

Belonging!



Suggested Book Titles that relate to the Theme Belonging!

(Information taken from the Internet)

Under the Stars by Suzanne Fisher Staples T/STA

A young woman must choose between tradition and an unexpected love in this gripping novel set in Pakistan. Shabanu, daughter of the windswept Cholistan desert, is the youngest of Rahim's four wives and it is only in his rarely inhabited town house, away from the family home, that Shabanu and her daughter can escape the cruelty of the other wives. But there Shabanu develops a dangerous bond with another man.

The powerful sequel to "Daughter of the Wind" provides an open look at Muslim culture and the issue of women's roles in society. Also includes a map, list of characters and glossary.

The Tygrine Cat by Inbali Iserles T/ISE

Lost and alone, Mati seeks acceptance from a community of street cats at Cressida Lock. But Mati is no ordinary cat...and the mysterious assassin on his trail knows it. Mati looks different, with his golden eyes, large ears and russet coat. He also acts differently - he anticipates danger with bristling whiskers; hears voices from the feline spirit realm that he cannot understand.

To defeat his enemies, Mati must unlock the secret of his true identity. In doing so, he must learn to harness an ancient feline power - a power so deadly that it threatens to destroy not only his friends but every cat on earth...

The Marsh Birds by Eva Sallis T/SAL

Dhurgham al-Samarra'i is a twelve-year-old boy, the youngest child in a middle-class Baghdadi family. He finds himself at the Great Mosque in Damascus in Syria, not knowing what has happened to his parents and sister who fled Baghdad with him. The only thing he knows is that he was told if the family became separated they were to meet at the Mosque. Alone, he waits and waits.

This is the story of what befalls Dhurgham after he realises his family won't be turning up; it is the story of his journey into adulthood, his journey through bitterness to forgiveness, and his journey from Iraq to Syria, to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand and beyond. What do you do when you belong nowhere, with no family, no homeland, and no hope for the future? Who do you become?

A searingly honest story about separation, journeys and unbearable injustice.

Mahtab's Story by Libby Gleeson JF/GLE

The vivid and compelling story of a young girl fleeing Afghanistan with her family and their journey to Australia. Inspired by a true story.

Mahtab was empty. She felt hungry...for water, for her father, for her grandmother, her aunts and uncles, for the trees in the back yard, the cabinet on the wall, the silver and glass objects so lovingly collected, for her mountains, the jagged peaks that cut the sky.

Her father was dead. She felt sure of it. She was just a speck of dirt on the floor, drifting through the gap between the boards, falling to the ground.

Mahtab and her family are forced to leave their home in Herat and journey secretly through the rocky mountains to Pakistan and from there to faraway Australia. Months go by, months of waiting, months of dread. Will they ever be reunited with their father, will they ever find a home?

This compelling novel is based on the true story of one girl's voyage to Australia with her family.

Georgiana – Woman of Flowers by Libby Hathorn T/HAT

A mixture of fact and fiction, this novel tells the story of a young pioneer woman, Georgiana Molloy, and her family as they settle in to the alien bushland of Augusta, Western Australia from England, on their promised

land grant. Threaded through the pioneering adventures is the story of young Will Summerfield and his sister Charlotte, the children of a hopeful yet weak mother who has married a violent stepfather.

Gradually, Georgiana, always curious, begins to see the unique beauty in this harsh new land and, for relief from her arduous life, turns to botanising: observing and identifying the beautiful indigenous flowers that bloom in spring.

Other people's Country by Lee Fox T/FOX

When fifteen-year-old Lola's mother receives an offer of a few months' work on a remote Aboriginal community in central Australia, the family fly to Wandana. Once there, Lola and her family are confronted with enormous social and cultural differences, but slowly begin to adjust. But will the arrival of her brother risk all she has learnt?

The Sakura Tree by Carolyn McTighe JF/MCT

Three girls sent away by a father who wishes for them a more prosperous life.

Once there lived three Japanese sisters:

The eldest sister's name was Aki, which means autumn. She was named this because she was as graceful as the gold and red colored leaves that swirl gently to earth in the autumn breeze.

The middle sister's name was Fuyu, which means winter. She was named this because her skin was as fair as the whitest winter's snow.

