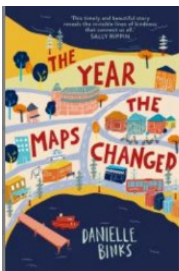
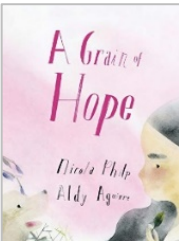
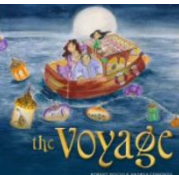


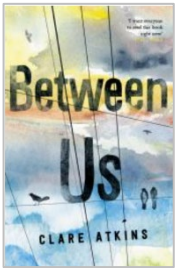
Henry Parkes Equity Resource Centre

Refugee Fiction

New and popular annotated bibliography

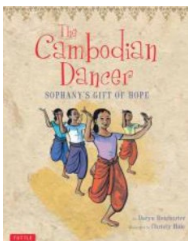
Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	<p><i>The year the maps changed</i> by Danielle Binks. Sydney, NSW: Lothian. 2020. FIC F BIN</p> <p>Shortlisted for the <i>Readings Children's Book Prize 2021</i>, this novel depicts an intimate story of loss, grief and love for Winifred's family while giving a broad overview of the Australian government's response to the plight of refugees during 1999. Inspired by true events stemming from the Kosovar war, young readers are encouraged to be informed about world events and politics. Winifred shows how kindness, compassion and knowledge can empower individuals to be positive change-makers in a complex world. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
	<p><i>A grain of hope</i> by Nicola Philp & Aldy Aguirre. Apollo Bay, VIC: Publishink Press. 2019. FIC F PHI</p> <p><i>Grain of Hope</i> is a picture book about a child and a puppy which mirrors two stories across each double page. In both stories the characters face challenges of parental loss, displacement, hardship and neglect that require resilience and hope. Where one story is positively resolved the other is left in uncertain circumstances. The book aims to raise awareness of the refugee experience including the uncertainty of detention. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
	<p><i>The voyage</i> by Robert Vescio & Andrea Edmonds. Chatswood, NSW: EK Books. 2019. FIC F VES</p> <p>This book has been listed as one of the 2020 Notable Social Studies Trade Books for Young People. A refugee family's escape from their war torn country is depicted in this visually detailed picture book. Each double</p>

page has one word describing the events and feelings of the family. Starting with 'CHAOS' and ending with 'NEW' the family's journey moves from tragedy to triumph. With the limited text and rich visual literacy provided, readers can construct their own narrative to relate personally with this family's refugee experience. **Suitable for primary schools.**



Between us by Clare Atkins. Carlton, VIC: Black Inc. 2018. **FIC F ATK**

A novel for young adult readers, this book explores cultural politics in Australia as well as the complexity of romantic, peer and family relationships. Anahita is an Iranian asylum seeker residing at Wickham Point Detention Centre in Australia. She is released to attend a Darwin high school where she meets and forms a close relationship with troubled Jono. Negative attitudes towards asylum seekers are reflected in the character of Kenny who works at the detention centre and is Jono's father. Examination of this book can allow teachers to prompt students to think critically about racial generalisations, media representations of migrants and asylum seekers. Difficult topics of self-harm, mental illness and family separation are also depicted. **Suitable for high schools.**



The Cambodian dancer: Sophany's gift of hope by Daryn Reicherter; illustrated by Christy Hale. Rutland, Vermont: Tuttle Publishing. 2018.

FIC F REI

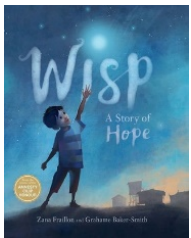
This book is based on the true story of a Cambodian refugee who fled the Khmer Rouge. Sophany was an exceptional traditional dancer who performed for royalty as a child. As she rebuilds her life in the United States of America she heals herself and others by counselling other Cambodian refugees. The Khmer Rouge had outlawed the ancient dances which Sophany had so loved. In her new country she forms a school of dance for children to learn the joys of dance and connect to their culture. **Suitable for primary and high schools.**



Refugee by Alan Gratz. Gosford, NSW: Scholastic Australia. 2018.

FIC F GRA

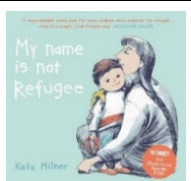
Escaping conflict is the common thread between three main characters who are seeking refuge. Josef is a Jewish boy living in 1930s Nazi Germany whose family seek safe passage overseas. Isabel's family escape the 1994 riots in Cuba by sailing towards America in a raft. On a long trek through Europe, Mahmoud's family escape the Syrian Civil War in 2015. Suitable for young adults, this historical fiction is full of suspense, action and emotional turmoil where the lives of the children bisect in unexpected ways. **Suitable for high schools.**



Wisp: a story of hope by Zana Fraillon & Grahame Baker-Smith. Sydney, NSW: Lothian Children's Books. 2018.

