

Reading list

International Conflicts

EUROPE

Michael, Jan, *The Rock Boy* (Dublin: O'Brien Press), 2001 - Albania

A very moving story about a boy washed up on the rocks in St Thomas Bay, Malta, discovered and helped by a 12 year-old girl - issues of refugees seeking asylum, conflict and friendship - key stages 2/3.

Morpurgo, Michael, *Toro! Toro* (London: Harper Collins), 2002 - Spain.

Set within the context of the civil war in Spain in 1936, this story reflects how an idyllic life on a farm can become shattered by war - issues of loss; conflict, refugees - key stage 2.

Rosen, Billi, *Andi's War* (London: Faber & Faber), 1988 - Greece.

This story is set in Greece in the midst of the Greek civil war which continued for 3 years between 1946 and 1949. It highlights the effects of civil war on children - key stage 2/3.

Ross, Stewart, *Only a Matter of Time* (London: Hodder), 2001 - Kosovo

This story is another in the series, 'Survivors' a collection of fictional stories about young people caught up in real-life conflicts. This story, told by Drita, an Albanian Kossovan teenager is based on the Human Rights Watch report of murders that took place in a village near Pec in 1999 - Issues of Ethnic cleansing, sectarianism, civil war, loss and hope - key stage 3.

MIDDLE EAST

Al-Windawi, Thura, *Thura's Diary* (London: Puffin Books), 2004 - Iraq.

This diary by a young teenager gives a moving account of the effects of the war in Iraq on the ordinary local civilians - key stage 3.

Laird, Elizabeth, *A Little Piece of Ground* (London: Macmillan), 2003 - Israel/Palestine.

This brave story of survival, by an author who has lived in the Middle East, about Palestinian boys and their families living under Israeli military occupation in Ramallah, highlights the difficulties of curfews and other tensions - key stage 2/3.

Laird, Elizabeth, *Kiss the Dust* (Oxford: Heinemann), 1991 - Iraq/Iran.

This story about a Kurdish family traces their flight from Iraq to Iran during the Iran/Iraq war; their conditions in an Iranian refugee camp and their eventual journey to London as asylum-seekers - issues of survival; solidarity; human rights and a good insight into the plight of the Kurds - key stage 3/4

Reid Banks, Lynne, *One More River* (London: Puffin), 1994 - Israel/Palestine

This is a story of a rich Canadian teenager's struggle to adapt to her new life in an Israeli Kibbutz. It is set in Israel during the time of the 6-day war in 1967 - issues of conflict - sectarian; racist and family; war and friendship - key stage 2/3.

Reid Banks, Lynne, *Broken Bridge* (New York: Avon Flare), 1996 -Israel/Palestine

This is a sequel to One More River. It is set in Israel, 20 years later - issues of conflict, revenge, and forgiveness. This story captures the complexity of the conflict and the different voices on either side - key stage 2/3.

Speare, Elizabeth G, *The Bronze Bow* (London: Penguin), 1961 - Palestine

This story set in Galilee during the Roman occupation by Emperor Tiberius, traces the journey of a young Jewish man coming to terms with hate and fear - key stage 2/3.

Westall, Robert, *Gulf* (London: Methuen), 2002 - Kuwait/Iraq

This is a moving story about the telepathic communication between an Iraqi child soldier in Kuwait and a 12 year old boy in Britain during the Gulf war. Issues of conflict; mental illness; racism etc - key stage 3.

AFRICA

Canaway, W.H., *Sammy Going South* (London: Penguin), 1963 - Africa.

This is the story of the journey of a 10 year old boy, set at the time of the Suez Canal Crisis - mid 1950's. Leaving Port Said, after his parents are both killed by a bomb, he sets off for Durban, South Africa to his aunt and meets a number of people who help, betray, trick, frighten and restore him on the way - issues of loss; grief; conflict; acceptance - key stages 2/3.

Colfer, Eoin, *Benny and Omar* (Dublin: O'Brien Press), 1999 - Tunisia.

A story of friendship between two boys from very different backgrounds overcoming barriers of language, culture and life experience, this story is set in Tunisia and highlights issues of development; loss; orphans, street children, mental health, survival, fun and adventure - Key stage 2/3.

