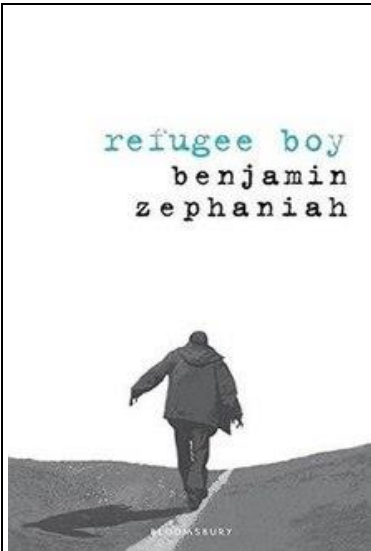


Bravery and Courage

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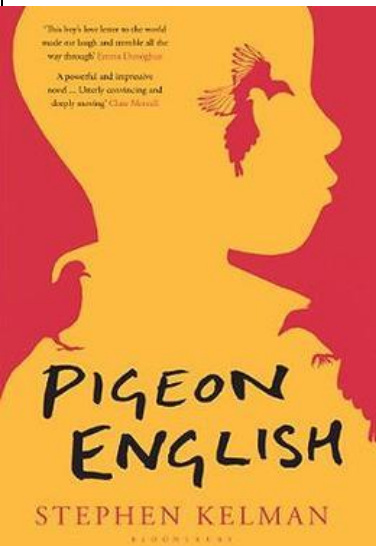
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

Alem's father is Ethiopian and his mother is Eritrean, and there is a dangerous conflict raging between the two countries.

For his own safety, Alem's father brings him to England to escape the dangers at home. At first, Alem is delighted to be having a holiday with his dad, until he wakes up one morning to find his father has left him in England alone.

Although Alem is heartbroken and everything about English culture is very confusing, he tries to see the positives of living in a cold, alien environment far from his home and family.

Alem's moving story helps the reader understand the difficulties refugees face coming to England from a child's perspective, but also points out the huge advantages we all take for granted – free education, no war, a support system that tries to help and a legal system that tries to bring justice and security to refugees. It also shows how the British press constantly stirs up hatred against refugees and minorities, and how difficult that is for Alem.



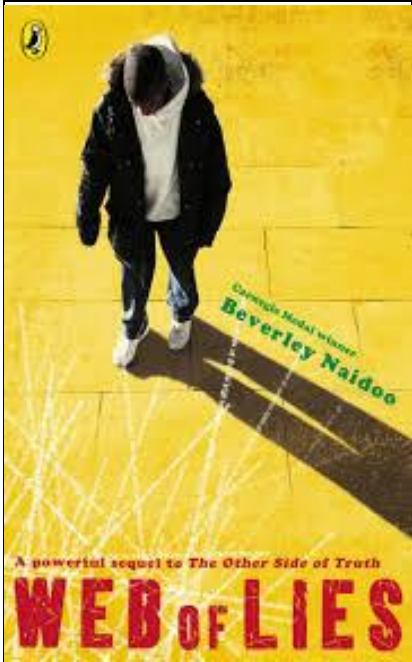
Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman

Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, the second best runner in Year 7, races through his new life in England with his personalised trainers - the Adidas stripes drawn on with marker pen - blissfully unaware of the very real threat around him.

Newly-arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life, from the bewildering array of Haribo sweets, to the frightening, fascinating gang of older boys from his school. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered.

As the victim's nearly new football boots hang in tribute on railings behind fluorescent tape and a police appeal draws only silence, Harri decides to act, unwittingly endangering the fragile web his mother has spun around her family to keep them safe.

