Schools of Sanctuary-aligned reading list *organised by Key Stage. The selection prioritises books that promote the core Schools of Sanctuary values of* **welcome, inclusion, empathy, belonging, human rights, social justice, understanding migration, and celebrating the contributions of people seeking sanctuary***, rather than presenting refugees solely through trauma narratives. These recommendations draw on Schools of Sanctuary resources, National Literacy Trust guidance, City of Sanctuary reading lists, and refugee-support organisations.*

KS1 (Ages 5-7)

Sanctuary Texts

Title	Author	Key Themes
The Suitcase	*Chris Naylor-Ballesteros*	*Welcome, kindness, empathy*
My Name is Not Refugee	*Kate Milner*	*Understanding journeys, identity*
Lubna and Pebble	*Wendy Meddour*	*Friendship, hope, resilience*
What is a Refugee?	*Elise Gravel*	*Child-friendly introduction to refugee experiences*
Welcome	*Barroux*	*Hospitality, inclusion*
The Colour of Home	*Mary Hoffman*	*New beginnings, belonging*
Beegu	*Alexis Deacon*	*Feeling different, inclusion*
A Place to Call Home	*Alexis Deacon & Viviane Schwarz*	*Migration, finding safety*
Refuge	*Anne Booth*	*Refuge through the Nativity story*
Boundless Sky	*Amanda Addison*	*Parallel stories of migration and refuge*
Bobble	*Helen May*	*Understanding displacement through metaphor*
The Moomins and the Great Flood	*Tove Jansson*	*Family separation, finding home*
Story Boat	*Kyo Maclear*	*Hope, storytelling, resilience*

KS2 (Ages 7-11)

Sanctuary Texts

Title	Author	Key Themes
The Boy at the Back of the Class	*Onjali Q. Raúf*	*Friendship, activism, welcome*
The Journey	*Francesca Sanna*	*Forced migration*
Azzi In Between	*Sarah Garland*	*Seeking asylum, adaptation*
When Stars Are Scattered	*Victoria Jamieson & Omar Mohamed*	*Refugee camp life, hope*
The Silence Seeker	*Ben Morley*	*Language, new arrivals*
Refugees	*Brian Bilston*	*Humanity, perspective-taking*
Wild Journey	*A.M. Dassu*	*Migration and belonging*
Illegal	*Eoin Colfer & Andrew Donkin*	*Journeys across borders*
The Power of Welcome	*Ramzee et al.*	*Real stories of sanctuary*
Coming to England	*Floella Benjamin*	*Migration and contribution*
Wisp: A Story of Hope	*Zana Fraillon*	*Trauma and resilience*
Child I	*Steve Tasane*	*Identity and asylum*
No Ballet Shoes in Syria	*Catherine Bruton*	*Integration, opportunity*
Hello! A Counting Book of Kindnesses	*Hollis Kurman*	*Community and welcome*

KS3 (Ages 11-14)

Sanctuary Texts

Title	Author	Key Themes
Boy, Everywhere	*A.M. Dassu*	*Refugee journeys, family, belonging*
The Bone Sparrow	*Zana Fraillon*	*Detention, identity, hope*
Refugee Boy	*Benjamin Zephaniah*	*Asylum system, community*
Welcome to Nowhere	*Elizabeth Laird*	*Syrian conflict and displacement*
The Unforgotten Coat	*Frank Cottrell Boyce*	*Friendship and immigration*
The Crossing	*Manjeet Mann*	*Migration told through dual narratives*

Title	Author	Key Themes
When Stars Are Scattered	*Omar Mohamed & Victoria Jamieson*	*Refugee camp experiences*
We Refugees	*Benjamin Zephaniah*	*Poetry, identity, activism*
My Name is Samim	*Fidan Meikle*	*Seeking safety and belonging*
The Ones That Disappeared	*Zana Fraillon*	*Statelessness and protection*
You Don't Know What War Is	*Yeva Skalietska*	*Contemporary conflict and migration*

KS4 (Ages 14-16)

Sanctuary Texts

Title	Author	Key Themes
Boy, Everywhere	*A.M. Dassu*	*Refugee experience and social justice*
Refugee Boy	*Benjamin Zephaniah*	*Immigration systems and identity*
The Bone Sparrow	*Zana Fraillon*	*Human rights and detention*
The Crossing	*Manjeet Mann*	*Migration journeys*
Refugee	*Alan Gratz*	*Historical and contemporary displacement*
Now is the Time for Running	*Michael Williams*	*Survival and conflict*
You Think You Know Me	*Ayaan Mohamud*	*Identity, race, belonging*
I Am Malala	*Malala Yousafzai*	*Rights, education, forced displacement*
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	*Judith Kerr*	*Historical refuge and exile*
The Kite Runner (mature KS4)	*Khaled Hosseini*	*Conflict, migration and belonging*
Exit West (older readers)	*Mohsin Hamid*	*Migration, borders, humanity*

Why These Texts Work for Sanctuary Education

- *Develop empathy before introducing complex political issues.*
- *Focus on friendship, welcome and belonging.*
- *Allow children to make connections between their own experiences and those of newcomers.*
- *Encourage action through kindness and inclusion.*

Strong Curriculum Links

- *English: narrative viewpoint and empathy.*
- *PSHE: belonging, diversity, rights, British Values*
- *Geography: migration, movement.*
- *Citizenship: inclusion and community.*

Sanctuary Lens Discussion Questions

- *How can communities create belonging?*
- *What does "home" mean?*
- *What responsibilities do we have towards newcomers?*
- *How do stories challenge stereotypes?*

Further Reading for Educators Developing a Sanctuary Curriculum

- *Children's Literature About Refugees: A Catalyst in the Classroom - Julia Hope.*
- *Schools of Sanctuary teaching resources.*
- *National Literacy Trust's Refugee and Migrant Stories Booklist.*
- *National Centre for Writing's Words of Welcome and The Courage Collection*

The books on these lists collectively support the three Schools of Sanctuary strands: **Learn, Embed, Share;** *helping pupils move beyond sympathy towards informed empathy, active welcome and social responsibility.*



