



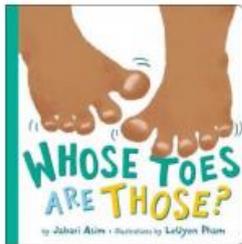
Oakfield Primary School Multicultural Reading Spine (suggested texts)

Here at Oakfield Primary school we are passionate in ensuring our children are respectful citizens, with an understanding of what makes all of us unique, valued and respected in terms of culture, race, ethnicity and beliefs. We want our children to have an appreciation for diversity, celebrating commonalities and our differences through a climate of inclusion and tolerance. We believe that books are invaluable in supporting children in their learning about different cultures and experiences and understanding a character's point of view.

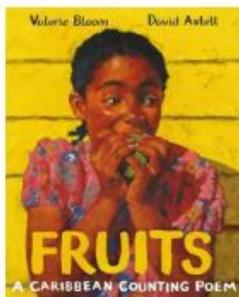
Below are some suggested texts for teaching staff to select to share with their children and authors to consider. These texts may be vehicles for writing or shared to foster a love of reading during classic text time. Age ranges are suggestions and staff are advised to review the texts according to the needs of their children.

This list below is not exhaustive and is updated regularly to meet the needs of our children and to reflect the high quality books staff at Oakfield Primary school have used in their practice or any recommended books for Primary age children that we think will benefit our children

Book list suggestions for ages 0-4 Nursery, reception-some possibilities for year 1 rhyme.

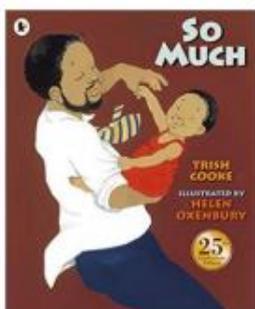


Whose Toes are Those?
Author: Jabari Asim
Illustrator: LeUyen Pham
Publisher: Little, Brown & Company
Age: 0-3



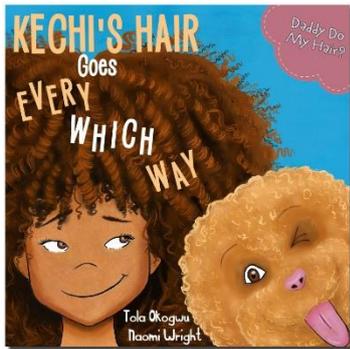
Fruits
Author: Valerie Bloom
Illustrator: David Axtell
Publisher: Pan Macmillan
Age: 2-5

Possible book for foundation-children learn the names of some unfamiliar fruits while counting 1-10



So Much
Author: Trish Cooke
Illustrator: Helen Oxenbury
Publisher: Walker Books
Age: 3-5

A tender and humorous look at modern family life, with exuberant art from the illustrator of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. Celebrate the warmth of Afro-Caribbean family life in this multiple award-winning picture book from Trish Cooke and Helen Oxenbury, illustrator of *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

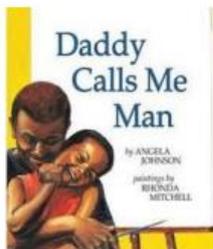


Tola Okogwu - *Hope's Braids / Beth's Twists / Kechi's Hair Goes Every Which Way*

Tola is a hair blogger, healthy hair coach and children's writer

Kechi's hair is big, thick and loud ... and that's just the way she likes it. Mummy's away and it's up to Daddy to get Kechi and her hair ready for school. There's just one problem... he doesn't know how!

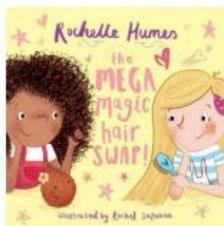
Fun and hilarity ensue as Daddy tries to tame Kechi's swirly-springy, fluffy-puffy, squishy-squashy, candyfloss curls.



Daddy Calls Me Man

Author: Angela Johnson
Illustrator: Rhonda Mitchell
Publisher: Scholastic Inc.
Age: 3-5

This story...consists of four short rhyming poems about the happy home life of a young African-American boy (written from the perspective of the boy).



