

“ Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope, it is a bulwark against poverty, and a building block of development... ”  
Kofi Annan

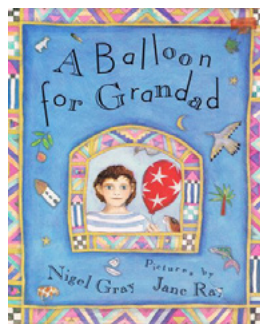
# Global Citizenship through fiction

Fiction can be a great way in to exploring complex themes, even for very young children. The titles below are divided by stage and have been selected for the way in which they make **Global Citizenship themes** accessible to learners...

## EARLY / FIRST

### A Balloon for Grandad by Michael Gray (2002)

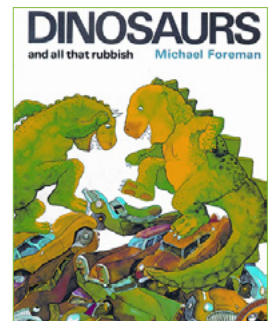
Sam’s balloon is on an adventure. Over the mountains and over the sea, through the desert and along a river, this little red balloon has many sights to see. But Sam is sad that his balloon is leaving without him. Luckily for Sam, over the mountains and over the sea, through the desert and along the river, lives a very special person - Grandad. And when the balloon arrives, Grandad Abdullah will know that Sam is thinking of him, even though he is so far away.



Key theme: **Identity & Diversity**

### Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish by Michael Foreman (1972)

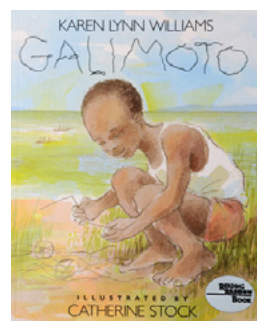
Dinosaurs have taken over the Earth! They’re stomping and stamping all over the place. Young readers will love finding out why in this classic environmental tale from best-selling author/illustrator Michael Foreman.



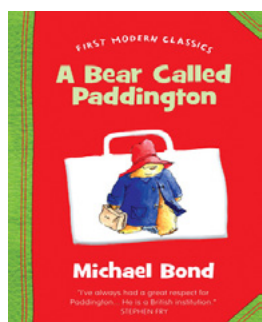
Key theme: **Concern for the Environment**

### Galimoto by Karen Lynn Williams (2000)

When Kondi tells his older brother Ufulu that he is going to make a galimoto, Ufulu laughs at him. Where in the village will Kondi find enough wire to shape into a truck, a car, even a bicycle? “A boy with only seven years cannot make such a toy,” says Ufulu. But Kondi is determined to have his very own galimoto by the end of the day.



Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Children’s Rights**



### A Bear called Paddington by Michael Bond (1958)

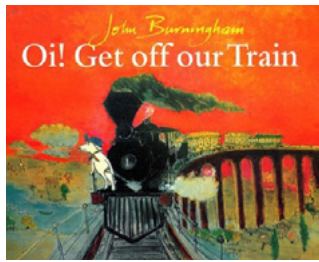
Paddington is adopted by the Brown family after they find him sitting on a suitcase at Paddington Station with a note pinned to his coat

reading ‘Please Look After This Bear’. Curious and always willing to help, Paddington enriches their lives as he comes to terms with the many difficulties of living in Notting Hill after a life spent in deepest, darkest Peru.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**EARLY / FIRST**

**Oi! Get off our Train!**  
by John Burningham (1991)



One night, as a little boy goes to sleep clutching his pajama-case dog, he drifts off into an elaborate, imaginative journey by train. But what's this? One endangered animal after another - an elephant, a seal, a tiger - tries to join the boy and his dog on their global junket.

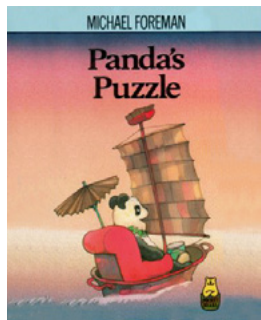
Key theme: **Concern for the Environment**

**Something Else**  
by Kathryn Cave (1994)



Something Else is excluded from everything because he looks different from the other creatures. He does not play the same games, eat the same food or draw the same pictures. Then one day Something turns up and wants to be friends. However, Something Else does not want to be friends as he believes that they are not the same and he refuses to eat sandwiches with 'Urgy stuff' in them. He sends Something away and then suddenly realizes that he acts like all the other people who always sent him away. A charming exploration of diversity for young children.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Children's Rights**



**Panda's Puzzle and His Voyage of Discovery**  
by Michael Foreman (1978)

Panda travels all around the world trying to find out whether he is a "white bear with black bits or a black bear with white bits?"

