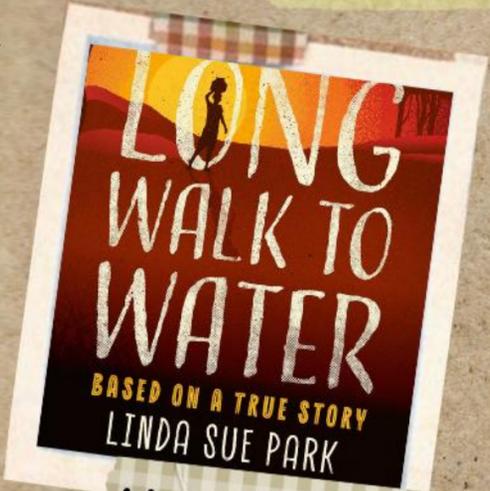


# YEAR OF READING

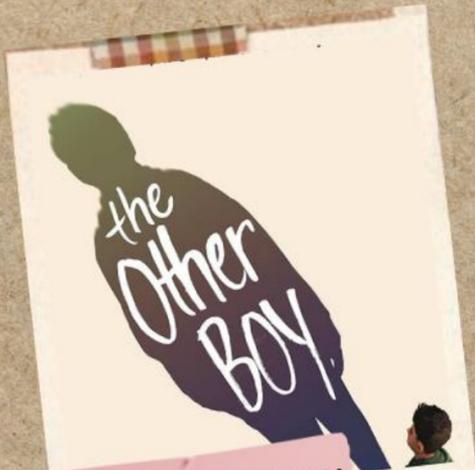
Celebrating Diverse Books



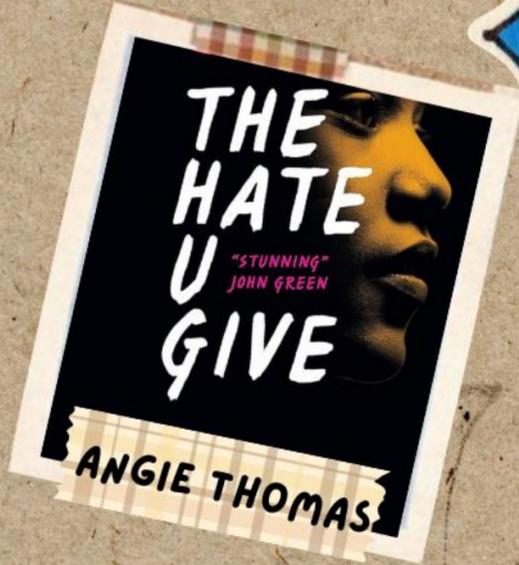
Cursus



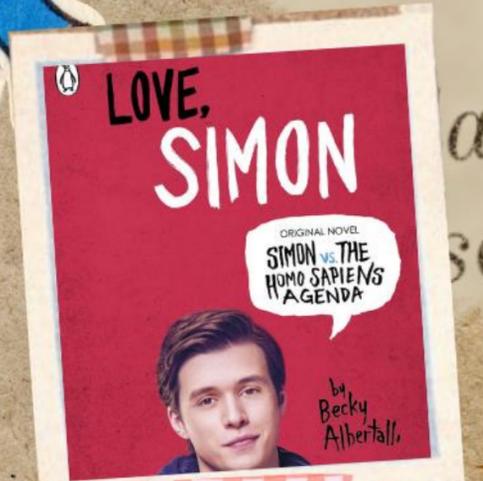
LINDA SUE PARK



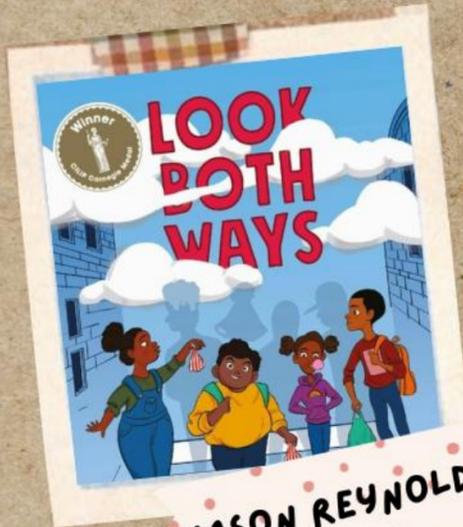
M.G. HENNESSEY



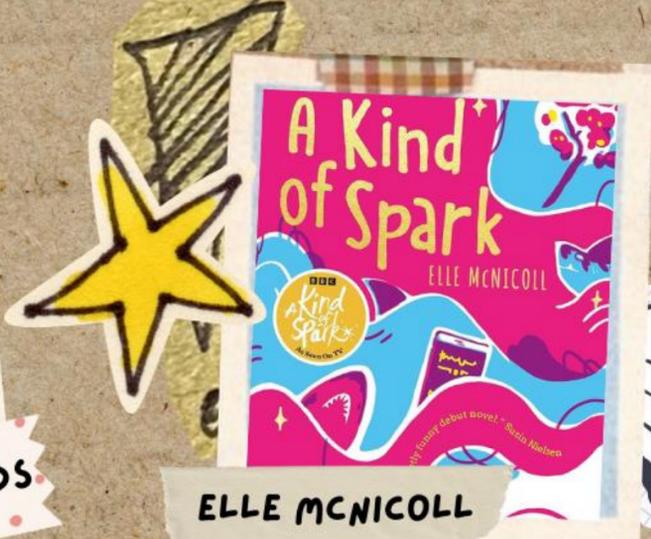