Dickenson, Peter, *AK* (London: Macmillan), 2001 - Africa.

This story is set in Nagaland, a fictitious African country torn apart by corrupt leaders and civil war between three competing tribes. Children (two former 'warriors') from each of the tribes get together to uphold peace and justice - there are 2 possible endings from which to choose - either are possible - issues of colonialism, corruption, child soldiers - Key stages 2/3.

Ellis, Deborah, *The Heaven Shop* (Oxford: Oxford University Press), 2004 - Malawi

This very moving story highlights the issues of war and poverty spreading Aids in Malawi - key stage 2/3.

Flegg, Aubrey, *The Cinnamon Tree* (Dublin: O'Brien Press), 2000 - Africa

This thrilling story set in Africa and Ireland, about a teenage girl and her family, highlights the issues of landmines, arms trade, asylum seekers and child soldiers - key stage 3.

Hollyer, Belinda, *Long Walk to Lavender Street* (London: Hodder), 2002 - South Africa

This is another story in the series 'Survivors,' about young people caught up in real-life conflicts. This very moving story, set in Cape Town's District Six in 1966 is told by thirteen-year-old Siesie Ngaba. Highlighting the cruel injustice of the Group Areas Act, segregation and racism - key stage 3.

Laird, Elizabeth, *The Garbage King* (London: Macmillan), 2003 - Ethiopia.

This moving story, set in Ethiopia's capital city, Addis Ababa highlights the plight of street children, their courage and ability to survive against the odds - key stage 2.

Mankell, Henning, *Secrets in the Fire* (Australia: Allen & Unwin), 2000 - Mozambique.

This is a true and moving story about a very brave 12 year old set in war-torn Mozambique. Issues of loss; conflict; land mines; and indomitable courage and hope - key stage 2/3

Morpurgo, Michael, *Dear Olly* (London: Harper Collins), 2000 - Rwanda.

This moving story of family love and courage is told by three voices linking England and Rwanda and highlights the issues of poverty, landmines, orphaned children and post-conflict loss - key stage 2 up.

McCall Smith, Alexander, *The Girl who married a Lion* ((Edinburgh: Canongate), 2004 - Zimbabwe and Botswana

This is a collection of traditional stories from Zimbabwe and Botswana communicating the values and traditions of those countries with a great sense of humour -a number of good stories for diversity and inclusion - from key stage 1 up.

Naidoo, Beverley, *The Other Side of Truth* (London: Penguin), 2000 - Nigeria.

This is a story about a Nigerian family seeking asylum in Britain told by Sade, a twelve year old girl. It highlights the secrecy, for reasons of safety, that surround refugees and the difficulty of speaking the truth - issues of conflict; injustice; racism; bullying; international politics - key stage 2/3.

Naidoo, Beverley, *Journey to Jo'Burg* (London: Young Lions), 1987 - South Africa.

This story highlights the injustice of the apartheid system in South Africa before the reforms and also the systemic nature of racism - key stage 1/2.

O'Donnell, Vincent, *Out of the Flames* (Dublin: O'Brien Press), 2002 - Africa/Ireland.

This thrilling action-packed story set in Africa and Ireland highlights the plight of refugees, post traumatic stress and racist attitudes from the host community towards refugees and asylum seekers - key stage 2/3.

Paton, Alan, *Cry the Beloved Country* (London: Longman's). 1966 - South Africa

Set in South Africa in the 1940's this story of a Zulu Christian priest tells of his tragic search for his sister and his son - a thoughtful and moving analysis of racial problems in South Africa - key stage 3.

Zephaniah, Benjamin, *Refugee Boy* (London: Bloomsbury), 2001 - Ethiopia.

A story about a brave young man and his family who seek asylum in England from the war in Ethiopia/Eritrea - issues of loss, courage and solidarity with useful information about the process involved in becoming a refugee - key stage 3/4.

FAR EAST

Ellis, Dorothy, *The Breadwinner, Parvana's Journey and Mud City* (Oxford: OUP), from 2000 - Afghanistan/Pakistan.