Bravery and Courage

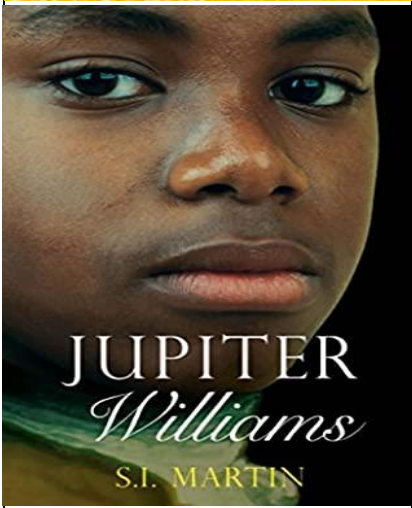


Web of Lies by Beverley Naidoo

Web of Lies catches up with Femi and Sade two years after the events in *The Other Side of Truth*. Femi and Sade's journalist father thought that England would be safer than Nigeria for his children, after their mother was murdered. But Femi and Sade soon discover that there are dangers in London, too.

While *The Other Side of Truth* focused on Sade, *Web of Lies* follows Femi, who is drawn against his will into closer and closer involvement with a gang of criminals who have links to his school – and an unpleasant interest in his sister.

The story is powerful because it is so distressingly believable, and because Naidoo does such a good job of bringing the reader into Femi's head. Caught between an uncompromising father, a brutal gang and his own need to grow up and fit in, it is horribly easy to see how a child in his position quickly finds himself in the wrong place at the wrong time. This is a bleak book, but an important one.



Jupiter Williams by S. I Martin

London 1800. Jupiter is young, black, living at the African Academy in Clapham with other boys from wealthy Sierra Leonean families. His life is a mixture of privilege and dispossession as he copes with the cruelty of his teachers, the rivalries and tensions among his schoolmates, a sense of duty towards his younger brother Robert and guilt over the death of another brother in Africa.

Throughout, Jupiter strives to maintain his dignity, his Christian faith and pride in his roots. But beyond the relative ease of Clapham lies another London, where poor black communities struggle for survival along the squalid reaches of the Thames. A world where Jupiter's education and background mean nothing and skin colour alone determines fate. Into this world his younger brother Robert vanishes, and Jupiter is obliged to follow !

Bravery and Courage



Surprising Joy by Valerie Bloom

The eagerly awaited first novel from one of the UK's finest poets. Joy has spent her life with her grandmother in Jamaica, steeped in Jamaican culture, sunshine and traditions. Until the day her dream comes true: Joy's mother, who moved to England when Joy was a baby, writes to say that she's ready for her daughter to come and join her.

Joy can hardly contain her excitement. Packing, saying goodbye to all she has loved and the journey all add to it. But London in December is a shock. It's cold and dark and unfriendly. Even so, it's nothing to the shock that awaits when she goes to live with her mother...



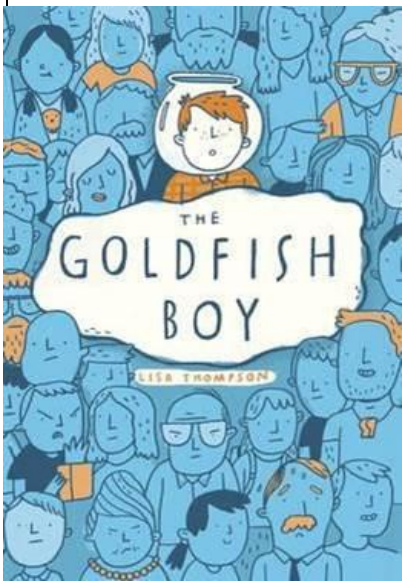
The Fox Girl and the White Gazelle by Victoria Williamson

Reema and her family have fled Syria and come to live in Glasgow. Reema's father is suffering from ill health and the family have lost touch with Reema's older brother Jamal, who Reema adores.

In another nearby flat, Caylin lives with her mum, who is finding it hard to cope. Without any money coming in, Caylin struggles to feed and clothe herself, wearing smelly clothes to school and threatening other kids for their lunch money so she can buy food.