Key theme: **Identity & Diversity**

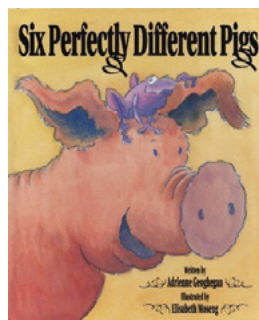
**Susan Laughs**  
by Jeanne Willis (2000)



Told in rhyme, this story follows Susan through a series of familiar activities. She swims with her father, works hard in school, plays with her friends - and even rides a horse. Lively, thoughtfully drawn illustrations reveal a portrait of a busy, happy little girl with whom younger readers will identify. Not until the end of the story is it revealed that Susan uses a wheelchair.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Children's Rights**

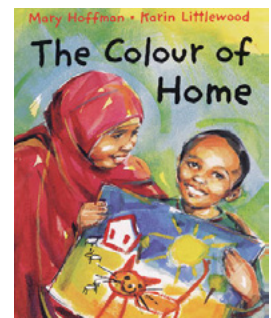
**Six Perfectly Different Pigs**  
by Adrienne Geoghegan (1993)



The six little pigs are perfectly happy together until one notices that Paprika's tail is straight instead of curly. Everyone laughs at him, and he goes to his mother who tries to help. She uses a curler, but the tail straightens anyway, a knot hurts too much, and a knitted curly tail looks silly. When a purple frog comes along and finds something different about each of the six little pigs, they learn to accept differences, and the frog has to accept his too: 'We're six perfectly different pigs and one perfectly purple frog'.

Key theme: **Identity & Diversity**

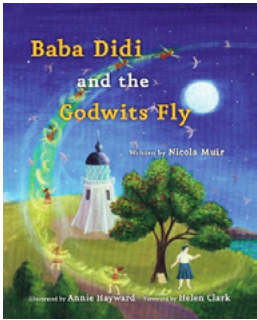
**The Colour of Home**  
by Mary Hoffman (2003)



At his new school, Hassan paints a picture showing his colourful Somalian home, covered with the harsh colours of war from which his family has fled. He tells his teacher about their voyage from Mogadishu to Mombasa, then to the refugee camp and on to England. The story describes Hassan's sadness and how the school makes him feel welcome and settled.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**FIRST / SECOND**



**Baba Didi and the Godwits**  
by Nicola Muir (2013)

A girl and her grandmother are on a beach in New Zealand watching the godwits feeding. The story of the godwits' epic migration is charmingly told,

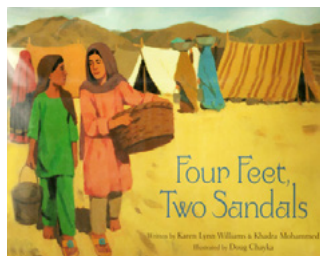
and touches on human migration - of the Maori to Aotearoa, as well as Baba Didi, the grandmother's own journey from Croatia.

Key themes: **Diversity, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**Fly, Bessie, Fly!**  
by Lynn Joseph (1998)

More than anything, Bessie Coleman wants to fly. As a small child working in a Texas cotton field, she likes to imagine she's a bird, spreading her wings and flying away. When Bessie learns about the black fighter pilots of World War I, she gets the idea that maybe she really can fly. But no one in the US will teach her how to fly a plane because she's black and a woman. So Bessie goes to France, where she becomes the first black woman to earn a pilot's license - and where she finally has the chance to soar with the birds.