FIC F FRA

This picture book is about a child named Idris, born in a refugee camp. Although, he has no memories of the world outside, the darkness of the camp has taken away the memories of others. When Idris holds a fragile Wisp of light, a desire for something else begins to grow. The Wisp travels to other refugees and grows as they regain treasured memories from their former lives. A glimmer of hope to regain a free and vibrant life brightens their present circumstances. For Idris, the Wisp provides a promise of better things to come. **Suitable for primary schools.**



My name is not refugee by Kate Milner. Edinburgh: The Bucket List. 2017.

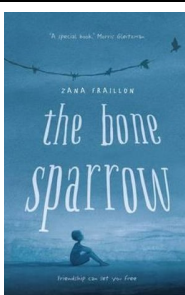
FIC F MIL

This winner of the *2016 V & A Student Illustration Award*, describes the emotional, mental and physical challenges of the refugee experience that is accessible for young readers. The boy recounts what his mother told him and the unusual activities and sights they encounter as they travel to a safe place. The illustrations fill in the gaps of what is not said by his mother, showing a harsher reality. The story is relatable for any nationality, religion or age. **Suitable for primary schools.**



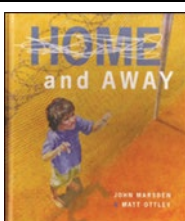
Stepping stones: a refugee family's journey by Margriet Ruurs; artwork by Nizar Ali Badr. St Lucia. Qld: University of Queensland Press, 2017. **BIL ARABI RUU**

The text in this book is bilingual in Arabic and English. Artist Nizar Ali Badr uses stones to illustrate the recollection of a family's happier times before fleeing the outbreak of war. The book depicts the long arduous journey across land and sea with only what they could carry, in search of refuge. The family rejoice living in a new place, free from the threat of war. **Suitable for primary schools.**




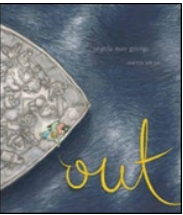

The bone sparrow by Zana Fraillon. Sydney, NSW: Lothian. 2016. **FIC F FRA**

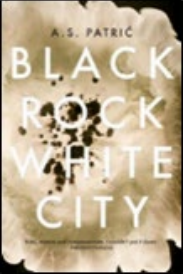


Set in a modern-day Australian detention centre, this novel centres on Subhi a ten year old boy born in an Australian permanent detention centre. His mother, a Rohingya refugee, fled persecution in Myanmar and has taught him all about his culture and homeland through story telling. These stories provide him with an optimism and imagination to cope with the realities of detention life. He befriends an adventurous girl called Jimmie who breaches the fence to test the gossip from peers about the refugees. Subhi helps her 'hear' her deceased mother's voice once more by reading a note book she left behind. The gripping story of her ancestors provide hope and healing for both of them. A winner of the **CILIP Amnesty Honour 2017 awards**, this book is recommended for mature stage 3 and older readers. **Suitable for primary and high schools.**



Home and away by John Marsden & Matt Ottley. Sydney: Lothian Children's Books, 2016. **FIC F MAR**

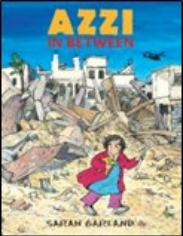
This story is presented as a diary account, allowing readers to imagine what it would be like if their lives were suddenly thrown into war overnight. The characters are defined by their likes and dislikes and individual quirks, however as the story unfolds those attributes give way to their need for survival. After a perilous journey by boat a family is detained behind razor wire. Set in Australia, from a Western viewpoint, this book provides opportunities for writing from the perspective of a refugee. A great

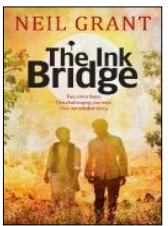
Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	<p>springboard for older students to investigate the governing laws and political viewpoints about asylum seekers in Australia. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
	<p><i>The journey</i> by Francesca Sanna. London: Flying Eye Books. 2016. FIC F SAN</p> <p>Told from the perspective of a young girl, this books relies on the imagery of shadows and giants to tell the story of what is seemingly an endless journey across land and sea, hiding from the presence of soldiers and the reliance on strangers, in the hope of seeking refuge. The book highlights the losses caused by war, the death of her father and the need to abandon material possessions in order to make the voyage. It depicts the bravery and strength of a mother’s determination to keep her family together, in the hope of a better life. Vibrant illustrations help tell a powerful story. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
	<p><i>Out</i> by Angela May George; [illustrated by] Owen Swan. Gosford, NSW: Scholastic Australia, 2016. FIC F GEO</p> <p>Predominately a picture book, a young girl is determined to start life in a new country. The girl vividly remembers the ordeal of her long trip to seek refuge, however she does not want to be defined by those experiences. She enjoys her new life but misses her father who is still detained in their home country. This book looks at the separation and return of loved ones and the many paths people take to build a new life. The pervading presence of hope helps to communicate the ordeals that refugees face. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
	<p><i>When Michael met Mina</i> by Randa Abdel-Fattah. Sydney, New South Wales: Pan. 2016. FIC F ABD</p> <p>This is a classic Romeo and Juliet love story, without the tragic ending, set against a backdrop of the current refugee crisis. Michael is at a rally for refugees supporting his father’s political party called <i>Aussie Values</i> protesting against boat arrivals. He sees Mina on the other side of the rally, advocating for refugees and is struck by her beauty. When she enrolls at his</p>