Told in dual narrative, the story follows Reema and Caylin as they negotiate a shaky friendship. Both characters are suffering in different ways, but Williamson focuses on the ways that they help each other: Caylin protects Reema from the school bullies she herself is also victim too, and Reema builds Caylin's confidence. Finding things in common – running, and the care of a stray fox and its cubs – gives the friends a sense of purpose and a way to bond that sets an example for their families.

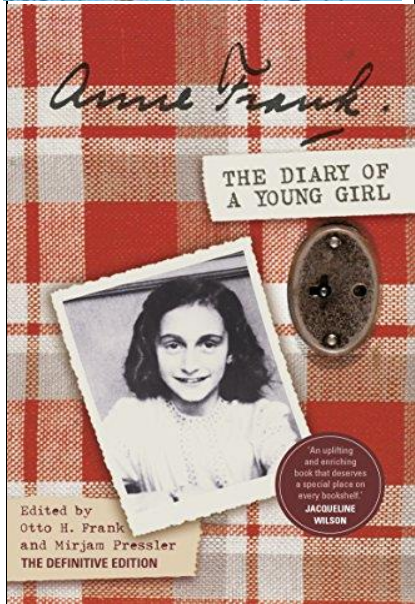
Bravery and Courage



The Goldfish Boy by Lisa Thompson

12-year-old Matthew Corbin hasn't been to school for weeks. He passes much of his time observing the goings-on of the local neighbourhood from his bedroom window. He even makes little notes about neighbours' movements. Their everyday activity is nothing out of the ordinary - chatting, gardening, jogging, and going off to work or the shops.

Until, that is, a toddler goes missing, and Matthew realises he may be one of the few people who can help shed some light on the disappearance. However, Matthew has Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and everyday life has become increasingly challenging. Can he possibly play a major role in an investigation into the abduction of a child, perhaps without even leaving his house?



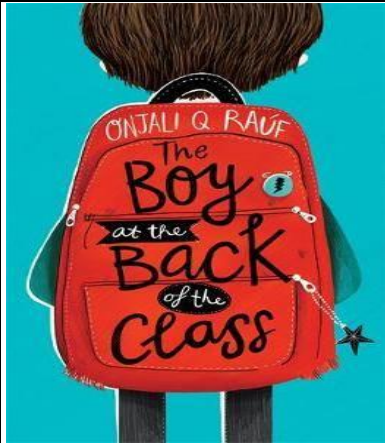
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

A deeply moving and unforgettable portrait of an ordinary and yet an extraordinary teenage girl.

First published over sixty years ago, Anne Frank's Diary of a Young Girl has reached millions of young people throughout the world.

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary the frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feelings and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944, they were all betrayed.

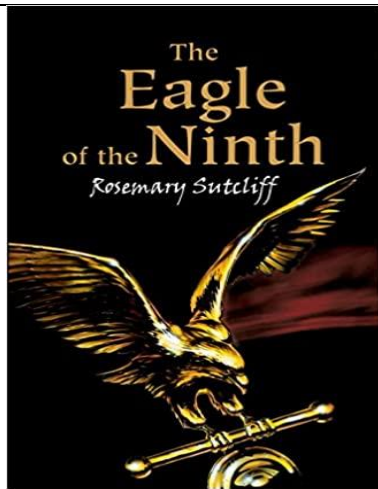
Bravery and Courage



The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf

This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria (he is the boy at the back of the class).

Through their sensitivity, curiosity, ingenuity, bravery and innocent niceness, they make a massive impact on Ahmet's life, friends, class, school, community and wider world.



The Eagle and the Ninth by Rosemary Sutcliffe

The Ninth Legion marched into the mists of northern Britain - and they were never seen again. Four thousand men disappeared and their eagle standard was lost. It's a mystery that's never been solved, until now . . .

Marcus has to find out what happened to his father, who led the legion. So he sets out into the unknown, on a quest so dangerous that nobody expects him to return.