

Refugee Week

**Activities for Children
& Young People 2021**

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What is Refugee Week?

Refugee Week is an annual festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees. Refugee Week 2021 takes place 14-20 June, with the theme [‘We Cannot Walk Alone’](#).



Image © Marcia Chandra

Every Refugee Week at hundreds of schools across the country, teachers help children and young people to develop an understanding of refugee experiences that they will carry with them into adult life.

There are all kinds of ways schools can get involved in Refugee Week, from holding assemblies and dedicated lessons to taking part in creative activities.

This pack has a range of learning activities and resources for children of all ages, to be explored with a teacher or educator, or an adult at home.

For more inspiration, take a look at the ideas and experiences shared at the teachers' meetup we held with Schools of Sanctuary in May ([video](#)).

Refugee Week is a partnership project coordinated by [Counterpoints Arts](#), and we are proud that the National Education Union and City of Sanctuary (coordinators of Schools of Sanctuary) are among our national partners.



Facts + Figures



Image © Marcia Chandra

Facts About Refugees, [Refugee Action](#)

Global Displacement Figures at a Glance, [UNHCR](#)

Traces timeline of refugee contributions to UK arts and culture, [Counterpoints Arts](#)

Timeline: 400 Years of Refugee Movement to the UK, [Refugee History](#)

Timeline: The History of British Immigration Policy (1905-2016), [Refugee History](#)



Events + Online Workshops

There is a whole range of family-friendly events taking place this Refugee Week.



Image © Denisa Silas

14 June: Authors Michael Rosen and Sita Brahmachari, featuring readings and a Q&A. See the Refugee Week [events page](#) for details.

14 + 16 June: The National Archives' [Time Travel Club](#) will launch two educational videos focusing on the lives of child refugees, including a collage-making activity by artist Rana Ibrahim.

V&A Family Trail: A special trail to uncover refugee stories through six fascinating objects at London's V&A museum. Tickets are free and booking opens on the [V&A website](#) in June.

For more activities for children and young people, head to the [events section](#) of the Refugee Week website.



Simple Acts

Simple Acts are everyday actions we can all do to stand with refugees and make new connections in our communities.

For Refugee Week 2021, we're inviting people of all ages to do one or more of [eight Simple Acts](#) linked to the theme 'We Cannot Walk Alone'.

Whether it's reading a book, watching a film or joining a campaign, the small things we do together can be the start of a bigger change.

For the full list of Simple Acts, visit the [Simple Acts page](#) on the Refugee Week website



Image: A message of welcome from Fairhaven Primary School
© Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary



Read a Book



Reading a book with your child or class can be a great starting point for a discussion about displacement and welcome.

Visit the [Simple Acts page](#) for more suggestions of books for children and young people of all ages.

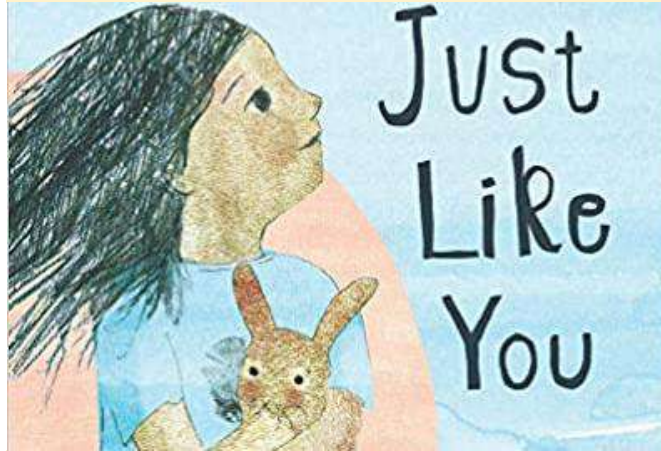
Whatever you choose you read together, let us know by sharing on social media using #ReadaBook #SimpleActs.



Books

Just Like You

Jo Loring-Fisher, 2+



"I have one nose, two eyes and two ears. My feet can take me a long, long way. Sometimes I am very happy and at other times so sad. But when I'm cuddled I feel cosy...."

One little girl is going on a journey, but wherever she is in the world, she is just like you.