The youngest sister's name was Haruko, which means spring. She was named this because her silky, black hair smelled of the sweetest spring blossoms.

The gently eloquent tale follows the progress of three so-called "picture brides" who come to Canada in the early twentieth century, three girls sent away by a father who wishes for them a more prosperous life than he can provide in their hometown of Sendai. Reluctant as they are to leave home, the sisters are nonetheless obedient to their father's wishes. Each takes with her one item that will remind her of their home. One brings a kimono, another a violin, but the youngest, Haruko, brings three seeds of the sakura tree.

The sisters arrive on the shores of British Columbia, where their husbands await. Each joins the husband to whom she has been promised, and each has her own way of remembering the family and country she has left behind.

Haruko plants the sakura seeds, each of which grows into a cherry tree. One spring, the blossoms swirl away in the wind, and are carried to the doorsteps of the two other sisters. The blossoms remind the sisters of Haruko and their Japanese home. Following the blossoms, they find Haruko's home and the three are reunited under the sakura trees to remember their lives together.

This is a book about the meaning of family and home and an exploration of Japanese culture in Canada.

Little Blue - a picture book by Gaye Chapman E/CHA

'My home has steps to the mountains and a wooden bridge,' said Little Blue. 'I miss my mountains.'

'My home has a path to the hills and tall rocks,' said Will. 'Almost like your home.'

They climbed the hills and gazed from the rocks. But they couldn't find Little Blue's way home.

When Will discovers a little blue girl lost in the woods, he tries to help her. When they fail to find her way home, he invites her home with him ... only to find that their homes are one and the same place.

Mattland – a picture book by Hazel Hutchins E/HUT

Matt is miserable. The subdivision where he now lives is surrounded by nothing but muddy fields of rocks and sticks. But when Matt ventures out, his imagination kicks in. He draws a muddy, winding line and names it Snake River. A pile of rocks becomes the Dog Tooth Mountains. Just like that, Mattland is born.

Soon a girl shows up with a handful of helpful odds and ends. Piece by piece, she and Matt expand their new world with popsicle-stick bridges and scrap-paper boats. And when a rainstorm finally threatens to wash everything away, all the neighbourhood kids appear and help stave off the flood.

Evocative of childhood friendships and with clever illustrations that brighten in colour as the story progresses, Mattland is an inspiring ode to cooperative play.

The Zoo on the Road to Nablus by Amelia Thomas T/THO

The last Palestinian zoo stands on a dusty, dead-end street in the once-prosperous farming town of Qalqilya, on the edge of the West Bank. The zoo's bars are rusting; peacocks wander quiet avenues shaded by broad plane trees; a teenage baboon broods in solitary confinement; Ruti the giraffe nibbles dry leaves from an

overhanging branch; walls bear the pockmarks of gunfire. And yet the zoo is an extraordinary place, with a bizarre, troubling and inspiring story to tell.

At its centre is Dr Sami Khader, the only zoo veterinarian in the Palestinian territories. Family man, amateur inventor and dedicated taxidermist, he is fiercely independent, apolitical, and resourceful in times of crisis. Dr Sami dreams of transforming the zoo into one of an international calibre, and of lasting peace in his homeland... In *The Zoo on the Road to Nablus*, Amelia Thomas takes the reader to a world rarely glimpsed from the outside, weaving extraordinary stories of the zoo's animals, its visitors, and the courageous vet who decided to save it, into a rich and colourful chronicle of the strength of the human - and animal - spirit.

Belonging by Sameen Ali B/ALI

Abandoned by her parents, Sameem Ali spent six and a half years growing up in a children's home. When she was told that her family wanted to take her back she couldn't wait to start her new life with them. Instead, she returned to a dirty house where she was subjected to endless chores. Her mother began to beat her and her unhappiness drove her to self-harm. So Sameem was excited when she boarded a plane with her mother to visit Pakistan for the first time. It was only after they arrived in her family's village that she realised she wasn't there on holiday.

Aged just thirteen, Sameem was forced to marry a complete stranger. When pregnant, two months later, she was made to return to Glasgow where she suffered further abuse from her family. After finding true love, Sameem fled the violence at home and escaped to Manchester with her young son. She believed she had put her horrific experiences behind her, but was unprepared for the consequences of violating her family's honour ...Belonging is the shocking true story of Sameem's struggle to break free from her past and fight back against her upbringing.

