



Many primary pupils have only had the chance to read books with white protagonists. If children don't encounter a rich diet of literature at school, they are being denied key knowledge about themselves and the world. Children's literature expert Karen Sands-O'Connor has compiled a book list to get you started on diversifying your school library...

## BOOKS TO DIVERSIFY YOUR CLASS READING LIST

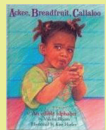
### PICTURE BOOKS FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS



1 **Wriggle Piggy Toes**  
by John Agard



2 **What Will I Be?**  
by Dawne Allette



3 **Ackee, Breadfruit, Callaloo**  
by Valerie Bloom



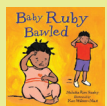
4 **So Much!**  
by Trish Cooke



5 **The Gotcha Smile**  
by Rita Phillips Mitchell



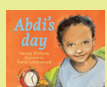
6 **No, Baby, No!**  
by Grace Nichols



7 **Baby Ruby Bawled**  
by Malaika Rose Stanley



8 **Let's Feed the Ducks**  
by Pamela Venus

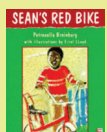


9 **Abdi's Day**  
by Verna Wilkins

Currently out of print but we should lobby to bring back:



**Nini at Carnival**  
by Errol Lloyd



**Sean's Red Bike**  
by Petronella Breinburg

### BEGINNING READERS



10 **Splash, Anna Hibiscus!**  
by Atinuke



14 **My Two Grannies**  
by Floella Benjamin



11 **Phoenix Song**  
by Tutu Dutta



15 **Down by the River**  
by Grace Hallworth



12 **Lucy's Rabbit**  
by Jennifer Northway



16 **Ramadan Moon**  
by Na'ima B. Robert

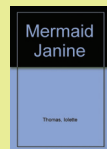


13 **Farmer Falgu Goes to the Market**  
by Chitra Soundar



17 **J is for Jamaica**  
by Benjamin Zephaniah

Currently out of print but we should lobby to bring back:



**Mermaid Janine**  
by Iolette Thomas



18 **Hoorah for Mary Seacole**  
by Trish Cooke



19 **Giant Hiccups**  
by Jacqui Farley



20 **Dave and the Tooth Fairy**  
by Verna Wilkins

### SHORTER-CHAPTER BOOKS



21 **The History of African and Caribbean Communities in Britain**  
by Hakim Adi



22 **Coming to England**  
by Floella Benjamin



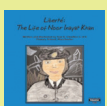
23 **Let's Play!**  
by Debjani Chatterjee (ed)



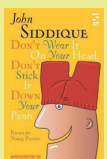
24 **Nina and the Travelling Spice Shed**  
by Mahdvi Ramani



25 **Blackberry Blue and Other Fairy Tales**  
by Jamila Gavin



26 **Liberté: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan**  
by Jackie Ould (ed)



27 **Don't Wear It On Your Head, Don't Stick It Down Your Pants**  
by John Siddique



28 **A Thief in the Village**  
by James Berry



29 **Pig-Heart Boy**  
by Malorie Blackman



30 **A Hen in the Wardrobe**  
by Wendy Meddour

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**Kamla and Kate**  
by Jamila Gavin



**Birds in the Wilderness**  
by Kate Elizabeth Ernest

### AGE 14-18 BOOKS



41 **Travel Light, Travel Dark**  
by John Agard



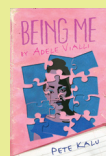
42 **Chasing the Stars**  
by Malorie Blackman



43 **Follow Me Down**  
by Tanya Byrne



44 **Midnight Robber**  
by Nalo Hopkinson



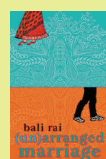
45 **Being Me**  
by Adele Vialli by Pete Kalu



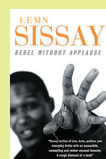
46 **Red Dust Road**  
by Jackie Kay



47 **You're Not Proper**  
by Tariq Mehmood



48 **(Un)arranged Marriage**  
by Bali Rai



49 **Rebel Without Applause**  
by Lemn Sissay



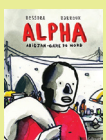
50 **Refugee Boy**  
by Benjamin Zephaniah

Currently out of print but we should lobby to bring back:



**Touch Mi! Tell Mi!**  
by Valerie Bloom

### LONGER-CHAPTER BOOKS



31 **Alpha: Abijan to Gare Du Nord**  
by Bessora and Barroux



32 **Tall Story**  
by Candy Gourlay



33 **Paint Me a Poem**  
by Grace Nichols



34 **Hurricane**  
by Andrew Salkey



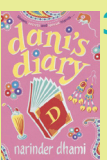
35 **Car Wash Wish**  
by Sita Brahmachari



36 **She Wore Red Trainers**  
by Na'ima B. Robert



37 **The Curious Tale of the Lady Caraboo**  
by Catherine Johnson



38 **Dani's Diary**  
by Narinder Dhani



39 **Crongton Knights**  
by Alex Wheatle

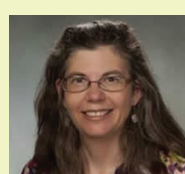


40 **Dancing in the Rain**  
by John Lyons

Currently out of print but we should lobby to bring back:



**East End at Your Feet**  
by Farrukh Dhondy



Professor Karen Sands-O'Connor teaches children's literature and has completed a year as visiting professor at Seven Stories National Centre for Children's Books in Newcastle