ANGIE THOMAS



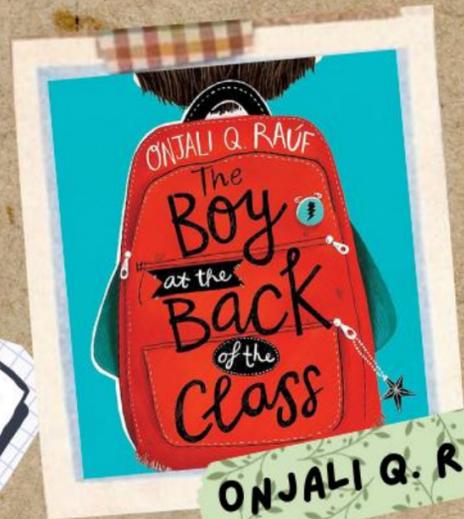
BECKY ABERTALLI



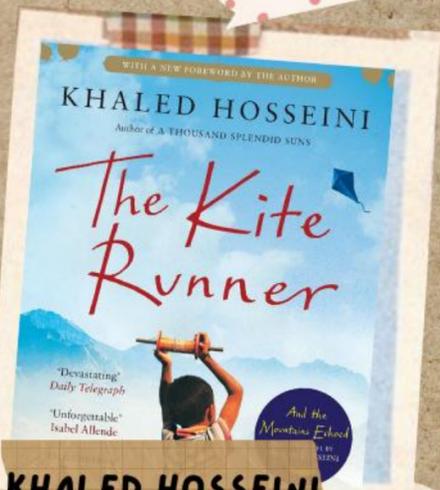
JASON REYNOLDS



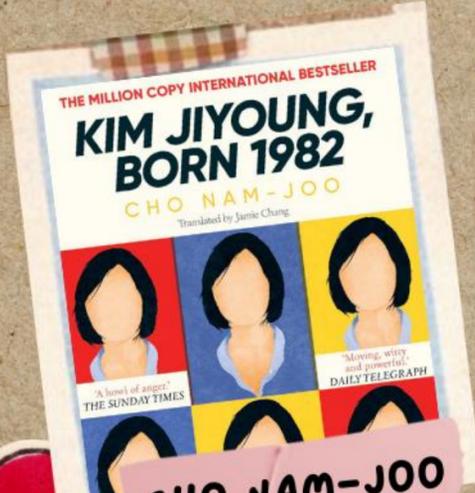
ELLE MCNICOLL



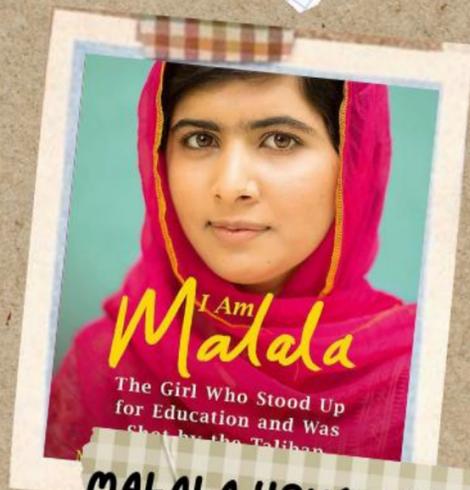
ONJALI Q. RAUF



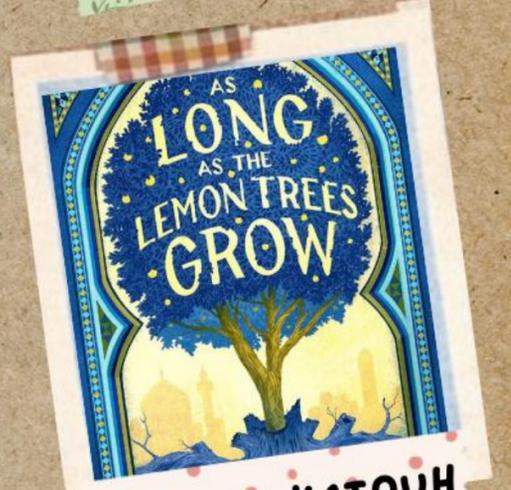
KHALED HOSSEINI