Key themes: **Gender Stereotypes, Identity & Diversity**



**Four Feet, Two Sandals**  
by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed (2007)

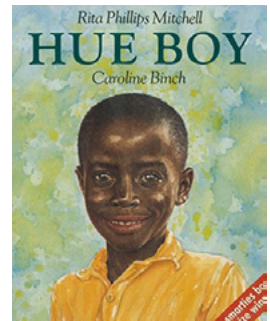
When relief workers bring used clothing to a refugee camp in Pakistan, ten-year-old Lina is thrilled when she finds a sandal that fits her foot perfectly - until she sees that another girl has the matching shoe. But soon Lina and Feroza meet and decide that it is better to share the sandals than for each to wear only one. The girls discover the true meaning of friendship and sacrifice.

Key themes: **Conflict, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**Hue Boy**  
by Rita Phillips Mitchell (1992)

Hue Boy is small - smaller than all his friends, and he doesn't seem to grow at all, no matter what his mother gives him to eat, or how much he runs and jumps and plays. His mother takes him first to the doctor, and then to the Wise Man of the village. But nothing seems to help Hue Boy to grow. Then Hue Boy's father comes home from working overseas, and at last Hue starts to grow. With his dad back, he feels comfortable with himself, and his size doesn't worry him any more.

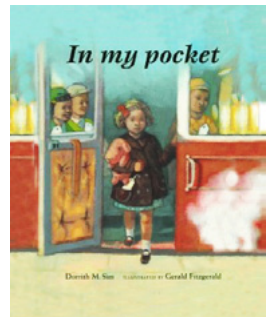
Key theme: **Identity & Diversity**



**In My Pocket**  
by Dorrieth M. Sim (1997)

Told in a child's voice, this story of a young German-Jewish girl who, in 1939, is carried to a new, safe life in a foreign country transcends time and offers an immediate, intimate glimpse into the life of a refugee and a world on the brink of war.

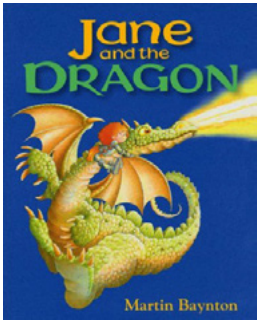
Key themes: **Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Peace & Conflict**



“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

WB Yeats

**FIRST / SECOND**



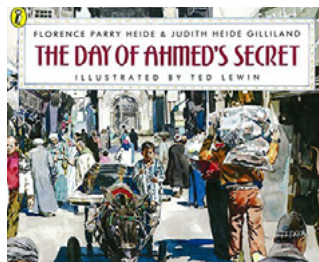
**Jane and the dragon**  
by Martin Baynton (1988)

Jane is a young girl whose mother is a lady-in-waiting to the queen. Jane is expected to grow up in her mother's footsteps, but wishes to become a knight. When the royal prince is kidnapped by

a dragon, Jane sets out to rescue the boy. She does and becomes a squire in the process. She does not slay the dragon but instead befriends him, and they soon become best friends.

Key themes: **Gender Stereotypes, Identity & Diversity**

**The Day of Ahmed's Secret**  
by Florence Parry Heide (1997)



As young Ahmed delivers butane gas to customers all over the city of Cairo, he thinks, I have a secret. All day long, as he manoeuvres his donkey cart through streets crowded with cars and camels, down alleys filled with merchants' stalls, and past buildings a thousand years old, Ahmed keeps his secret safe inside (he has learned to write his name in Arabic) - one children will enjoy trying to guess.

Key themes: **Children's Rights, Identity & Diversity**

“A book is the most effective weapon against intolerance and ignorance.”

Lyndon B. Johnson



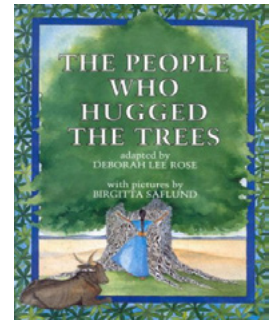
**The Name Jar**  
by Yangsook Choi (2003)

Being the new kid in school is hard enough, but what about when nobody can pronounce your name? When, Unhei, a young Korean girl, moves to America with her family, she wonders if

she should choose a new name.