Ants in My Dreadlocks & Stinger in a Sugar Jar by Cynthia Rowe T/ROW

STINGER IN A SUGAR JAR is the third book in the Genna Perrier series. Set in Far North Queensland, the story follows Genna's adventures as she travels to Cairns to catch up with her birth mother, Sandrine.

Follow the highs and lows of a mother daughter relationship. Be there as Genna meets up with her freedom fighter friend, Rocky Colline. Feel the tension as she goes bungy jumping with the notorious Malachi. Discover the dark past of her Year 12 French examiner, Pascal Manet. And, more importantly, what motivates Sandrine to behave the way she does?

Complete with the quirky characters and culture clash the reader has come to expect, this tale will plunge you into an exotic tropical setting filled with mystery.

ANTS IN MY DREADLOCKS continues Genna Perrier's search for her origins. Her quest takes her to New Caledonia, the place of her birth, where she meets a range of quirky characters and experiences unexpected adventures.

While there, Genna comes across information that helps to explain the reason for her birth mother, Sandrine, relinquishing her as a baby. She discovers the depths to which her grandfather, Jacques Forestier, is prepared to sink, as he uses others to do his dirty business.

Replete with culture clash, the book takes you on a wild ride behind the tourist areas of New Caledonia, from kava bars to deer farms, back alleys in the Latin Quarter and treacherous rainforest walks. Find out what life is really like on this cigar-shaped French Pacific island.

The Burying Beetle by Ann Kelley T/KEL

The narrator is twelve-year old Gussie, who has a life threatening heart disease. She is aware of her mortality and knows she probably won't reach adulthood, even if she has the heart and lung transplant she needs.

In their rented house on a cliff edge in Cornwall, England, she reads the old books on the shelves, and looks about her at birds, insects and animals, working out a philosophy for living her short life. She has a great zest for life, and is determined to live fully until she dies.

Gussie has to cope with the recent loss of beloved grandparents, her father leaving home, her worsening condition, and fear of death. From her close observation of nature she realises that death is natural, and that matter doesn't die.

(The Burying Beetle finds small dead creatures- birds and mice and voles, feeds on the flesh, mates and lays eggs on the carcass, then buries it. The hatched grubs have an instant food source – a natural recycling process.)

Sunday Chutney by Aaron Blabey E/BLA

Sunday Chutney has the most extraordinary life - she has lived all over the world! Of course, moving around means she's always the new kid at school and never really has a place to call home. But Sunday Chutney doesn't care about that. Or does she?

Girlie by Gillian Ranstead F/RANS

In a remote rural valley in the New Zealand hills, two cultural traditions interweave. The land is owned by Maori, and there are many Maori in the community. But the other families regard themselves as Celtic, with ancient memories stretching back through the centuries, to Culloden, and before. A traumatised people speaking Gaelic have been dispossessed and driven out of their homeland, to seek refuge in New Zealand, only to find themselves caught up in a history that has dispossessed the original people of the new land.

Two great traditions blend - and also clash. Growing up in the extended family is the girl Mara, the one they call Girlie, abandoned by her free-wheeling journalist mother and brought up by uncles and aunts. A free spirit herself, Mara struggles to understand the power of the past. Then a great flood devastates the valley and the community is scattered. Introduced to the liberating world of books, the teenage Mara begins to understand the connections between memories, ancestors and history.

Disguise by Hugo Hamilton F/HAMI

1945. At the end of the Second World War, a young mother loses her two-year-old boy in the bombings of Berlin. She flees to the south, where her father finds among the refugee trains a young foundling of the same age to replace his grandson. He makes his daughter promise never to tell anyone, including her husband—still fighting on the Russian front—that the boy is not her own. Nobody will know the difference.

2008. Gregor Liedmann is a Jewish man now in his sixties. He is an aging rocker who ran away from home, a trumpet player, and a revolutionary stone-thrower left over from the 1968 protests. On a single day spent gathering fruit in an orchard outside Berlin with family and friends, Gregor looks back over his life, sifting through fact and memory in order to establish the truth. What happened on that journey south in the final days of the war? Why did his grandfather Emil disappear, and why did the gestapo torture Uncle Max? Here, in the calmness of the orchard, along with his ex-wife Mara and son Daniel, Gregor tries to unlock the secrets of his past.