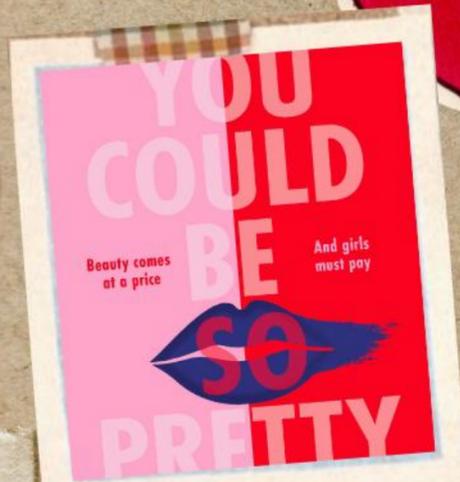
CHO NAM-JOO



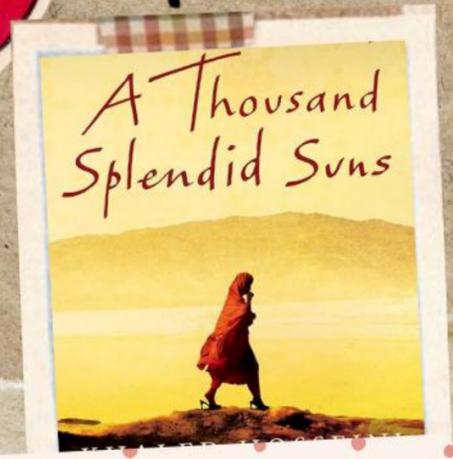
MALALA YOUSAFZAI



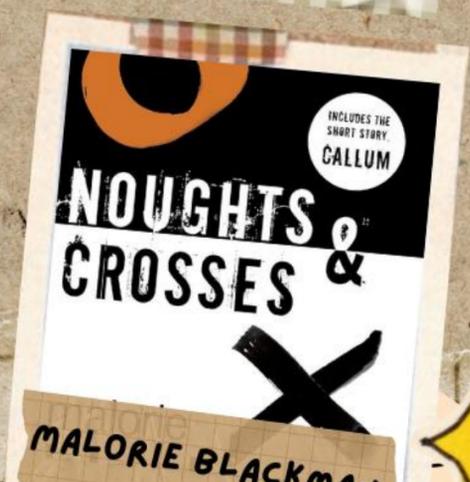
ZOULFA KATOUH



HOLLY BOURNE



KHALED HOSSEINI



MALORIE BLACKMAN



JUNO DAWSON

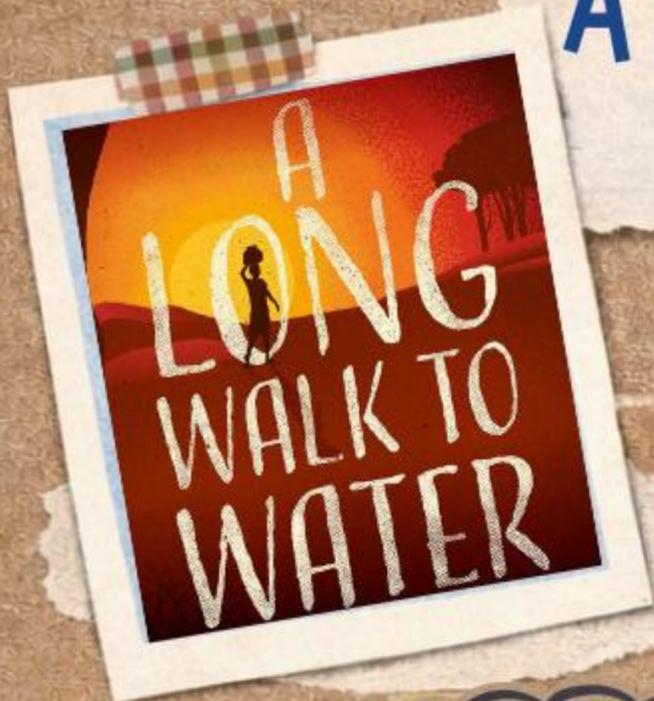
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices



## A Long Walk to Water

By Linda Sue Park



### Why Read This?



Because it follows two real stories set decades apart in South Sudan. One about a boy walking for survival, and one about a girl walking for water. It shows how determination and access to education can literally change communities.

### Themes

Survival, resilience, war, displacement, hope, the power of community and access to water.



### Favourite Quote

"Stay calm. When things are hard, you move one step at a time."



# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices



## The Other Boy

By M.G. Hennessey



### Why Read This?

Because everyone deserves to feel seen. This book helps you understand what it means to live authentically when the world doesn't always understand you. It follows Shane, a transgender boy starting a new school, trying to balance friendship, family and identity.

### Themes

Identity, gender, friendship, belonging, family.

### Favourite Quote

"I just want to be seen as who I am."



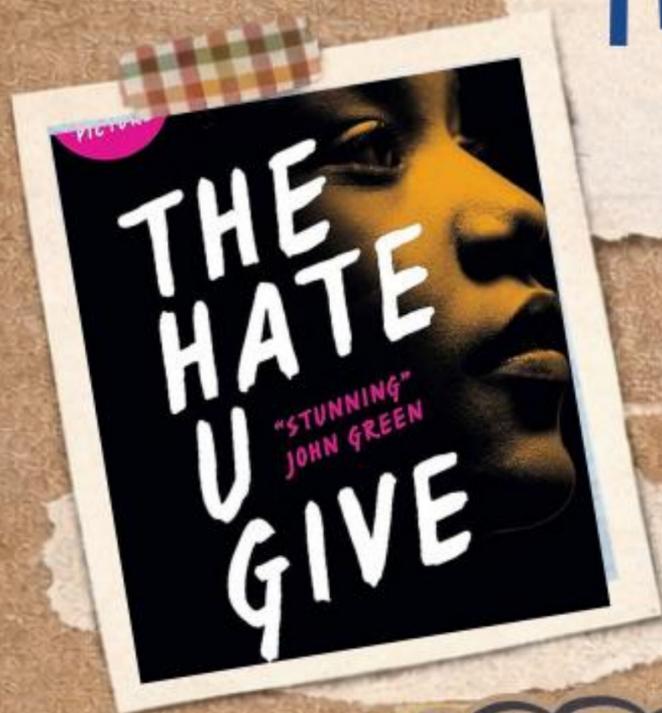
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## The Hate You Give

By Angie Thomas



### Themes

Racism, activism,  
identity, justice,  
code-switching.

### Why Read This?

Focuses on Starr Carter, who witnesses the police shooting of her childhood friend and must decide whether to speak out. It tackles racism, police brutality, activism and the power and cost of using your voice.



### Favourite Quote

"What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?"



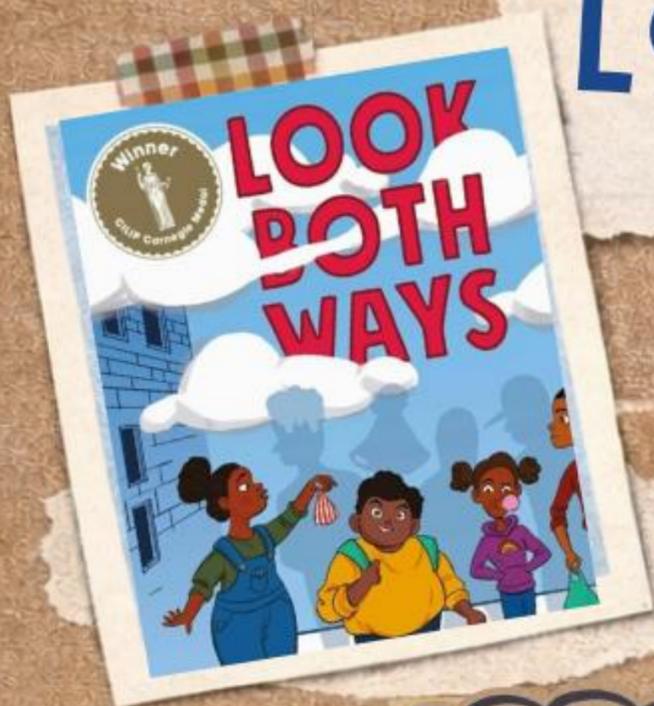
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices



## Look Both Ways

By Jason Reynolds



### Why Read This?



Because it follows multiple students on their walk home from school, each carrying private fears, secrets or dreams. It reminds us that everyone we pass has a story we can't see.

### Themes

Friendship, growing up, community, perspective.



### Favourite Quote

"Every walk home has a story."



# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## A Kind of Spark

By Elle McNicoll



### Why Read This?

it tells the story of Addie, an autistic girl campaigning for a memorial for women wrongly accused of witchcraft. It beautifully links past injustice with modern misunderstanding.

### Themes

Neurodiversity,  
justice, courage,  
empathy.

### Favourite Quote

"Different doesn't mean wrong." 



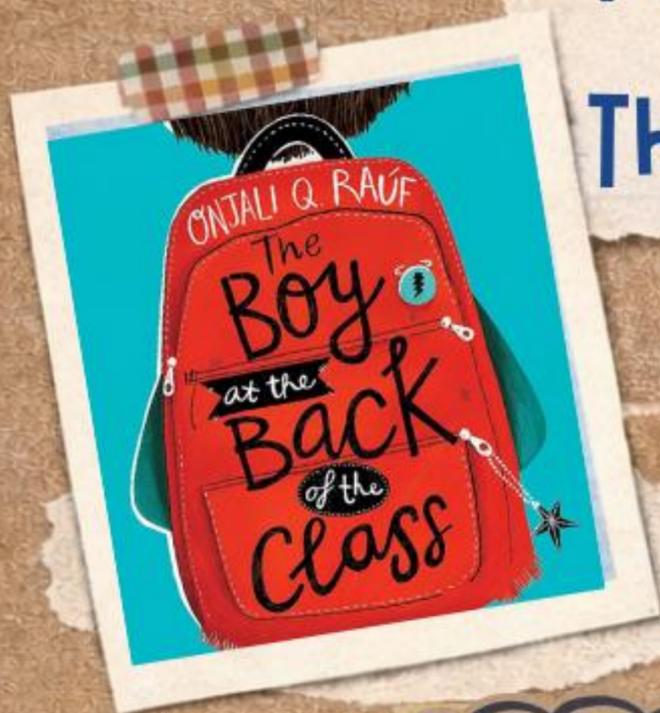
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## The Boy At the Back of

## The Class

*By Onjali Q. Rauf*

### Why Read This?

it follows a group of children who befriend Ahmet, a refugee boy in their class. It shows how friendship and action, even from young people, can challenge prejudice.

### Themes

Refugees,  
kindness, friendship,  
prejudice.



### Favourite Quote

"No one chooses to leave their home unless they have to."