Key themes: **Children's Rights, Identity & Diversity**

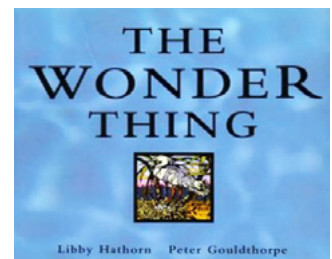
**The People who hugged trees**  
by Deborah Lee Rose (1990)



This Indian folktale tells the story of when the Maharajah's axemen try to cut down trees for his new fortress, Amrita and the villagers hug the trees in order to save them.

Key theme: **Concern for the Environment**

**The Wonder Thing**  
by Libby Hawthorne (1995)



Through a lyrical poem and stunning linoleum-block prints, readers are guided on a journey around the world to a deeper appreciation of "the wonder thing" - water - that is all around us.

Key theme: **Concern for the Environment**

**SECOND / THIRD**

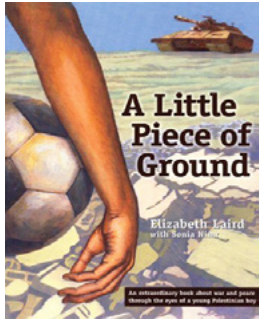
**A Little Piece of Ground**

by Elizabeth Laird (2004)

12-year-old Karim Aboudi and his family are trapped in their Ramallah home by a strict curfew. Karim longs to play football with his mates and when the curfew ends, he and his friend discover the perfect site for a football pitch. Nearby, an old car hidden intact under bulldozed buildings makes a brilliant den. But in this city there's constant danger, even for schoolboys. And when Israeli soldiers find Karim outside during the next curfew it seems impossible that he will survive.

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Key themes: **Peace & Conflict, Identity & Diversity Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

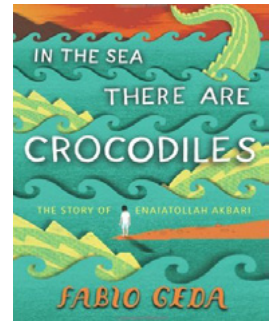


**In the sea there are crocodiles**

by Fabio Geda (2011)

One night before putting him to bed, Enaiatollah's mother tells him three things: don't use drugs, don't use weapons, don't steal. The next day he wakes up to find she isn't there. They have fled their village to seek safety outside Afghanistan but his mother has decided to return home to her younger children. Ten-year-old Enaiatollah is left alone in Pakistan to fend for himself. In a book based on a true story, Italian novelist Fabio Geda describes Enaiatollah's remarkable five-year journey from Afghanistan to Italy where he finally managed to claim political asylum.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

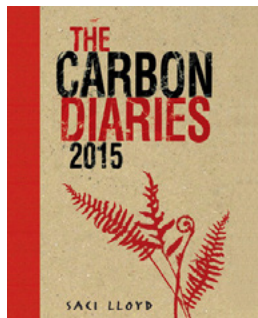


**Carbon Diaries**

by Saci Lloyd (2009)

The book chronicles a year of the life of Laura, a sixteen-year-old student in London, as the UK imposes carbon rationing in the wake of weather-related disasters. The stresses of rationing and extreme weather disrupt society, while Laura's family is torn apart as her father loses his job and her selfish older sister refuses to adapt. Laura just wants to live a normal life, attract the attention of the fetching and accomplished boy next door, and practice with her friends in her garage band.

Key theme: **Concern for the Environment**

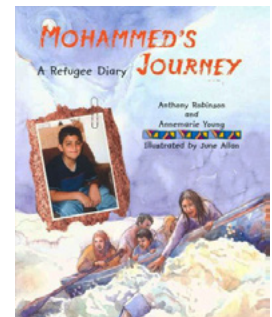


**Mohammed's Journey: A Refugee Diary**

by Anthony Robinson and Annemarie Young (2011)

Mohammed was born in Kirkuk. Saddam Hussein's soldiers came to his house, beat him and his mother, and took his father away. This book tells the story of Mohammed and his mother's escape from Iraq by bus, on horseback, in a boat, and on a lorry, through Iran and Turkey, to England and safety.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

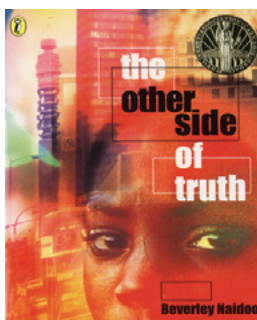


**Other side of truth**

by Beverly Naidoo (2000)

This children's novel about Nigerian political refugees is set in the autumn of 1995 during the reign in Nigeria of the dictator General Abacha. A Nigerian girl and her younger brother must leave suddenly after their mother is killed in a failed assassination of their outspoken father. They are smuggled to London but abandoned and they must cope with the police, social services and school bullies.

