

June 20 is World Refugee Day — an opportunity for parents and educators to teach children about the refugee crisis. Talking with children about global issues can be challenging, but one of the best ways to start the conversation is with a good book.

Working in conflict-affected areas like Bangladesh, Indonesia and Jordan, Room to Read has seen first-hand how books can build bridges between cultures. That's why we created a child-friendly list of books that shed light on the refugee experience. Ranging from picture books to young adult novels, these stories can help create a more compassionate world of global citizens.



PICTURE BOOKS: (AGES 4-7)

Calling the Water Drum

By LaTisha Redding, illustrated by Aaron Boyd (Lee & Low, 2016)

My Beautiful Birds

By Suzanne Del Rizzo (Pajama Press, 2017)

The Treasure Box

By Margaret Wild, illustrated by Freya Blackwood (Candlewick, 2017)

Refugees and Migrants

By Ceri Roberts and Hanane Kai (Barron's Educational Series, 2017)

Pablo and Birdy

By Alison McGhee, illustrated by Ana Juan (Atheneum/Caitlyn Dlouhy Books, 2017)

My Diary from Here to There/Mi Diario de Aquí Hasta Allá

By Amada Irma Pérez, illustrated by Maya Christina Gonzalez (Children's Book Press, 2002)

The Town of Turtle

by Michelle Cuevas, illustrated by Catia Chien (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2018)

Half Spoon of Rice: A Survival Story of the Cambodian Genocide

By Icy Smith, illustrated by Sopaul Nhem (East West Discovery Press, 2010)

Here I Am

By Patti Kim, illustrated by Sonia Sánchez (Picture Windows Books, 2015)

Two White Rabbits

By Jairo Buitrago, illustrated by Rafael Yockteng, translated by Elisa Amado (Groundwood Books, 2015)

A Different Pond

By Bao Phi, illustrated by Thi Bui (Capstone, 2017)

Baddawi

By Leila Abdelrazaq (Just World Books, 2015)

MIDDLE SCHOOL: (AGES 8-12)

The Bone Sparrow

By Zana Fraillon Disney (Disney-Hyperion, 2017)

A Long Pitch Home

By Natalie Dias Lorenzi (Charlesbridge, 2018)

Bamboo People

By Mitali Perkins (Charlesbridge, 2012)

One Good Thing About America

By Ruth Freeman (Holiday House, 2017)

Escape from Aleppo

By N.H. Senzai (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2018)

The Arrival

By Shaun Tan (Arthur A. Levine Books, 2007)

Inside Out and Back Again

By Thanhà Lài (HarperCollins, 2013)

It Ain't So Awful, Falafel

By Firoozeh Dumas (HMH Books for Young Readers, 2017)

In the Sea There Are Crocodiles

By Fabio Geda, translated by Howard Curtis (Anchor, 2012)

YOUNG ADULT: (AGES 12 AND UP)

The Lines We Cross

By Randa Abdel-Fattah (Scholastic Press, 2017)

How Dare the Sun Rise

By Sandra Uwiringiyimana and Abigail Pesta (Katherine Tegen Books, 2018)

Refugee

By Alan Gratz (Starscape, 1900)

A Land of Permanent Goodbyes

By Atia Abawi (Philomel Books, 2018)

The Day of the Pelican

By Katherine Paterson (MH Books for Young Readers, 2010)

A Time of Miracles

By Anne-Laure Bondoux (Ember, 2012)

Now is the Time for Running

By Michael Williams (Little, Brown Books, 2013)

The Good Braider

By Terry Farish (Skyscape, 2014)

I Lived on Butterfly Hill

By Marjorie Agosín (Atheneum Books for Young Readers, 2015)

Salt to the Sea

By Ruta Sepetys (Penguin Books, 2017)

City of Saints & Thieves

By Natalie C. Anderson (G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2017)

The Only Road

By Alexandra Diaz (Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2017)

Of Beetles and Angels: A Boy's Remarkable Journey from a Refugee Camp to Harvard

By Mawi Asgedom (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2002)

Never Fall Down

By Patricia McCormick (Balzer + Bray, 2013)