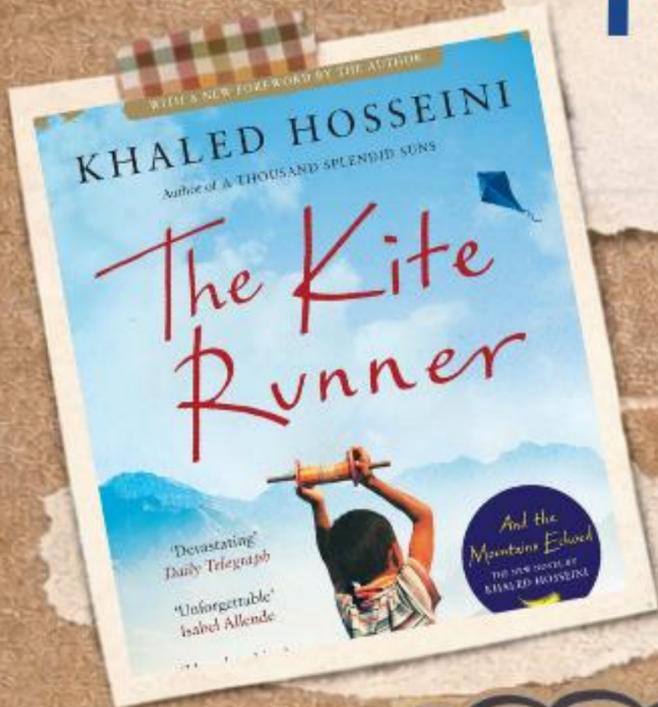


# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices

## The Kite Runner

By Khaled Hosseini



### Themes

Betrayal, guilt,  
redemption, loyalty,  
friendship.

### Why Read This?

it follows Amir and Hassan from childhood in Afghanistan through betrayal, guilt and redemption. It explores class, loyalty and the impact of political conflict on personal lives.

### Favourite Quote

“For you, a thousand times over.”



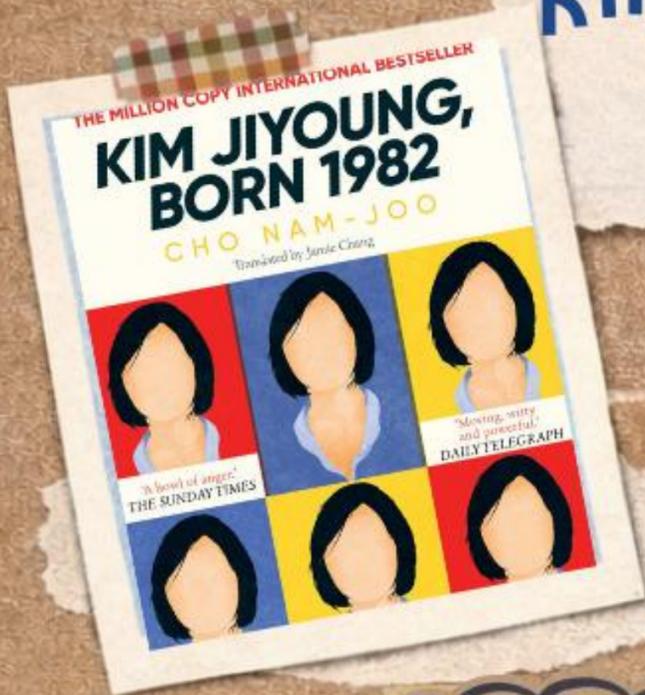
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982

By Cho Nam-Joo



### Why Read This?

it traces Kim Jiyoung's life from childhood to motherhood, highlighting everyday sexism she experiences at each stage. It's subtle, realistic and quietly powerful.

### Themes

Gender inequality, patriarchy, identity, societal pressure.



### Favourite Quote

"She had lived her life the way others expected her to."

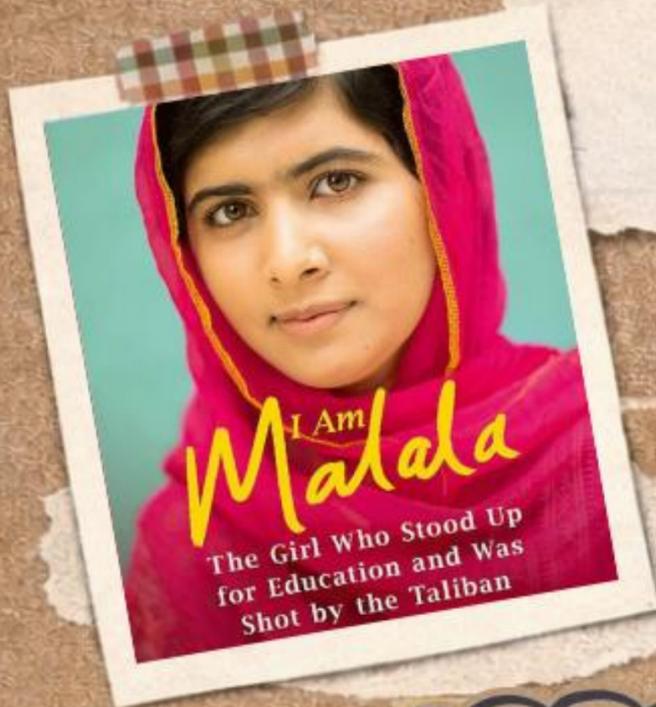


# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices

## I Am Malala

By Malala Yousafzai



### Themes

Education,  
courage, activism,  
women's rights.