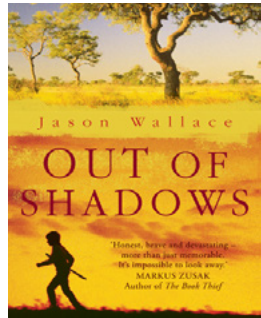
Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Peace & Conflict**



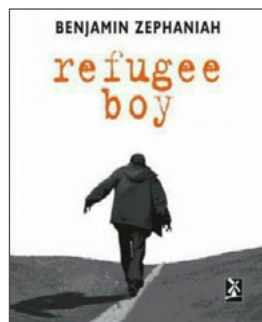
**SECOND / THIRD**

**Out of Shadows**  
by Jason Wallace (2010)

In 1980s Zimbabwe, the war is over, independence has been won and Robert Mugabe has come to power offering hope and freedom to black Africans. For Robert Jacklin, it's all new: new continent, new country, new school. And very quickly he learns that for some of his classmates, the sound of guns is still loud and their battles rage on... white boys who want their old country back, not this new black African government. Boys like Ivan - clever, cunning Ivan. For him, there is still one last battle to fight and he's taking it right to the very top.



Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Peace & Conflict**



**Refugee boy**  
by Benjamin Zephaniah (2001)

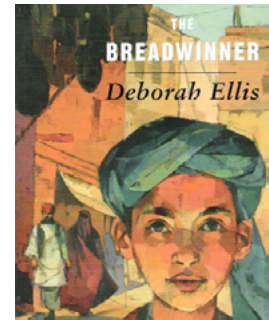
Alem is on holiday with his father in London. He has never been out of Ethiopia before and they have a great time together. One morning Alem wakes up to find his father

has left him. It is only when the owner of the bed and breakfast hands him a letter that Alem is given an explanation. His father admits that because of the political problems in Ethiopia, his parents felt Alem would be safer in London. Alem is now on his own, in the hands of the social services and the Refugee Council. He lives from letter to letter, waiting to hear from his father, and in particular about his mother who has now gone missing.

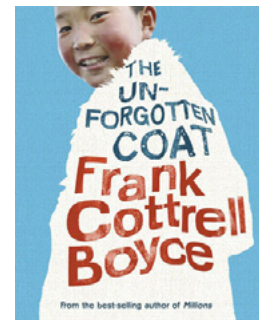
Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**The Breadwinner**  
by Deborah Ellis (2000)

Parvana is eleven years old when she becomes forced by circumstances to be the breadwinner for her family in a war-torn Taliban-era in Afghanistan. The author spent several months interviewing women and girls in refugee camps in Pakistan, and used these interviews as the basis of her depiction of life there under the Taliban.



Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Peace & Conflict, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**



**The Unforgotten Coat**  
by Frank Cottrell Boyce (2011)

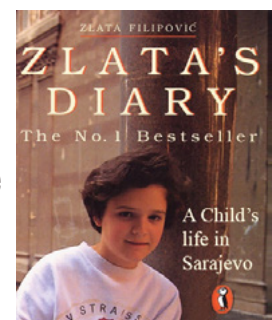
Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates, but bring so much of Mongolia to Bootle

that their new friend and guide, Julie, is hard-pressed to know truth from fantasy.

Key themes: **Identity & Diversity, Refugees & Asylum Seekers**

**Zlata's Diary**  
by Zlata Filipovic (1995)

Zlata's diary chronicles her daily life and the impact of the Bosnian war on her home town of Sarajevo. Reporter Janine di Giovanni, who met Zlata in 1993 and wrote the introduction to the book, described Zlata as "the Anne Frank of Sarajevo." Like *The Diary of Anne Frank*, Zlata's diary contains many descriptions of the horrors of war as viewed from the perspective of a child.



Key theme: **Peace & Conflict**

“Reading is a discount ticket to everywhere.”

Mary Schmich