Swallow's Kiss

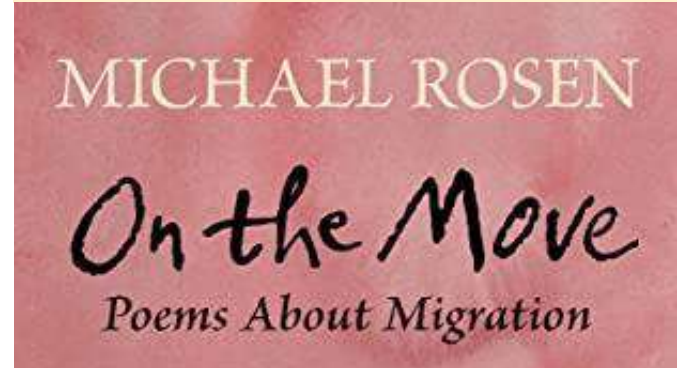
Sita Brahmachari + Jane Ray, 7+



When Blessing finds a lost bag of paper birds she follows a trail of hopes and wishes to the community who made them, in this lyrical, free-verse tale about kindness and friendship. Available to pre-order and released 24 June.

On the Move: Poems about Migration

Michael Rosen, 9+

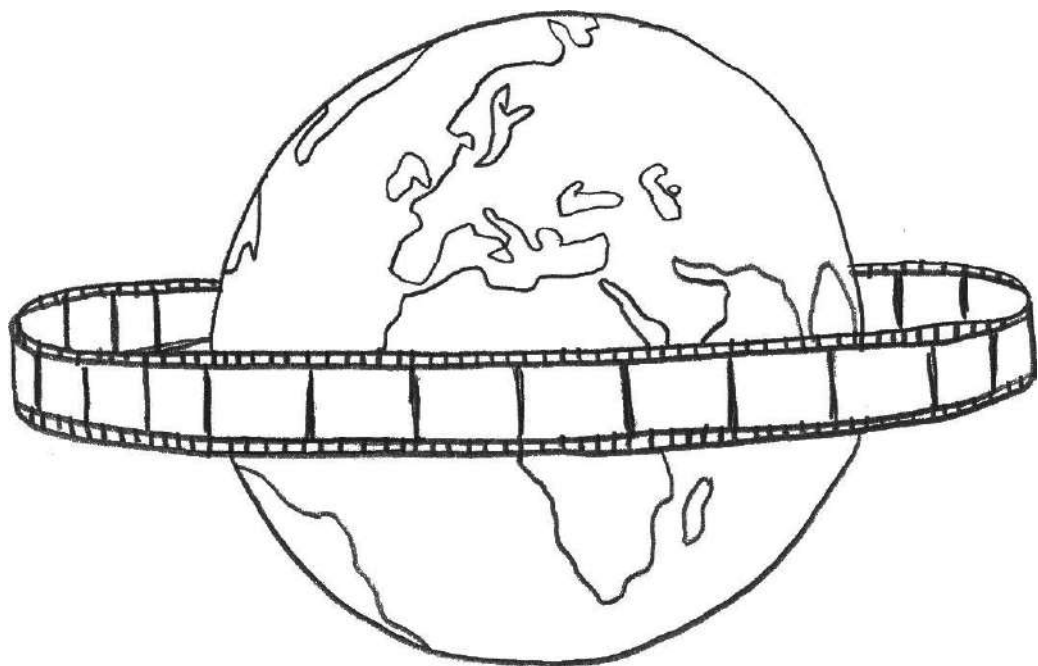


"What you leave behind
Won't leave your mind.
But home is where you find it.
Home is where you find it."

Michael Rosen and Sir Quentin Blake join forces for a landmark collection focusing on migration and displacement.



Watch a Film



Taking a walk in someone else's shoes all starts by pressing play in this Simple Act.

The following pages have suggestions of short films and related resources for children and young people, including from Counterpoints Arts' [Moving Worlds](#) selection of films for Refugee Week 2021.

Young people can spread the word about what they watched and the conversations it sparked by telling a friend, writing a review or asking an adult to share on social media using #WatchaFilm #SimpleActs.



Films for younger children +

Help them Feel at Home

3 mins, age 5+



Animated poem for younger learners with creative activities by Kazzum Arts.

[View film + learning resources](#)

Wind

8 mins, PG



A sweet and surreal animation about a grandmother and grandson trying to escape from a strange world, by Edwin Chang for Pixar, featured in Moving Worlds.

[View film + discussion resources](#)



Films for older children

Roots

9 mins



Beyond the neat branches of our family trees, is a mesh of interwoven roots spreading all across the world. By Inscape Animations, part of Moving Worlds.

[View film + discussion resources](#)

Tiny Souls

1 hour 25 mins, 12+



Documentary following nine-year-old Marwa, stranded with her family in a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan. By Dina Naser, part of Moving Worlds.

[View film + discussion resources](#)

Dear Habib

4 mins, 11+



Animation about Habib, who came to the UK alone from Afghanistan aged 14, by Positive Negatives.

[View film + learning resources](#)



Walk Together



Take part in The Great Walk Together to mark Refugee Week and The Great Get Together, on 20 June or anytime during the week.