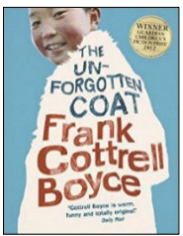
Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	<p>school he battles between his attraction and prejudices. The two main characters expose the opposing sides of the refugee debate through their experiences. Suitable for high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Black rock white city</i> by Alec S. Patric. Melbourne: Transit Lounge. 2015. FIC F PAT</p> <p>A compassionate novel about human nature. A husband and wife are living daily with the tragic losses of war, having being forced to flee Sarajevo years ago. This book explores the couple's challenges of living in Australia's current urban environment, where prejudice and violence are very much in existence. It also deals with coming to terms with loss, the feeling of being displaced, and the limits in choices, underpinned by hope and dreams of a better future. For mature secondary readers - coarse language. Suitable for high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Flight</i> by Nadia Wheatley; [illustrated by] Armin Greder. 1st edition. Victoria: Windy Hollow Books. 2015. FIC F WHE</p> <p>The story about a couple and their infant son fleeing from persecution. Dramatic illustrations are accompanied by simple, easy to read text. Underlying the story is an unwavering theme of hope and faith for a better life. The book addresses the hardships that refugees face: protecting their children from harm, scarce food and water, travelling long distances in harsh terrain as well as the ever present threat of violence and capture. The story ends with the family taking refuge in a camp. The wait for a new home is a long one, but still the family cling to hope that one day their circumstances will change. A great resource to generate discussion and reflection in older learners. Suitable for high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Teacup</i> by Rebecca Young; [illustrated by] Matt Ottley. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic Australia. 2015. FIC F YOU</p> <p>A story of a boy leaving his homeland, surviving a long journey by sea and finding safety. Another traveller joins him, bearing the seed to build a new home. Simple text is accompanied by illustrations for visual literacy, reflection and discussion. Although the theme is about a young person</p>


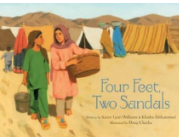
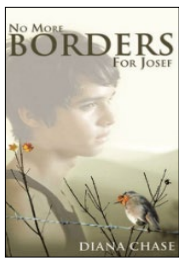
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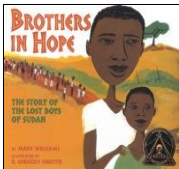