The Mega Magic Hair Swap!

Author: Rochelle Humes
Illustrator: Rachel Suzanne
Publisher: Studio Press
Age: 3-5

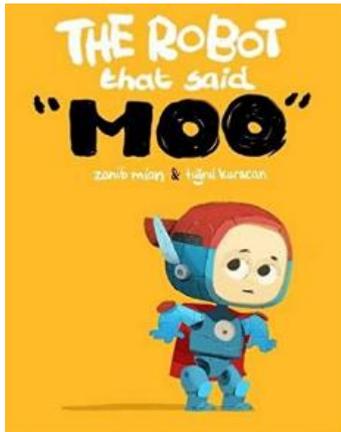
Mai and Rose are best friends but they're not two peas in a pod.

Mai has dark hair that is curly and whirly and never stays put. Why couldn't she have perfect hair just like her best friend Rose?

Rose has blonde hair, as straight as a ruler, which slips and slides whenever she tries to put it in a pony tail. Why couldn't she have perfect hair just like her best friend Mai?

When a magical coconut grants each girl their wish, and they get the hair they've always dreamt of, the friends are overjoyed. However, they soon learn that perfect hair is not everything it's cracked up to be. In fact, their hair was pretty magical and perfect the way it was before...

A joyful and fun story about celebrating differences and loving yourself from head to toe!

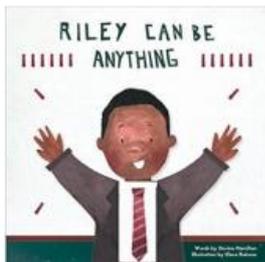


Zanib Mian - *The Robot That Said Moo / The Muslims* SEN links and multicultural. Book contains a letter at the end from the parents of the robot.

Zanib is a qualified Molecular Biologist and taught Science in secondary schools before she quit her to create change in the children's publishing scene. She launched Sweet Apple Publishers with a clear commitment to publishing inclusive books, many of which she has authored herself. Zanib has also launched a hugely successful publishing company for unique, quirky and inspirational Islamic books - Muslim Children's Books Ltd.

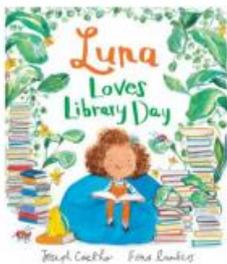
A robot is lost, and when a farmer on a tractor, a dentist on a bike, a banker in a car, a plumber on foot, and even a little boy stop to help him, all he can say is 'moo.' Whatever does he mean, and how will he get home? A charming tale kids will love to read time and time again!

Book lists for ages 5-8 (Key stage 1/Year 3



Riley Can Be Anything
Author: Davina Hamilton
Illustrator: Elena Reinoso
Publisher: The Ella Riley Group
Age: 5-7

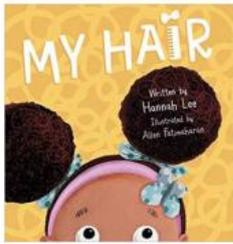
Careers link and aspirational-a book about all the things Riley could be when he grows up.



Luna Loves Library Day
Author: Joseph Coelho
Illustrator: Fiona Lumbers
Publisher: Andersen Press
Age: 5-7

"Luna Loves Library Day disguises the terror Luna is experiencing. It addresses this BIG grief, Luna's parents breaking up, which, for many children, can be their first loss. And so I was so grateful to see books themselves offer company, comfort and support with that very thing. Not all families look the same - and that is a great message to celebrate." Laura Dockrill

Luna loves library day: that's the day she spends with her dad. Exploring the shelves they find magic, mystery and even start to mend their own history. An inspiring story from one of the UK's greatest up-and-coming poets for children, captured in all its flights of fancy by newcomer Fiona Lumbers.



