

## Refugee fiction



**The arrival** by Shaun Tan. Sydney: Lothian Books, 2014. F TAN

"What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown. This silent graphic

novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey. *The arrival* has become one of the most critically acclaimed books of recent years, a wordless masterpiece that describes a world beyond any familiar time or place." – Publisher website.



**A beautiful life** [script] by Michael Fitcher & Helen Howard. Sydney: Currency Press, 2000. A822.3 FUT

"A boy, Amir, sees his parents on the news, under arrest for protesting at the Iranian Embassy in Canberra against atrocities in their homeland. Amir forces Hamid and Jhila to tell their story, believing that a hostile

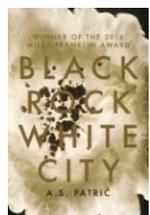
Australian public will understand their 'terrorist' actions when shown the bigger picture of their past. Revisiting memories of his wrongful imprisonment and torture in a Tehran jail, Hamid confronts an oppressive secret which has blighted his beautiful new life in Australia. As his lengthy trial continues, it is clear he has exchanged one nightmare world for another ... [This play] explores the often unforgettable histories of refugees. It is a haunting account of prejudice, injustice and brutality, tempered by a celebration of human kindness and indomitable hope." – Back cover.



**Beautiful words** [script] by Sean Riley. Sydney: Currency Press, 2008. A822.4 RIL

"An epic chronicle of the refugee experience, Beautiful worlds weaves together three very different stories of survival, told through the eyes of three children in different times and places. The outcome is heart-rending,

humorous, and surprising by turns. From the horrors of Auschwitz Concentration Camp in the final days of World War II, to Taliban-ruled Kabul, to present day Australia, this enthralling play presents a rich tapestry of human experience, overlapping lives, and the bonds that unite generations." – Publisher website.



**Black rock white city** by A. S. Patric. Melbourne: Transit Lounge, 2015. F PAT

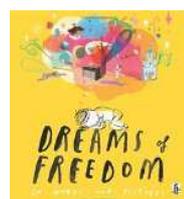
"During a hot Melbourne summer Jovan's cleaning work at a bayside hospital is disrupted by acts of graffiti and violence becoming increasingly malevolent. For Jovan the mysterious words that must be cleaned

away dislodge the poetry of the past. He and his wife Suzana were forced to flee Sarajevo and the death of their children. Intensely human, yet majestic in its moral vision, *Black rock white city* is an essential story of Australia's suburbs now, of displacement and immediate threat, and the unexpected responses of two refugees as they try to reclaim their dreams. It is a breathtaking roar of energy that explores the immigrant experience with ferocity, beauty and humour." – Back cover.



**Boat people** by Maurice Whelan. Charnwood, ACT: Ginninderra Press, 2008. F WHE

*Boat people* "is woven from archetypal stories which make up the tapestry of white settlement in Australia. Economic refugees from Ireland during the potato famine; political refugees fleeing persecution in the middle east. Their stories are powerfully similar, but also different in significant ways. The latest to arrive seem destined to try hardest, but to be singled out for hard treatment." – Julian Burnside, back cover. *Young adult fiction.*



**Dreams of freedom: in words and pictures.** London: Francis Lincoln Children's Books in association with Amnesty International UK, 2015. CHC 323.44 FRE

"This unique collection of powerful words from champions of freedom today and throughout history is published in association with Amnesty International. The book introduces children to the words of Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Anne Frank and Malala Yousafzai, among many others, and is beautifully illustrated by world-renowned artists including Chris Riddell, Ros Asquith, Roger Mello, Jackie Morris, Barroux, Peter Sis and Mordicai Gerstein." – Book flap. *For children aged over 6.*



**Girl in red** by Gaye Hicyilmaz. London: Orion, 2000. F HIC

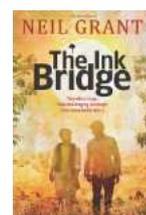
Frankie, a teenager, falls in love with Emilia, a gypsy. The residents of the housing estate, led by Frankie's mother, protest violently against Emilia's people, forcing him to confront the deeply held racial prejudice of both his family and the community. *Young*

*adult fiction.*



**Girl underground** by Morris Gleitzman. UK: Puffin, 2005. F GLE

"Trying to fit in at a posh new school is really hard when your loving and lovable family also happen to be criminals. Bridget is succeeding pretty well and has even made a friend, Menzies, the son of the federal Minister for National Development. Then she finds out about Menzies' penfriend, Jamal, a refugee kid from Afghanistan held in a detention centre. When daring appeals to the government and the prime minister himself fail to set Jamal and his sister free, Bridget and Menzies decide to take matters into their own hands. Sometimes the only way to make things happen is to do them yourself. A story of friendship, courage and Iraqi blenders from the best-selling author of *Boy overboard*." – Back cover. *Young adult fiction.*



**The ink bridge** by Neil Grant. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2012. F GRA

"A gripping story about one refugee boy on a desperate journey from Afghanistan, and the Australian boy who befriends him." – Publisher website. *Young adult fiction.*

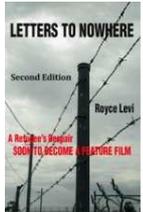
Refugee fiction



**Kindertransport** [script] by Diane Samuels. London: Nick Hern, 2008. 822.9 SAM

"The story of 10,000 Jewish refugee children who studied in the UK. This moving and powerful programme tells the story of the struggle Jewish refugee children faced in the late 1930s when they were uprooted from

home to avoid persecution and the forthcoming Holocaust." – TES connect.