These three books are a trilogy tracing a child's journey from Afghanistan, under the Taliban to a refugee camp in Pakistan - key stage 2.

Park, Linda Sue, *A Single Shard* (Oxford: OUP), 2001 - Korea

This is a very moving story about a young orphan living in a small village on the west coast of Korea in the mid-late 12th century. Issues of loss; grief; identity and belonging - key stage 2.

Whyman, Matt, *The Wild* (London: Hodder Children's Books), 2005 - Kazakhstan.

This story, set in the Aral district of Kazakhstan and Russia highlights the global issues of domination by world powers and the consequences of nuclear testing on the environment; also poverty; sickness; and the courage/hope of street children - key stage 3/4.

CHINA

Haski, Pierre (ed.), *The Diary of Ma Yan* (London: Virago Press), 2004.

The diary of a fourteen year old school girl in a remote region of north-western China; a story of friendship/connection with people in the developed world through the journalist/writer and how that makes a difference, transforming not only Ma Yan's life but that of other young people and families in her community - key stage 3.

McCaughrean, Geraldine, *The Kite Rider* (Oxford: OUP), 2001.

This is a thrilling story, set in China at the time of Kublai Khan, of a boy who rides a kite to save his family - issues of family loyalty, duty, love and justice - key stage 2.

Mahy, Margaret, *The Seven Chinese Brothers* (London: Macmillan), 1990.

This story is an ancient Chinese folk tale dating from the Han period, during the building of the Great Wall. It highlights the suffering of the workers who were conscripted to build it - issues of solidarity and justice - key stage 1/2.

Namioka, *Ties that Bind, Ties that Break* (London: Puffin Books), 2003.

This is the story of Ailin, a young girl in 1911 at a time of great change in China - issues of family traditions; cultural pressure; gender; rebellion; estrangement - key stage 2/3.

Ye, Ting-Xing, *Throwaway Daughter* (London: Faber & Faber), 2003.

This is a story about Grace, an adopted teenager growing up in the west, coming to terms with her own roots - issues of gender; cultural and political divides - key stage 3/4.

Yen Mah, Adeline, *Chinese Cinderella* (London: Puffin Books), 1999.

This is Adeline Yen Mah's own story about her childhood and struggle for acceptance growing up with her stepmother - a Chinese Cinderella. Some good background notes at the end - key stage 2.

Comber, Leon, *Favourite Stories from Asia* (Hong Kong: Heinemann), 1971 - *This is collection of short stories - various parts of Asia - key stage 1/2.*

INDIA

Desai, Anita, *The Village by the Sea* (London: Puffin Books), 1984.

The issues of urbanisation in India, family life and survival are highlighted in this lovely story - key stage 2.

Gavin, Jamila, *Grandpa Chatterji and Grandpa's Indian Summer* (London: mammoth), 1999.

Two stories about Grandpa Chatterji - His visit to England to see his daughter and family; and their visit to Calcutta to see him - heart-warming stories that give an insight into Indian culture, religion and traditions - Key stages 1-2

Rai, Bali, *Unarranged Marriage* (London: Corgi Books), 2002.

This story raises the issues of arranged marriages and family conflict - key stage 3.

Rai, Bali, *Rani and Sukh* (London: Corgi Books), 2004.

This story raises issues of unresolved conflict amidst a history of revenge between two families - key stage 3.

NORTH AMERICA

Bateson-Hill, M, *Shota and the Star Quilt* (New York: Zero to Ten Ltd.), 1998.

This is a lovely story about two best friends and how their celebration of friendship saves not only the homes and community they love but also their enemy - a remarkable quilt is central to their plan - key stage 1/2.

Beecher Stowe, Harriet, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (London: Dent, 1979).

A famous and powerful novel first published in 1852. Even so many years since its first appearance, it's theme of systemic, personal, communal and institutional racism and abuse of power is still a critical world issue. Although the story is set in the southern states of the US there are global applications - key stages 3/4.

Lee, Harper, *To Kill A Mocking Bird* (London: Arrow Books), 1997.

This story, told through the eyes of two children living in Maycomb County Alabama in the thirties, explores the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class - key stage 2 up.