My Hair
Author: Hannah Lee
Illustrator: Allen Fatimaharan
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Age: 5-7

*My birthday's coming up so soon,
I'll need new clothes to wear.
But most of all, I need to know,
How shall I style my hair?*

Will it be dreads or a twist out? Braids or a high-top fade? Joyous and vibrant, this captures perfectly the excitement of getting ready for a celebration, as well as showcasing a dazzling array of intricate hairstyles. Can be used to develop rhythm.

This is a glorious debut from an exciting new partnership who both emerged from the FAB Prize for undiscovered BAME writers and illustrators.



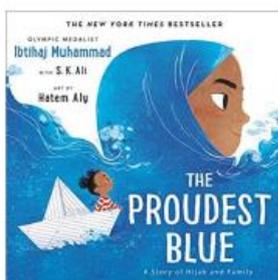
Sulwe
Author: Lupita N'yong'o
Illustrator: Vashti Harrison
Publisher: Puffin
Age: 5-8

From Academy Award-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o comes a powerful, moving picture book about colourism, self-esteem and learning that true beauty comes from within.

Sulwe's skin is the colour of midnight. She's darker than everyone in her family, and everyone at school. All she wants is to be beautiful and bright, like her mother and sister.

Then a magical journey through the night sky opens her eyes and changes everything.

In this stunning debut picture book, Lupita Nyong'o creates a whimsical and heart-warming story to inspire children to see their own unique beauty.

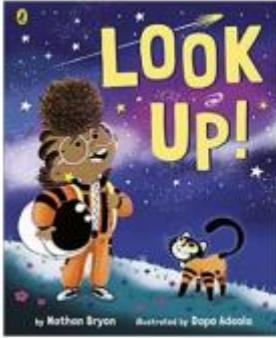


The Proudest Blue
Author: Ibtihaj Muhammad
Illustrator: Hatem Aly
Publisher: Little Brown Young Readers US
Age: 5-7

Asiya's hijab is like the ocean and the sky, no line between them, saying hello with a loud wave. It's Faizah's first day of school, and her older sister Asiya's first day of wearing hijab - made of a beautiful blue fabric. But not everyone sees hijab as beautiful. In the face of hurtful, confusing words, will Faizah find new ways to be strong?

(possibly foundation up)

This is an uplifting, universal story of new experiences, the unbreakable bond shared by siblings and of being proud of who you are, from Olympic medallist Ibtihaj Muhammad.



Look Up!
Author: Nathan Bryon
Illustrator: Dapo Adeola
Publisher: Puffin
Age: 5-7

This joyous, life-affirming picture book introduces the lovable Rocket, a space-obsessed girl who wants everybody to be as excited as her about an impending meteor shower. Bursting with eye-popping, vivid illustrations, *Look Up!* is a book that all budding young astronauts will love. 'Stop looking at your phone and up at the stars.'

Also in the series *Clean Up*-environmental messages about the plight of our oceans

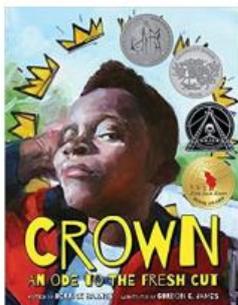


'Coming to England: An Inspiring True Story Celebrating the Windrush' by Floella Benjamin

A story about the triumph of hope, love, and determination, *Coming to England* is the inspiring true story of Baroness Floella Benjamin: from Trinidad, to London as part of the Windrush generation, to the House of Lords.

Follow ten-year-old Floella as she and her family set sail from the Caribbean to a new life in London. Alone on a huge ship for two weeks, then tumbled into a cold and unfriendly London, coming to England wasn't at all what Floella had expected . . . What will her new school be like? Will she meet the Queen?

Filled with optimism and joy, yet deeply personal and relevant, young children will follow Floella's experiences of moving home and making friends. Alongside vibrant illustrations by Diane Ewen, this powerful story shows little people how courage and determination can always overcome adversity.



Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut
Author: Derrick Barnes
Illustrator: Gordon C. James
Publisher: Denene Millner Books
Age: 5-7

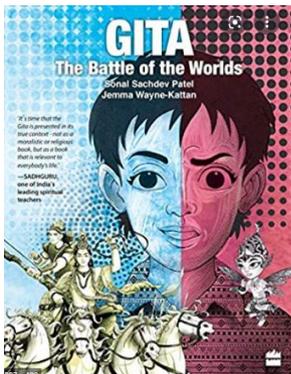
Named one of the best books of 2017 by NPR, the *Huffington Post*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus Reviews*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Boston Globe*, the *Horn Book Magazine*, the *News & Observer*, *BookPage*, Chicago Public Library, and more

A fresh cut makes boys fly.

This rhythmic, read-aloud title is an unbridled celebration of the self-esteem, confidence, and swagger boys feel when they leave the barber's chair—a tradition that places on their heads a figurative crown, beaming with jewels, that confirms their brilliance and worth and helps them not only love and accept themselves but also take a giant step toward caring how they present themselves to the world. The fresh cuts. That's where it all begins.

Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut is a high-spirited, engaging salute to the beautiful, raw, assured humanity of black boys and how they see themselves when they approve of their reflections in the mirror

Written in the style of a traditional ode and uses metaphor throughout—more than just a hair cut/cultural/pride

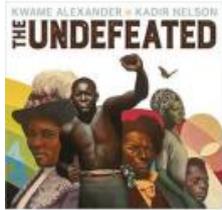


Sonal Sachdev Patel and Jemma Wayne-Kattan - *GITA* (lower ks2 Year 3/4)

When eleven-year-old Dev's father dies, he can't stop lashing out at those he loves. Until he meets Sanjay, a sprite-like being who claims there is a battle raging inside Dev's own body. Sanjay embarks on a perilous journey beginning in the darkest realm at the bottom of Dev's spine. As he searches for the noble warrior Prince Arjun, the only hope to defeat wicked Prince Ego, Sanjay encounters starving mobs, thieving gangs, water worlds and lands of fire, until at last he finds Arjun on the battlefield, ready to fight for Dev. This book takes the epic battle within the *Gita* and transports it inside the body of a young boy called Dev. A classic story of good overcoming evil, through Dev and Sanjay's adventure, readers will be able to connect with some of the deeper concepts in the *Gita*.

Jewish author Jemma Wayne-Kattan has helped reimagine one of the holiest books in the Hindu religion for children

Undefeated-Key stage 2-some themes may be upsetting and require discussion by teacher (ie slavery and death)



The Undefeated

Author: Kwame Alexander

Illustrator: Kadir Nelson

Publisher: Andersen Press

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/march/watch-kwame-alexander-read-aloud-from-the-undefeated/>

A brilliantly bold, poetically rousing picture book presentation of Black American history and achievements.

October 2019 Book of the Month

Written for and about "the swift and sweet ones/who hurdled history and opened a world of possible", for those who "survived America by any means necessary. And the ones who didn't," this is an inspiring ode to the author's forebears and to the world-changing feats of unforgettable Black American figures.

Author Kwame Alexander's initial inspiration for this book came in the year his second daughter was born, the same year Barack Obama became the first African American president of the USA. As a result, Alexander wanted his daughters "to know how we got to this historic moment", which is exactly what this stirring book does. The chained slaves who kept faith, the elite Olympians, the innovative musicians, the seminal scientists, the courageous activists - people from all walks of life are celebrated in Alexander's poetically poised words, and gloriously illustrated by Kadir Nelson, with much for young children to ponder and ask questions about. As well as being a wonderful way for parents to explore Black American history with their little ones on a one-to-one basis, this will also work well with older children in a classroom context. Indeed, this is one of those rare and wonderful picture books that defies age boundaries - a radiant, resonant unforgettable tour de force, as befits its theme.