The Great Walk Together invites you to take a walk with others and reflect on the journeys refugees make, including by doing an act of welcome for Little Amal, ahead of The Walk by Good Chance Theatre.

Take part on 20 June or anytime during the week, to mark Refugee Week and The Great Get Together. Download the toolkit from the [Great Get Together website](#).

#MoreinCommon #WeCannotWalkAlone



Join the Movement



Refugee Week lasts for seven days, but the movement for a kinder, fairer and more connected world continues all year round.

From campaigning to volunteering, we'll be sharing ways people of all ages can show their support during Refugee Week 2021 and beyond.

[Read more](#)



Learning Packs

The Walk Education & Activity Pack (Infants, Junior and Secondary)



From July to November 2021, a giant puppet of a nine-year-old Syrian girl will walk from the Syria/Turkey border, across Europe to the UK, travelling 8000km embodying the urgent message, “Don’t forget about us”. The Walk, by Good Chance Theatre and Handspring Puppet Company, will be a travelling festival of art and hope in support of refugees.

Young people and schools can join in with The Walk through [this Education & Activity Pack](#), themed around Amal’s journey.

The pack is created for all young people with learning material and challenge activities to suit different ages. Exercises include writing poems, stories, making artwork and other creative activities.



Refugee Week: learning about isolation (12 - 18 year olds)



Image © British Red Cross

A [new resource](#) created by British Red Cross for Refugee Week 2021 to help young people develop mutual respect, empathy and understanding.

During this last year's pandemic we all might have felt lonely and isolated at times, and we know how difficult it can be. These engaging and interactive activities help learners to understand isolation from a refugee's perspective; learn what inclusion, exclusion, integration and segregation mean and how feeling alone can affect a person's experiences and what they could do to help someone feel less alone.



Culture Club



A primary resource exploring the cultural heritage and traditions of refugees living in the UK

Learning Packs

Culture Club (KS2, can be adapted for KS1/ EYFS)

A [primary education resource](#) by Groundwork, exploring the cultural heritage of refugees living in London. Made by teachers for teachers, this pack links to the national primary school curriculum, enabling pupils ages 4-11 to discover the joys of various cultures through videos, storytelling, crafts and recipes. Whether pupils are home-learning or in the classroom, Culture Clubs takes students on a journey of cultural experiences from the kitchen to the garden.

The pack aims to promote a welcoming culture where different communities can come together and share their traditions and values.



My Life is Art (Primary and Secondary)

Emmanuel Jal is a former child soldier from South Sudan, turned internationally acclaimed recording artist and activist.

In [this education programme](#), Emmanuel introduces himself through a compelling presentation alongside his spoken word and music which can be used in school assemblies.

The accompanying pack offers an insight into the global issues around poverty and war with online resources and lessons centred around Emmanuel's personal experiences and delivered through a series of intimate talks, lessons and interactive activities which offer essential knowledge and practical wellbeing tools for young people.



Image © My Life Is Art



Learning Packs



Image © Seb Matthes

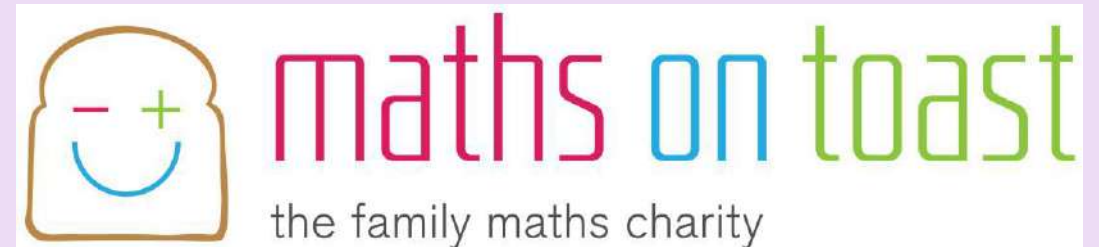
Harmonise Online Resource (KS2 + KS3)

[Harmonise Online](#) is a series of activities with our music facilitators from around the world, designed for your pupils to learn about refugees, asylum seekers and Roma people, in a creative and fun way. Visit [To book the Harmonise programme to visit your school, email \[nick@musicaction.org\]\(mailto:nick@musicaction.org\)](#)

How Long is a Foot?

By Maths on Toast (EYFS, KS1 + KS2)

Can we measure distance using our feet? [This activity](#) by Maths on Toast invites children to walk side by side with friends or family members to measure and compare footsteps. Imagine walking in someone else's footsteps! Some may have more steps to take than others, but we can all have fun moving forwards together.