**Letters to nowhere** by Royce Levi. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Book Pal, 2010. F LEV

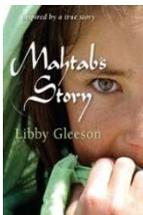
"The central figure in this story is a mysterious refugee detained in a remote centre amidst a hostile Australian landscape ... He inexplicably disappears at the very beginning of the narrative, leaving behind a cache of letters that is discovered by one of the guards. The letters tell the story of an extraordinary range of inmates, befriended by the old man, the enigmatic Number MO131." – Back cover.



**Little soldier** by Bernard Ashley. London: Orchard, 1999. F ASH

"When Kaninda survives a brutal attack on his village in East Africa he joins the rebel army, where he's trained to carry weapons, and use them. But aid workers take him to London where he fetches up in a comprehensive school. Clan and tribal conflicts are everywhere, and on the streets it's estate versus estate, urban tribe against urban tribe." – Back cover.

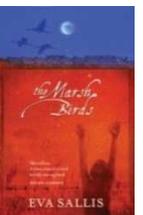
*Juvenile fiction.*



**Mahtab's story** by Libby Gleeson. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2008. F GLE

"Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home in Herat and journey secretly through the rocky mountains to Pakistan and from there to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting, months of dread, with

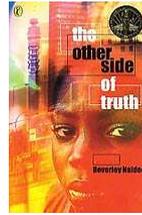
only memories and hopes to sustain them. Will they ever be reunited with their father, will they ever find a home? This compelling novel is based on the true story of one girl's voyage from Afghanistan to Australia with her family." – Publisher website. For teacher's notes, see: <http://goo.gl/ceVrYj>



**The marsh birds** by Eva Sallis. Crows Nest, NSW: Allen & Unwin, 2005. F SAL

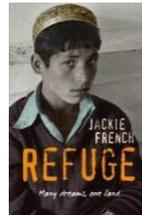
Dhurgham As-Samarra'i is a twelve-year-old boy. He has fled Baghdad with his family but becomes separated. "This is the story of what befalls Dhurgham after he realises his family won't be turning up; it is the story of his

journey into adulthood, his journey through bitterness to forgiveness and his journey from Iraq to Syria, to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and beyond." – Back cover. *Young adult fiction.*



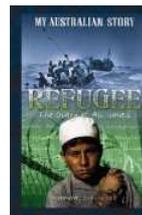
**The other side of truth** by Beverley Naidoo. London: Puffin, 2000. F NAI

"A tragedy – and a terrible loss for Sade and her younger brother, Femi, children of an outspoken Nigerian journalist. Now terror is all around them and they must flee their country. At once. And alone. Plans for their journey have to be hastily arranged. Everything must be done in secret. But once Sade and Femi reach England, they will be safe. Won't they?" – Back cover. *Young adult fiction.*



**Refuge** by Jackie French. Sydney South, NSW: HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. F FRE

"When a boat carrying a group of asylum seekers is sunk by a freak wave, Faris wakes from the shipwreck in an Australia he's always dreamed of. There are kangaroos grazing under orange trees and the sky is always blue. On a nearby beach, Faris meets a group of young people who have come from far different times and places. They are also seeking refuge, and each has their own story of why they had to leave their country to make a new life for themselves. It is only when Faris chooses to return to 'real life' and find his father in Australia that he learns the extraordinary truth about the friends he made in the golden beach." – Publisher website. *Young adult fiction.*



**Refugee: the diary of Ali Ismail** by Alan Sunderland. Lindfield, NSW: Scholastic, 2006. F SUN

"Fleeing persecution in Afghanistan, Ali is smuggled away from his family. He eventually finds himself on a ramshackle boat bound for Australia. But instead of winning freedom, Ali and his companions

are taken to a detention centre in the South Australian outback. For twelve long months, as he waits to find out if he will be allowed to stay, Ali must endure the hardship and despair of mandatory detention". – Back cover. *For children aged over 10.* Teacher notes, which include ideas for classroom discussion, are available online at: [http://www.scholastic.com.au/files/contributor\\_profile\\_download/MAS\\_Refugee\\_Teaches\\_Notes.pdf](http://www.scholastic.com.au/files/contributor_profile_download/MAS_Refugee_Teaches_Notes.pdf)