Jasmine Richards - *Secrets of Valhalla* / *Keeper of Myths* (2nd book in series)

Year 4 Vikings link in modern day setting- "Richards excels at weaving stories that mesh the real, modern world and classic mythologies. Readers will clamor for more, especially those who loved Rick Riordan's Norse-themed *The Sword of Summer*."—Booklist

"The combination of adventure, appealing characters, and high stakes should satisfy middle-grade fantasy fans."--Kirkus Reviews

"A worthy addition to the recent Norse mythology kick, particularly as it includes some aspects and figures that have been underrepresented to date."--Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

Born in London, raised in a library, and the first in her family to go to university.



Polly Ho Yen - *Boy in the Tower / Where Monsters Lie / Fly Me Home* (9-11)

Fly me home is about an immigrant child beginning life in London

Author-Worked in publishing for several years before teaching in primary school.

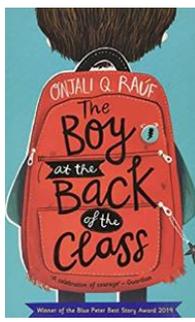
London is cold and grey and the neighbours are noisy and there's concrete everywhere.

But Leelu is not alone; someone is leaving her gifts outside her house - wonders which give her curious magical powers.

Powers which might help her find her way home . . .

Fly Me Home is an incredibly moving portrait of one family's struggle to adjust to life in a new country. Full of friendship, family and magic, this stunning novel by Polly Ho-Yen, author of *Boy in the Tower* (shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Book Award) and *Where Monsters Lie*, is a must-read for 9-12 readers.

Book list 9-12



The Boy At the Back of the Class: Onjali Rauf

Told with heart and humour, *The Boy at the Back of the Class* is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

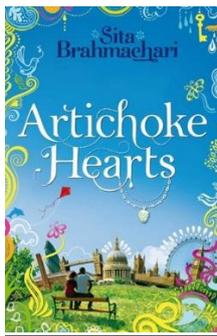
There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it.

He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .

With beautiful illustrations by Pippa Curnick



Sita Brahmachari - *Jasmin Skies / Kite Spirit / Red Leaves/artichoke hearts*-a story about a British girl discovering her roots in India (where the story is set)

author-Born in Derby to an Indian doctor from Kolkata and an English nurse from the Lake District. She's is an author and playwright who has also worked in theatre and education.

Heart-healing, deeply enriching and utterly chaotic . . . Be ready to have this one stay with you. - Onjali Q Raúf author of *The Boy at the Back of the Class*

Twelve-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic and outspoken family where it's not always easy to be heard. As her beloved Nana Josie's health declines, Mira begins to discover the secrets of those around her, and also starts to keep some of her own. She is drawn to mysterious Jide, a boy who is clearly hiding a troubled past and has grown hardened layers - like those of an artichoke - around his heart. As Mira is experiencing grief for the first time, she is also discovering the wondrous and often mystical world around her.



This Book is Anti-Racist
Author: Tiffany Jewell
Illustrator: Aurelia Durand
Publisher: White Lion Publishing
Age: 9+
Also available as an ebook

'A useful tool for discussing racism with children ages 5 to 15.' -- The Telegraph

'An excellent start for educating children on what racism is and how to go about becoming anti-racist.' -
 - Grazia

'Reveals the origins of racism that we are still experiencing and give you the courage and power to undo it.' -- Express

'This is one for you, your neighbour, the children in your lives and especially that "only slightly" racist colleague.' -- The Guardian

'Not only addresses the origins of racism, but delivers tips on how to create change.' -- Evening Standard

'Anti-racism is for everyone. Let's have the conversation with all our children' -- BookTrust

'Just what we need in this radicalized and strife-ridden world. Buy copies for your school - you won't regret it!' -- LoveReading

'The perfect read to help raise pre-teens to be anti-racist adults.' -- Red Magazine

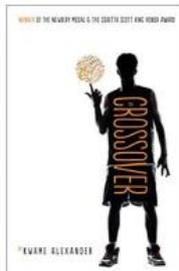


Clean Getaway
Author: Nic Stone
Illustrator: Camilla Ru
Publisher: Knights Of
Age: 9+
Also available as an ebook

When Scoob's grandma - G'ma - invites him to join her on an adventure in her brand-new campervan, obviously he says yes. As they watch Alabama drift past from the comfort of the van, G'ma reveals they're going to retrace the steps of a road trip she took with his grandpa fifty years ago. Back then, things in America were very different, especially for black people, and people were not very accepting of G'ma and G'pop's mixed relationship.