A Day of Welcome, 11 June

Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary invites schools everywhere to take part in A Day of Welcome on 11 June, a day of solidarity and learning that aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for refugees and people seeking safety.

The celebration is designed to support schools and families in marking Refugee Week and to send a clear message that for those in need of sanctuary, our communities are welcoming places.

Schools can register [here](#) to receive resources, suitable to their age group. For schools in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire or Essex there are also additional materials which explore refugee histories in these counties.



Image © Norfolk Schools of Sanctuary



NaTakallam Schools' Sessions



Image © NaTakallam

Invite a speaker who has experienced displacement first-hand to join your school or youth group for language practice or cultural exchange.

NaTakallam's School Sessions virtually connect students with an educator with lived experience of displacement from the Middle East, Latin America, or Africa, for an interactive conversation offering personal insight into global issues, or language practice.

The real-time virtual lessons can be customised for any age group, and scholarships (fee-free sessions) are available for sessions by educators from the Middle East and North Africa.

Sign up via the [NaTakallam website](#) – note you need to allow two weeks for the session to be arranged.



The Giant Dolls' House Project

Last Refugee Week, over 160 people from across the UK and beyond created [shoebox houses](#), reflecting on their experiences of home in the light of the Covid pandemic.



Image: Dolls' house by Kudiwanashe © The Giant Dolls' House Project

One year on, the Giant Dolls' House team is again inviting people of all ages to create their own doll's houses in a shoebox, sharing their experiences of the past year or hopes for the future.

The 2021 Giant Dolls' House Project is created in solidarity with refugees and displaced people across the world and a way of showing that together, we care.

The project is accepting submissions now until 7 June, and the shoe boxes will form a giant collective dolls' house, to be shared during Refugee Week 2021.

Led by architect Catja de Haas, the Giant Dolls' House Project is part of Refugee Week and London Festival of Architecture 2021, in collaboration with Oxfam Education. For more information and to submit your house, visit [The Giant Doll's House website](#).

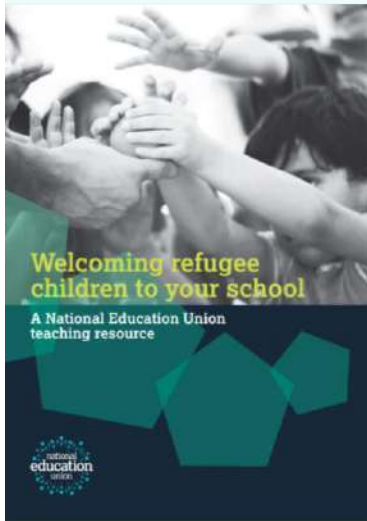
If your school would like to host a dolls' house-making workshop by Catja de Haas and her team, email info@giantdollshouse.org.



Welcome All Year Round

What happens when Refugee Week is over? Here are some resources to help schools promote welcome and stand against racism and prejudice all year round.

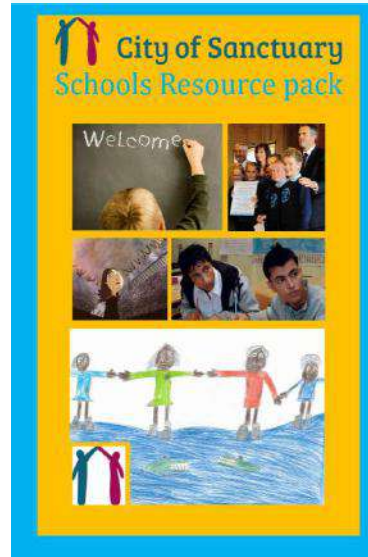
NEU Resources



[Welcoming refugee children to your school](#): Resources to help schools support refugees, including video clips about the experiences of refugee children and young people at school, and a guide to becoming a refugee-friendly school.

[Anti-racism charter](#): A framework to help you explore ideas around race equality and plan how to tackle racism with children, young people and staff.

Schools of Sanctuary Resource



[Schools of Sanctuary](#) is a growing network of more than 300 primary and secondary schools committed to supporting the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, creating a culture of welcome and inclusion whilst raising awareness of the issues faced by refugees and asylum seekers.

See the [Schools of Sanctuary Resource Pack](#) for information and inspiration about becoming a School of Sanctuary.



Spread the Word!

However you celebrate Refugee Week, share your experience and inspire others to get involved by posting on social media using #RefugeeWeek2021.

Filling out our [online feedback survey](#) will also help us measure the reach and impact of Refugee Week, and plan for future years – thank you.



Image © Denisa Silas



Partners



British Future...



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Refugee Week is coordinated by **COUNTERPOINTS**.