Nobody Owns the Moon – a picture book by Toby Riddle JF/RID

Clive Prendergast is a fox with a regular job and a place to call home. His friend Humphrey is a struggling donkey with no fixed address. Life in the city is a mixed bag for these two, but a special-looking blue envelope is about to change everything - at least for one wonderful night.

Set in a bustling big city, *Nobody Owns the Moon* is a whimsical story about friendship and belonging.

Sometimes Love is Under Your Foot – a picture book by Colin Thompson E/THO

Kevin the dog loves his owner Brian so much he thinks that Brian is God. But Brian usually ignores Kevin, except when he nearly treads on him in his big shoes and then Brian becomes ill . . .

Nyuntu Ninti (What you should know) by Bob Randall & Melanie Hogan JF/RAN

Through the gentle and wise words of 'Uncle' Bob Randall, *Nyuntu Ninti* shows us what we should all know about an ancient and spiritual culture that is the very heart and soul of Australia.

My name is Bob Randall and I'm an Anangu man from Uluru. Not many people know much about us. That's why I want to share some things with you. Things about us. About our land. Things you may not have heard before.'

In this beautiful photographic book for young children, Bob Randall explains, in a simple but effective way, the Anangu people's relationship to all that is around them, and why we must learn to care for the earth, its plants and its creatures.

Based on the award-winning documentary, *Kanyini, Nyuntu Ninti*, meaning 'what you should know', teaches us about the people who are at the heart of our country.

Snow Falling in Spring by Moying Li T/LI

Most people cannot remember when their childhood ended. I, on the other hand, have a crystal-clear memory of that moment. It happened at night in the summer of 1966, when my elementary school headmaster hanged himself.

In 1966 Moying, a student at a prestigious language school in Beijing, seems destined for a promising future. Everything changes when student Red Guards begin to orchestrate brutal assaults, violent public humiliations, and forced confessions. After watching her teachers and headmasters beaten in public, Moying flees school for the safety of home, only to witness her beloved grandmother denounced, her home ransacked, her father's precious books flung onto the back of a truck, and Baba himself taken away. From labor camp, Baba entrusts a friend to deliver a reading list of banned books to Moying so that she can continue to learn. Now, with so much of her life at risk, she finds sanctuary in the world of imagination and learning.

This inspiring memoir follows Moying Li from age twelve to twenty-two, illuminating a complex, dark time in China's history as it tells the compelling story of one girl's difficult but determined coming-of-age during the Cultural Revolution.

The Crowded Beach by Australian Author Laurene Kelly T/KEL

The powerful sequel to the acclaimed *I Started Crying Monday* tells the story of fourteen-year-old Julie trying to forge a new life for herself after a family tragedy. Adapting to life in the city, without her parents, is sometimes exciting, but often overwhelming, and discovering the joys of the beach provides Julie with an escape from the ongoing dramas.

At first, it seems the turmoil will never cease. And then, just as Julie begins to make some sense of what has happened, there are further surprising developments.

Something in the World called Love by Sue Saliba T/SAL

It's true, there's something in the world called love. Esma felt it when she moved into the house with the blue stairs. There was Kara beside her, and Simon below with his room that looked out to the road - two roads actually so you had a choice as you were leaving or arriving, which way to take. But anyway, Esma at the beginning saw only one way. . .

When Esma moves into 22 Starling Street, she knows she's come to the right place. A place to become someone new. A place to belong.

As the seasons change, she finds herself falling deeper and deeper in love. But not in the way she expects. . .

A remarkable new novel about friendship, trust and hope - and what it means to love.

Big Kicks – a picture book by Bob Kolar E/KOL

Biggie Bear lives in a quiet corner of a busy little town. He collects stamps, plays jazz, and enjoys being by himself. One day, the town soccer team knocks on his door, and they need BIG help. Biggie's never played soccer before, and once they are out on the field, Biggie realizes that maybe there is more to soccer than just being big. Bob Kolar's droll, vibrantly illustrated tale about a lovable (but rather clumsy) bear and his endearing (but rather unlucky) team is sure to win some BIG fans.