Now, Scoob's in charge of G'ma's old map, marked up with all the places G'ma wanted to visit before, like the highest mountain in Alabama and the church where Martin Luther King held gatherings. Scoob loves hanging out with G'ma and hearing her stories, but it quickly becomes clear this is not just any road trip: she's on a mission to right a wrong from her past. And as he learns more about both his grandpa - and G'ma too - Scoob can't help questioning everything he thought he knew about his family history.

With adventure, drama and mystery, this is a road trip like no other. A satisfying, timeless read about a family's history which intersects with the American civil rights movement, and reminds readers of the long-lasting impact of racism and intolerance.

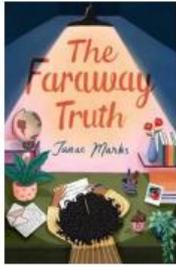


The Crossover
Author: Kwame Alexander
Publisher: Andersen Press
Age: 9+
Also available as an ebook and audiobook

(poetry) Josh and JB are basketball legends at their school. They also happen to be identical twins, but it's easy to tell them apart if you know how to look. As the boys build up to one of the most important matches of their lives, tensions grow between them and things at home and at school also add to the pressure. The only time they feel truly themselves is on the court. But is basketball enough to help them navigate the tricky transition to young adulthood when they have a major falling-out and it seems that Dad is hiding something?

With impressive attention to detail, the powerful, dynamic illustrations fizz with energy and do so much more than just follow the series of events. Using shades of orange, grey and black, the graphics bring out the soul of the characters allowing readers to feel their joy, pain, frustration and anger.

Although it reads like a novel, the twins' story is told through poetry in many different forms from rap to haiku and free verse. If any book is likely to turn sports fans into book fans or convince readers that poetry is cool, this is it.



The Faraway Truth

Author: Janae Marks

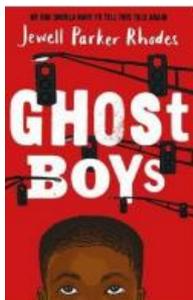
Publisher: Chicken House

Age: 9+

Also available as an ebook

Zoe loves to bake, and dreams of being on a children's cookery TV show - but just as she begins to follow those dreams, a letter arrives from her father who has been in prison all her life, revealing that he may not have committed the crime he is in prison for. Zoe decides to try and prove his innocence by following a cold trail to a missing witness.

This is a fresh, socially-aware story, relevant for children in 2020. Intelligent young readers will find plenty to discuss: this would be a great story to use in lower secondary school, to ignite debate around justice and law. The dynamics of being in a mixed-race family are insightfully explored: Zoe must 'perform' to show curious passers-by that her white Dad is really related to her - a situation that children in mixed-race families may identify with. Racism is discussed in a natural way, as it comes up in conversation between people of colour. With its uplifting ending, this is a great choice for readers who might not yet be old enough for Angie Thomas' books.



Ghost Boys

Author: Jewell Parker Rhodes

Publisher: Orion Children's Books

Age: 9+

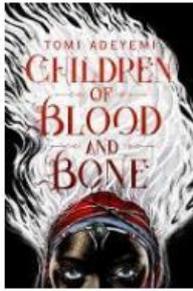
Also available as an ebook

Possibly year 6 (year 6 although upsetting scenes so dependent on cohort and shared with discussion and sensitivity)

In Chicago, a white police officer shoots and kills black 12-year-old Jerome, mistaking a toy gun the child is playing with for a real one. As a ghost, young Jerome witnesses the aftermath of his death, including scenes with his family, the police and the media.