Lenska, Lois, *Indian Captive - The Story of Mary Jemison* (New York: Harper-Collins), 1969.

This is based on the true story of 12 year-old Mary Jemison captured from the family's farm in Pennsylvania in 1758 by Seneca Indians, of her adoption by the Indians who taught her about her relationships with the rest of the created world - plants and animals - Key stage 2/3.

Long Lance, Chief Buffalo, *Long Lance* (London: Abacus), 1976.

An autobiography of a Blackfoot Indian chief which concentrates on his early life in the days before the 'white man' came to destroy their nomadic way of life and threaten their very existence - key stage 3.

Murphy, Rita, *Black Angels* (London: Macmillan), 2002.

A story told by a young girl in a small town in Georgia USA in the 1960's where the colour of your skin is the most important thing of all - key stage 2

Osborne, Mary P, *Adaline Falling Star* (London: Scholastic Press), 2000.

Based on fact, this is a very moving story about a young girl, born of an Arapaho mother and the famous American scout, Kit Carson. Her mother dead, she flees from a cruel cousin in search of her father and meets Dog - issues of loss, rejection, racism, trust, friendship and hope - key stages 2/3.

Riordan, James, *Boxcar Molly* (London: Hodder), 2002.

This story is another in the series, 'Survivors' a collection of fictional stories about young people caught up in real-life conflicts. Fourteen year old Molly travels around the US looking for work during the great depression of the 1930's - issues of poverty; racism - key stage 3.

Smucker, Barbara, *Selina and the Bear Paw Quilt* (New York: Dragonfly Books), 1995.
Set in the context of the American Civil war and the particular difficulties that Mennonite families had to face - issues of conflict; opposition to war; refugees - the therapeutic use of patchwork in storytelling - key stage 2.

Taylor, Mildred, *Roll of Thunder Hear my Cry*, (London: Puffin) 1995 - First Published in the USA by Dial Press, 1976.

Set in the cotton-growing farmlands of the Mississippi delta in the 1930's American depression, the warmth of this family story told by Cassie Logan, mirrors a black child's hopes and fears, amidst the chilling hatred of deep-seated racism - from key stage 2. The sequels 'Let the Circle be Unbroken' and 'The Road to Memphis,' set in the year 1941, continue this courageous story of the Logan family - issues of racism, poverty and survival.

SOUTH AMERICA/PACIFIC

Whyman, Matt, *Boy Kills Man* (London: Hodder Children's Books), 2004 - Colombia.

This story, written by a journalist and set in Medellin Colombia, highlights the issue of child soldiers and gives a human face to a world we would rather dismiss - key stage 3/4.

Morpurgo, Michael, *Kensuke's Kingdom* (London: Heinemann), 1999 - Pacific

This is a heart-warming story about a 12 year old boy on an island in the Pacific as the result of an accident at sea. He meets Kensuke, a 75 year old Japanese man from Nagasaki and learns much about life and love - issues of war; conflict; separation; loss; nature; friendship - Key stage 2.

TRAVELLERS

Godden, Rumer, *The Diddakoi* (London: Puffin Books), 1975.

A moving and action-packed story of a little girl - a Diddakoi (half gypsy) - who struggles to maintain her identity in both settled and traveller worlds. Set in Sussex, England - issues of acceptance/rejection; bullying; loss; racism - keystone 2

Hickey, Tony, *Joe in the Middle* (Dublin: Poolbeg), 1988 and the sequel, *Where is Joe* (Dublin: Poolbeg), 1989.

These thrilling stories, set in Dublin, highlight relationships within and between settled and Irish traveller communities and tell of a young boy's adventures, learning to trust and learn more about his identity - key stage 2.

Conlon-McKenna Marita, *The Blue Horse* (Dublin: O'Brien Press), 1993.

A courageous story about a young girl who learns a lot about herself in her need for acceptance and highlighting the conflict between settled and travelling communities - key stage 2.

Wood, John, *Finnegan's Wind* (Dublin: Wolfhound Press), 2000.

This story about two children in a Traveller family highlights the tensions for the children of preserving relationships whilst also wanting to change their way of life - key stage 2.