

## Ten book suggestions for children aged 11-18

There are many books that can be used to explore children’s rights with older children. As children move through secondary school, they can explore increasingly complex and sensitive issues through books.

This is not intended as a definitive list, but a suggestion of ten tried and tested books that you may wish to consider.

Title	Author	Summary	Links to RRSA	Articles
<b>Noughts and Crosses</b>	Malorie Blackman	This book is set in a dystopian divided society of Noughts and Crosses where two teenagers fall in love across the divide. (Ages 11-14)	This series of books is great for engaging young people in issues around discrimination. It’s also been made into a TV series so can be used in Media Studies and Drama.	Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 15: Freedom of association Article 28: Right to an education
<b>Stone Cold</b>	Robert Swindells	This novel concerns a 17-year-old boy who has been forced to leave home and faces dangers when he is left alone on the streets without support to fend for himself. (Ages 11-14)	This novel is great for discussions around support structures that should be in place for young adults suffering abuse at home and who are experiencing homelessness.	Article 27: Adequate standard of living Article 6: Life, survival and development Article 19: Protection from violence, abuse and neglect Article 20: Children unable to live with their family Article 26: Social security
<b>Noone is too Small to Make a Difference</b>	Greta Thunberg	This non-fiction text contains speeches of Greta Thunberg and is useful for discussions around climate change and skills lessons on writing speeches. (Ages 11-16)	This series of speeches is a powerful way to discuss how young people can have their voices heard.	Article 24: Health and health services Article 12: Respect for the views of the child
<b>Windrush Child</b>	Benjamin Zephaniah	This novel tells the story of 10-year-old Leonard leaving his grandma in Jamaica to start a new life with his parents in Manchester. The story echoes that of so many people impacted by the Windrush scandal,	This is a great text for teaching about history, inclusion and empathy.	Article 2: Non-discrimination

		as it takes the reader on Leonard's journey from boy to man. (Ages 11-14)		
<b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time</b>	Mark Haddon/Simon Stephens	This novel follows the story of Christopher, an exceptional mathematician with ASD, who tries to investigate the death of a dog and learns more about his family and himself in the process. (Ages 11-16)	This book is often taught in KS3 and is also on the English GCSE AQA exam board as a play script. This is an excellent story to encourage children to see the world through the eyes of a 15-year-old boy with ASD. It highlights how a child with perceived disabilities is not often listened to and faces barriers to exercise their rights to express himself and be heard.	Article 23: Children with a disability Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 12: Respect for the views of the child
<b>Romeo and Juliet</b>	Shakespeare	This is the classic tale of young lovers from feuding families ending in tragedy. (Ages 11-16)	Romeo and Juliet is taught at Key Stages 3 and 4 is also found in Media Studies and Drama. It's a great starter for discussions around how the views of the child would have been dealt with in the Elizabethan period.	Article 15: Freedom of association Article 12: Respect for the views of the child Article 5: Parental guidance
<b>Lord of the Flies</b>	William Golding	A group of British public-school boys are stranded on an uninhabited island where they unsuccessfully attempt to govern themselves without the presence of adults to protect and guide them. (Ages 14-16)	This text is on the English GCSE AQA exam board. This story asks the question what happens when children no longer have their duty bearers to ensure that their rights are being upheld. There is much opportunity for higher order discussions about what happens without anyone to uphold the rights of the child.	Article 19: Protection from violence, abuse and neglect Article 6: Life, survival and development
<b>Blood Brothers</b>	Willy Russell	This musical tells the story of twin boys who were separated at birth and brought up in very different settings, initially unaware of their connection. (Ages 14 -16)	This play script features on the AQA exam board specification.	Article 7: Birth registration, name, nationality and care Article 9: Separation from parents Article 5: Parental guidance Article 21: Adoption
<b>Anita and Me</b>	Meera Syal	This story charts the childhood of a nine-year-old British-Indian girl	This text is on AQA, OCR, Edexcel and WJEC GCSE exam boards but can also be taught at KS3. An excellent novel to stimulate discussion	Article 2: Non-discrimination Article 13: Freedom of expression

		growing up in a fictional West Midlands village in the 1970s. (Ages 14 -16)	around non-discrimination and freedoms of expression as Meena, a British Indian girl, navigates growing up in the West Midlands in the 1970s.	Article 14: Freedom of thought, belief and religion
<b>The Color Purple</b>	Alice Walker	This novel focuses on the life of Celie, a poor black girl growing up Georgia in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> Century and who is abused by her father, separated from her sister and forced into an abusive marriage. (Ages 16-18)	This A-Level text on the AQA exam board and can be used for discussions about abuse, neglect, poverty and discrimination.	Article 34: Sexual exploitation Article 19: Protection from violence, abuse and neglect Article 27: Adequate standard of living Article 2: Non-discrimination
<b>David Copperfield</b>	Charles Dickens	This classic novel follows the eponymous David Copperfield growing up Victorian England. (Ages 16 -18)	This A-Level text on the AQA and WJEC exam board. It's great for exploring the lack of rights afforded to children in Victorian England. Whilst it's a proscribed text for A-Level, extracts can be used for younger children who are exploring the Victorian era.	Article 28: Rights to an education Article 27: Adequate standard of living Article 19; Protection from violence, abuse and neglect