself on fire as a protest against the Chinese rule, soldiers flood her town. With their street being searched house by house, her father sends her on a dangerous mission. Only when she sees her father being held by the Wujing does she flee, and with the help of best friend Sam, begin rapid preparations for the gruelling journey across the Himalayas to ask for help from the Dalai Lama in India, never knowing who she can trust.

A gripping adventure, filled with danger, sorrow and hope. Tash shows true courage and determination against all the odds, and never forgets the compassion her parents taught her. Jess Butterworth brings the Himalayas within touching distance with her ability to conjure the sights and sounds with perfect clarity in the reader's mind.

Great for fans of *Looking At The Stars*, *Welcome to Nowhere* and *The Bone Sparrow*. In fact, it's a must read for all our children. If they can't imagine the lives that other children face in our world, they won't have the compassion, empathy and understanding needed to help begin to make all of our world a friendlier place to live."



The Island  
Armin Greder

"This stark older picture book is about an island where a stranger gets washed up onto the beach. The stranger isn't like the islanders and this makes them fearful. A kindly fisherman persuades them to take the stranger in rather than return him to the sea; however the stranger is not welcome on the island. The islanders' fears turn to gossip and speculation and they form a mob that forcibly removes the stranger and punishes the fisherman. They then make sure that no one ever visits the island again. This is a moving, thoughtful book perfect for KS2 – an excellent discussion tool when looking at migration and refugees."



Front Desk  
Kelly Yang

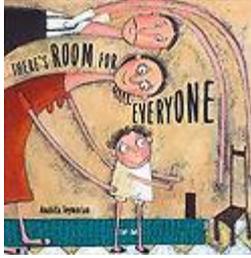
"A story about a Chinese girl called Mia living in America with her parents, this book explores the themes of immigration, prejudice, poverty, institutionalised racism and what it looks like to hold onto hope in turbulent times. Mia's account of the difficulties her family faces as immigrants in modern day America is moving and powerful. Recommended for upper KS2."



The Journey

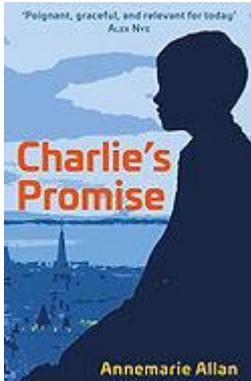
Francesca Sanna

"There is so much detail in this beautiful book - each page stirs heart wrenching thoughts and sparks discussion. An extremely useful book to aid understanding and empathy of the refugee crisis."



There's Room for Everyone  
Anahita Teymorian

"A child wonders, if there is room in the sky for all the stars and in the sea for all the fish and in the library for all the books, why people still fight over space? Surely if we are kinder, there is room for everyone in this beautiful world. There's Room for Everyone is a picture book that talks about conflicts and spaces that can be shared. It makes children think about these concepts compassionately, without thinking of a specific ethnicity as victims of war. The story is timeless, an can open discussions about acceptance and kindness in any context."



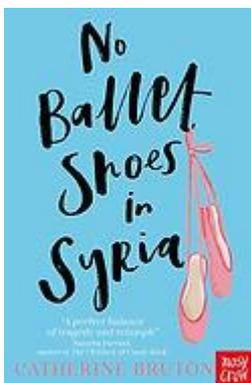
Charlie's Promise  
Annemarie Allan

"Annemarie Allan's poignant and uplifting WW2 tale of a runaway German refugee boy in Edinburgh proves that strangers need not be enemies."



King of the Sky  
Nicola Davies & Laura Carlin

"A powerful and poignant picture book from the incredible Nicola Davies with expressive, emotive and challenging illustration by the gifted Laura Carlin. The story, nominated for the 2018 Greenaway Medal, tells of a young boy starting a new life in a mining community in Wales having moved from Italy. He befriends Mr Evans who races pigeons, and there follows a sensitive exploration of the boy's feelings. With a focus on making people welcome and empathising with those in similar situations, this is a fabulous book to use in the classroom. Various teaching notes available from CLPE, Amnesty UK and the publishers Walker will give teachers a springboard with planning too."



No Ballet Shoes in Syria  
Catherine Bruton  
Nominated by: @TheBookWhisper2, primary school librarian

"No Ballet Shoes in Syria is truly a beautiful and powerful story of love, loyalty and hope in the face of immense challenges. It's so inspiring that I've emailed a volunteer centre working with refugees to see if I can teach some family yoga classes there. It's not ballet, but it's fun and a bonding experience in a time of stress."



**For queries on the content of this bulletin, please contact:**

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