

World Book Day 2026

Go All In: Books and Belonging

This year, we are celebrating belonging, community and the power of reading to bring us together.

Suggested Reads

On theme identity, resilience, unity

Fight Back

Author: A. M. Dassu

Age Range: 11-13

Crossing

Author: Manjeet Mann

Age Range: 13



Reading for Pleasure Activities

Reflect and Respond

What does belonging mean to you? How can books help us to understand ourselves and others? Discuss in pairs or groups and share ideas.

Belonging Bookmarks

Decorate a blank bookmark with a word and picture that represent togetherness and a favourite quotation from a book. Swap with a partner or share in the school library.

Time to Read Together

Choose 10 minutes in the day for everyone to read: staff, students and families. This could be individual reading or read-alouds.

Any reading counts: books, magazines, comics, instructions, recipes.

“One book, one pen, one child, and one teacher can change the world”

Malala Yousafzai.

Go All In: An Extract for Discussion

The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta

The Black Flamingo follows Michael's journey from childhood through to university, as he navigates identity, race, and sexuality. Michael eventually finds the confidence to be his authentic self and not feel worried about having to fit in.

In this extract, Michael explores his identity and his relationship with his sister. In a conversation with his mother, she encourages him to embrace who he is and know that he belongs.

**Anna has a different dad
but we have the same surname.**

**Mum decided
and Trevor didn't argue.**

**In the dining hall at school,
I explain to Callum, 'Trevor is Anna's dad
but not mine.'**

**Callum asks, 'If you have different dads,
isn't she your half-sister?'**

**When I get home,
I ask, 'Mummy, are we only half?'**

**'Don't let anyone tell you
that you are half anything.
You and Anna are
simply brother and sister.'**

**Don't let anyone tell you
that she's your half-sister.**

**Don't let anyone tell you
that you are half-black
and half-white. Half-Cypriot
and half-Jamaican.**

**You are a full human
being. It's never as simple
as being half and half.**

**You are born in Britain.
You need to make space
for what British means.**

**What it means to you
to be British, Cypriot
and Jamaican, too; but
it's only for you to decide.'**



Key Questions

**'Don't let anyone tell you
that you are half anything.'**

**What do you think this means?
Why might labels like
"half-something" feel limiting or
unhelpful?**

**Michael's mother encourages him
to decide for himself what it means
to be British, Cypriot and Jamaican.**

**How might creating your own
definition of identity help you feel
a stronger sense of belonging?**

"You are a full human being".

**What does this mean?
How might this help Michael to
feel confident in who he is, rather
than worrying about how to fit in
with others?**