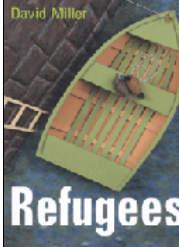
	<p>seeking asylum, the issues are depicted in a fictitious journey, to engage young readers. The book also has lots of symbolism and imagery for readers to make connections to the plight of refugees. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
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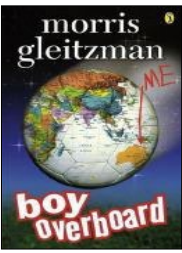
	<p><i>Azzi in between</i> by Sarah Garland. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books. 2012. FIC F GAR</p> <p>Azzi and her parents have to urgently leave their home and escape to another country on a frightening journey by car and boat. In the new country Azzi has to learn to speak another language, find a home and start a new school. With a kind helper at the school, she begins to learn English and understand that she is not the only one who has had to flee her home. Using her courage and resourcefulness, she begins to adapt to her new life. Her grandma has been left behind and is dearly missed. This story is endorsed by Amnesty International. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
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	<p><i>The ink bridge</i> by Neil Grant. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin. 2012. FIC F GRA</p> <p>This book illustrates the enduring horror of Afghanistan's wars and shows the complexity of challenges and harsh realities faced by its people. It shows the desperation that impels refugees to seek homes elsewhere. A troubled Australian boy crosses paths with Omen when they both work in a factory. They soon learn to trust each other, share experiences and demonstrate the power of empathy and understanding. Recommended for mid-secondary readers. This is a shortlisted book from the Children's Book Council of Australia. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
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	<p><i>The un-forgotten coat</i> by Frank Cottrell Boyce; photographs by Carl Hunter & Clare Heney. London: Walker. 2012. FIC F COT</p> <p>This is a story about a summer of friendship for two refugee brothers from Mongolia who are determined to fit in with their schoolmates. They soon adapt to life in England and make strong friendships, sharing funny stories from their homeland. Their contented life is abruptly ended when Chingis and his family are forced to return to Mongolia. A light-hearted approach to</p>
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Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	<p>a disheartening reality that many refugee families face. Suitable for Stage 3 and secondary. Awarded winner in the Guardian Children’s Fiction prize in 2012. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Ziba came on a boat</i> by Liz Lofthouse; [illustrated by] Robert Ingpen. Victoria: Penguin. 2012. FIC F LOF</p> <p>A story about a little girl whose family has lost everything and their brave journey to make a new life. As Ziba rides on a boat nearer to the country that will be her new home, she remembers the country she is leaving and the happy times with family, but also the time when the violence started. Beautifully illustrated with simple text, an ideal book for visual literacy, reflection and discussion for younger readers. This is a shortlisted book from the Children’s Book Council of Australia. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
	<p><i>Four feet, two sandals</i> written by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed; illustrated by Doug Chayka. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers. 2007. FIC F WIL</p> <p>When relief workers distribute clothing at a refugee camp in Pakistan, two barefoot girls emerge with one sandal each from a matching pair. Linna has been without footwear for two years. Feroza is newly arrived at the camp and has swollen and cracked feet. The pretty sandals ignite a friendship based on not only sharing the sandals but also their past memories and future dreams. As they await resettlement, their fractured families grow closer with the gift of the sandals representing more than the practical function it provides. Suitable for primary schools.</p>
	<p><i>No more borders for Josef</i> by Dianna Chase. Fremantle, WA: Fremantle Arts Centre Press. 2006. FIC F CHA</p> <p>This emotionally charged and uplifting story highlights the resilience of youth in the face of trauma and adversity. The book tells the story of an orphaned 13 year old boy forced to cross the border to escape the brutal Balkans conflict. He spends a long and monotonous time in a refugee camp, before being brought to the safety of Australia by an estranged uncle. A</p>

Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	<p>determined Josef deals with the trauma of his past and learns to adapt to learning a new language and culture. He soon develops friendships and a forges a new life saving animals who need his help, in the safety of Australia. Suitable for high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Brothers in hope: the story of the Lost Boys of Sudan</i> by Mary Williams. New York: Lee & Low Books. 2005. FIC F WIL</p> <p>Eight-year-old Garang, orphaned by a civil war in Sudan, finds the inner strength to help lead thousands of other boys as they trek hundreds of miles seeking safety in Ethiopia, then Kenya, and finally in the United States. Based on true events. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
	<p><i>The island</i> by John Heffernan. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic. 2005. FIC F HEF</p> <p>A captivating story about being imprisoned on an island, with no foreseeable hope of a change of circumstances. A blind boy lives on the island, oblivious to the oppressive circumstances that surrounds him. He befriends a happy sea creature that is free to swim in the ocean. Possessing a different perspective of the world, the two are able to experience the wonder in their everyday surroundings. It is not until the inhabitants of the island try to imprison the sea creature that it too, succumbs to depression and sadness. The story is a metaphor about mental health and the bleak despair that one feels when they are alienated, displaced and imprisoned. Recommended for ages eight and over. Suitable for primary and high schools.</p>
	<p><i>Refugees</i> by David Miller. South Melbourne: Lothian, 2005. FIC F MIL</p> <p>Beautifully illustrated with simple text, this book tells a story of two ducks forced out of their peaceful home by the violent intrusion of urbanization and change. The story is a metaphor for asylum seekers, providing opportunities for students across all primary school stages, for deep discussion and reflection. The book addresses the harsh challenges faced, and the need for strength, hope and help from others to survive and find a safe place to stay. The story ends with the ducks finding happiness in a new safe environment. Awarded the Short List, Children's Book Council of Australia.</p>

Resource cover	Annotated bibliography
	Suitable for primary schools.
	<p><i>Boy overboard</i> by Morris Gleitzman. Victoria: Penguin. 2002. FIC F GLE</p> <p>The story of two young brothers from Afghanistan, where landmines and war are part of their everyday experience. One night they have to escape. They survive an incredible journey, encountering assassins, pirates and stormy seas. A story from the perspective of two young brothers, who hold on to their dreams to play soccer for Australia, not quite understanding the struggles that lay ahead to have a normal free life again. A relatable book for young readers to understand the plight of refugees. Suitable for primary schools.</p>

Contact

Our team are available to contact on:

- Mondays to Wednesdays from 8am to 5pm
- Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 3pm

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