### Why Read This?

It tells Malala's real story, from growing up in the Swat Valley to standing up for girls' education after being targeted for speaking out.

### Favourite Quote

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."



# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## PROUD (Anthology)

By Juno Dawson



Why Read This? 

it's a collection of stories and poems by LGBTQ+ authors, each exploring identity, coming out, love and belonging from different perspectives.

Themes

Pride, sexuality, identity, self-acceptance, diversity.

 Favourite Quote

"You deserve to be exactly who you are." 



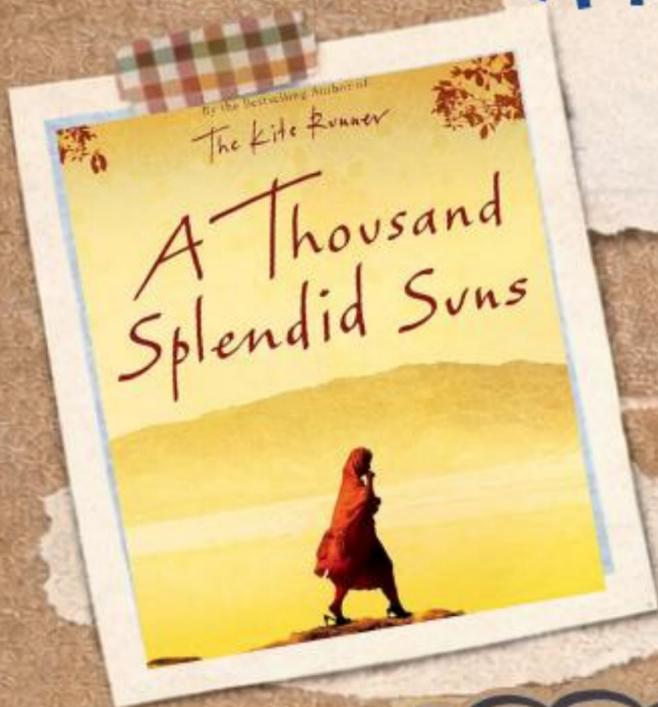
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## A Thousand Splendid Suns

By Khaled Hosseini



### Why Read This?

it follows Mariam and Laila, two Afghan women whose lives become intertwined under oppressive circumstances. It explores female solidarity, survival and sacrifice.

### Themes

Women's rights,  
sacrifice, love,  
endurance.

### Favourite Quote

"She was leaving the world as a woman who had loved and been loved back."



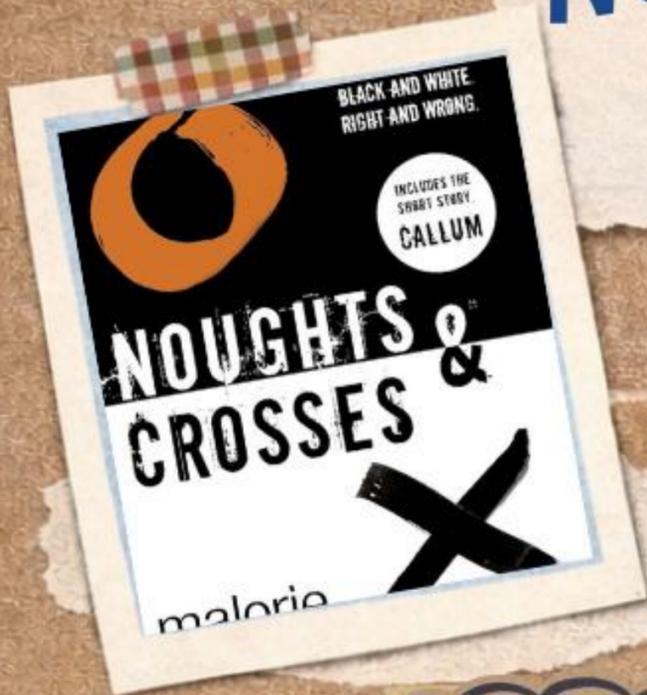
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## Noughts & Crosses

By Malorie Blackman



### Themes

Racism, power,  
forbidden love,  
prejudice, injustice.

