



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

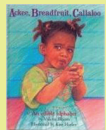
### PICTURE BOOKS FOR BABIES AND TODDLERS



**1** *Wriggle Piggy Toes* by John Agard



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



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



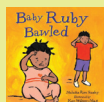
**4** *So Much!* by Trish Cooke



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



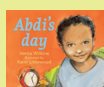
**6** *No, Baby, No!* by Grace Nichols



**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



**11** *Phoenix Song* by Tutu Dutta



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



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



**14** *My Two Grannies* by Floella Benjamin



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



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



**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



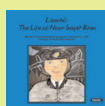
**23** *Let's Play!* by Debjani Chatterjee (ed)



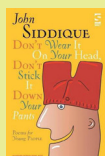
**24** *Nina and the Travelling Spice Shed* by Mahdvi Ramani



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



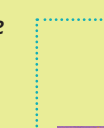
**26** *Liberté: The Life of Noor Inayat Khan* by Jackie Ould (ed)



**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



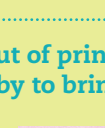
**29** *Kamla and Kate* by Jamila Gavin



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



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



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

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*Birds in the Wilderness* by Kate Elizabeth Ernest

### AGE 14-18 BOOKS



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



**43** *Follow Me Down* by Tanya Byrne



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



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



**49** *Rebel Without Applause* by Lemn Sissay



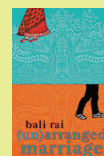
**42** *Chasing the Stars* by Malorie Blackman



**44** *Midnight Robber* by Nalo Hopkinson



**46** *Red Dust Road* by Jackie Kay



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



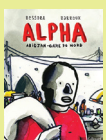
**50** *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah

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



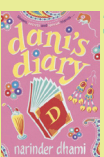
**35** *Car Wash Wish* by Sita Brahmachari



**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 Dhami



**39** *Crongton Knights* by Alex Wheatle

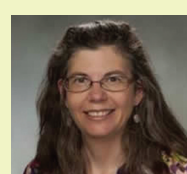


**40** *Dancing in the Rain* by John Lyons

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