Jerome goes on to meet another ghost, that of the real life figure Emmett Till: a black boy whom himself was murdered in 1955. Till shows Jerome that hundreds of other "ghost boys" just like them are left to roam the streets of America. The story also follows other characters, including Sarah, the daughter of the white officer who killed Jerome, Jerome's friend Carlos, whose toy gun Jerome was playing with, and Jerome's younger sister Kim.

Rhodes achieves a lot in this relatively short book, dealing with grief, history, the idea of biases (both conscious and unconscious) and the fight for justice. This is a beautiful and tragic book that is unfortunately very necessary right now.



Children of Blood And Bone

Author: Tomi Adeyemi

Publisher: Pan Macmillan

Age: 11+

*Also available as an ebook,
Audio CD and audiobook*

Year 6

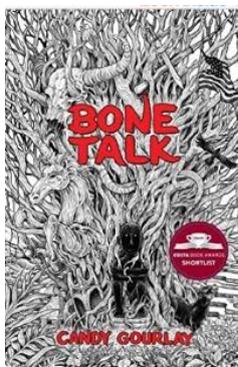
Tomi Adeyemi conjures a stunning world of dark magic and danger in her West African-inspired fantasy debut *Children of Blood and Bone*.

Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. When different clans ruled - Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zélie's Reaper mother summoning forth souls.

But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed, leaving Zélie without a mother and her people without hope. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden.

Zélie is one such person. Now she has a chance to bring back magic to her people and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zélie must learn to harness her powers and outrun the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

Danger lurks in Orisha, where strange creatures prowl, and vengeful spirits wait in the waters. Yet the greatest danger may be Zélie herself as she struggles to come to terms with the strength of her magic - and her growing feelings for an enemy.



Candy Gourlay - Tall Story / Shine/Bone Talk** Year 6 the silk road-set in 19th century Phillipines (boys becoming trained warriors) author-London based author and journalist originally from the Phillipines**

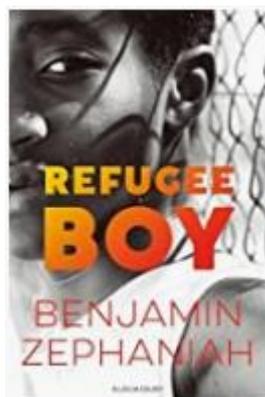
The Phillipines, 100 years ago. A boy called Samkad wants to become a man. He is desperate to be given his own shield, spear and axe. His best friend, Luki, wants to be a warrior too - but she is a girl and that is forbidden. Then a new boy arrives in the village and everything changes. He brings news that a people called 'Americans' are bringing war right to his home . . .



Catherine Johnson - *Blade and Bone* / Freedom Year 6 'Crime and Punishment' French Revolution.

Author-Catherine is an award-winning children's author. She also writes for film, television and radio. She co-wrote the highly acclaimed film, *Bullet Boy*, followed by commissions for Century Films, Working Title and Channel 4.

Young surgeon Ezra McAdam must hasten to Paris to rescue his friend Loveday Finch and her charge Mahmoud, the Ottoman prince, who have been caught up in the Revolution. On the way, Ezra experiences the war first hand on the battlefields of Northern France, where his surgical skills are in high demand by the beleaguered French army. Meanwhile, in Paris, the guillotine is busy, and the medical world is finding the surfeit of bodies useful to its research into the seat of life. Ezra is not persuaded by the controversial theories of his French colleagues, but his mind is on other matters. Finding Loveday and Mahmoud is proving harder than he had imagined: it would appear that Paris really is the most dangerous place on earth. Ezra's search takes him from the grand Hotel Dieu to the dark catacombs below the city; from the opulent War Office to the tall, forbidding *Conciergerie* - the city prison - here he must undertake the most audacious rescue attempt of all.



Benjamin Zephaniah - *Refugee Boy* (year 6 although upsetting scenes so dependent on cohort and shared with discussion and sensitivity)

author-Award-winning artist. Poet, writer, lyricist and musician
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 ...

Brilliantly written and with a real ear for dialogue, fans of Angie Thomas and Malorie Blackman will love Benjamin Zephaniah's novels for young adult readers: