

**The Reading Agency's Booklist for Children, Young People and Adults
Refugee Week (14-20 June 2021)**



Adults

***The Lightless Sky: My Journey to Safety as a Child Refugee* by Gulwali Passarlay (Atlantic Books)
ISBN: 9781786497154**

Gulwali Passarlay was sent away from Afghanistan at the age of twelve, after his father was killed. He made a twelve-month odyssey across Europe, spending time in prisons, suffering hunger, making a terrifying journey across the Mediterranean in a tiny boat, and enduring a desolate month in the camp at Calais. Somehow he survived, and made it to Britain, where he was fostered, sent to school, and won a place at a top university. This powerful memoir celebrates the triumph of courage over adversity.

***We Have Always Been Here* by Samra Habib (Quercus)
ISBN: 9781529404869**

A memoir of hope, faith and love, Samra Habib's story starts with growing up as part of a threatened minority sect in Pakistan, and follows her arrival in Canada as a refugee, before escaping an arranged marriage at sixteen. When she realized she was queer, it was yet another way she felt like an outsider. A triumphant story of forgiveness and freedom, *We Have Always Been Here* is a rallying cry for anyone who has ever felt alone and a testament to the power of fearlessly inhabiting one's truest self.

***A Long Petal of the Sea* by Isabel Allende, translated from the Spanish by Nick Caistor and Amanda Hopkinson (Bloomsbury)
ISBN: 9781526615947**

Victor Dalmau is a young doctor when he is caught up in the Spanish Civil War. Together with his sister-in-law, he is forced out of his beloved Barcelona and into exile. When opportunity to seek refuge in Chile arises, they take it, boarding a ship chartered by the poet Pablo Neruda. There, they find themselves enmeshed in a rich web of characters who come together in love and tragedy over

the course of four generations, destined to witness the battle between freedom and repression as it plays out across the world. A masterful work of historical fiction about hope, exile and belonging, *A Long Petal of the Sea* is Isabel Allende at the height of her powers.

***Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid (Penguin General)**

ISBN: 9780241979068

Nadia and Saeed are two ordinary young people, attempting to do an extraordinary thing - to fall in love - in a world turned upside down. Theirs will be a love story but also a story about how we live now and how we might live tomorrow, of a world in crisis and two human beings travelling through it. Civil war has come to the city which Nadia and Saeed call home. Before long they will need to leave their motherland behind - when the streets are no longer useable and the unknown is safer than the known. They will join the great outpouring of people fleeing a collapsing city, hoping against hope, looking for their place in the world...

***You People* by Nikita Lalwani (Viking)**

ISBN: 9780241409534

At the Pizzeria Vesuvio, half the kitchen staff are illegal immigrants. At the centre is Tuli, the restaurant's charismatic proprietor and resident Robin Hood, who promises to help anyone in need. Welsh nineteen-year-old Nia, haunted by her troubled past, is running from her family. Shan, having fled the Sri Lankan civil war, is desperate to find his. But when Tuli's guidance leads them all into dangerous territory, and the extent of his mysterious operation unravels, each is faced with an impossible moral choice.

***The Ungrateful Refugee* by Dina Nayeri (Canongate)**

ISBN: 9781786893499

Aged eight, Dina Nayeri fled Iran along with her mother and brother, and lived in the crumbling shell of an Italian hotel-turned-refugee camp. Eventually she was granted asylum in America. Now, Nayeri weaves together her own vivid story with those of other asylum seekers in recent years.

Children

***A Home for Luna* by Stef Gemmill, illustrated by Mel Armstrong (New Frontier)**

ISBN: 9781912858514

When Luna washes up on a strange shore she is scared and lonely. She soon discovers there is beauty in her new land, and along the way makes unexpected friends. But will she ever feel at home in a place so different from the one she remembers?

***Lubna and Pebble* by Wendy Meddour, illustrated by Daniel Egnéus (Oxford University Press)**

ISBN: 9780192767257

In an unforgettable story that subtly addresses the refugee crisis, a young girl must decide if friendship means giving up the one item that gives her comfort during a time of utter uncertainty. Lubna's best friend is a pebble. She found it on the beach when they arrived in the night, then she fell asleep in Daddy's salty arms.

***Ballerina Dreams* by Michaela DePrince, illustrated by Ella Okstad (Faber Children's Books)
ISBN: 9780571329731**

At the age of three, Michaela DePrince found a photo of a ballerina that changed her life. She was living in an orphanage in Sierra Leone at the time, but was soon adopted by a family and brought to America. Michaela never forgot the photo of the dancer she once saw, and decided to make her dream of becoming a ballerina come true.

***The Boy At the Back of the Class* by Onjali Q. Rauf, illustrated by Pippa Curnick (Hachette Children's Group)
ISBN: 9781510105010**

When a new boy joins their class, a group of children try to befriend him. They soon learn that Ahmet is a refugee and has been separated from his family. None of the grown-ups seem to be able to help him, so the friends come up with a daring plan, embarking on an extraordinary adventure.

***A House Without Walls* by Elizabeth Laird (Pan Macmillan Children's Books)
ISBN: 9781509828241**

Thirteen-year-old Safiya and her family have been driven out of Syria by civil war. Safiya knows how lucky she is - lucky not to be living in a refugee camp, lucky to be alive. But it's hard to feel grateful when she's forced to look after her father and brother rather than go back to school, and now that she's lost her home, she's lonelier than ever. As they struggle to rebuild their lives, Safiya realizes that her family has always been incomplete and with her own future in the balance, it's time to uncover the secrets that war has kept buried.

Young Adult

***Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah (Bloomsbury)
9781408894996**

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...

***Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (Puffin)
ISBN: 9780141347400**

It's early 1945 and a group of people trek across Germany, bound together by their desperation to reach the ship that can take them away from the war-ravaged land. Four young people, each haunted by their own dark secret, narrate their unforgettable stories... Ruta Sepetys devoted three years of research into what still remains the worst maritime disaster in history, the sinking of the German military transport ship the Wilhelm Gustloff in 1945.

***Refugee* by Alan Gratz (Scholastic)
ISBN: 9781407184326**

Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Isabel is a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety

in America. Mahmoud is a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. And although Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud are separated by continents and decades, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

***The Red Pencil* by Andrea D Pinkney (Little, Brown)**

ISBN: 9780316247825

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.