### Why Read This?



flips racial power structures in a divided society where "Crosses" hold power over "Noughts." Through Callum and Sephy's relationship, it examines systemic prejudice.



### Favourite Quote

"We're not so different after all."



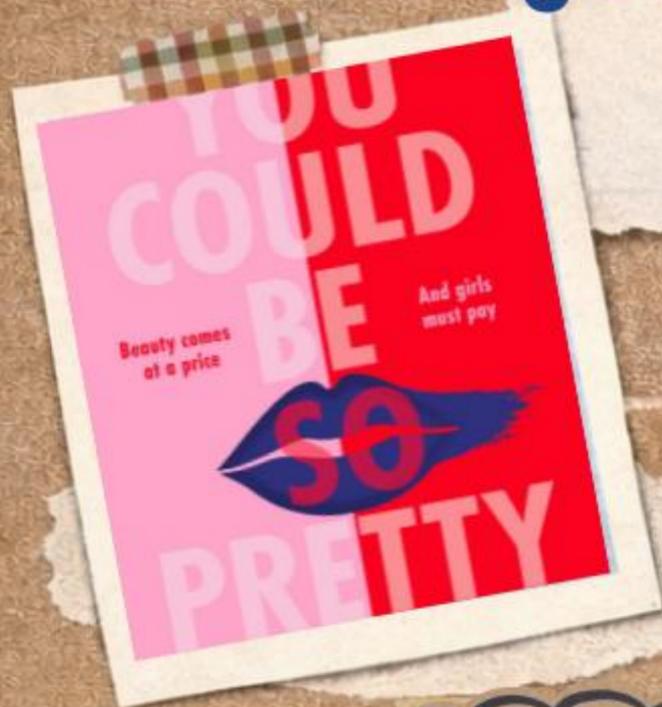
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## You Could Be So Pretty

By Holly Bourne



### Why Read This?

it imagines a society where girls are raised to compete for beauty and approval. It questions how pressure around appearance shapes identity and self-worth.

### Themes

Body image, patriarchy, control, identity.



### Favourite Quote

"What if the rules were never made for us?" 



# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices



## As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow

By Zoulfa Katouh



### Why Read This?

it follows Salama, a Syrian teenager torn between staying in her war-torn country or seeking safety. It blends romance, trauma and the impact of conflict.

### Themes

War, grief, hope, displacement, love.



### Favourite Quote

"Hope is the most dangerous thing in a war."



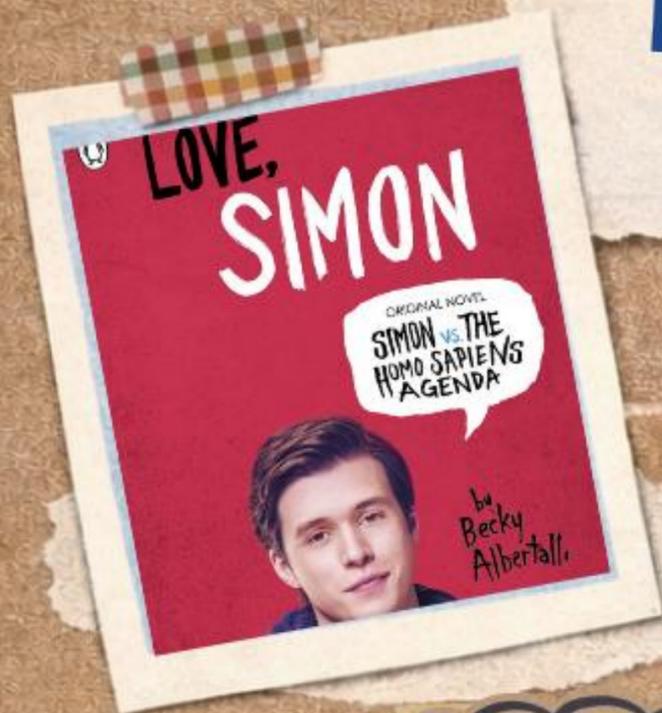
# YEAR OF READING

Celebrating Diverse Voices 



## Love, Simon

By Becky Albertalli



### Why Read This?

it follows Simon, who is anonymously emailing another closeted boy while trying to avoid being outed. It's about friendship, identity and the fear, and joy, of coming out.

### Themes

Sexuality, identity,  
friendship, family,  
acceptance



### Favourite Quote

"Why is straight the default?" 

