

# UPROOTED

Poetry by

Bristol School Children



A collection of poems about leaving your home country. Inspired by awareness-raising work about asylum seekers and refugees in Refugee Week, June 2009.



Refugee Week  
2009



*EIAT Poetry from  
Journey to Safety  
Workshops*



## *Introduction*

*For some years now, schools throughout Bristol have been encouraged to celebrate Refugee Week, an annual event which comprises a UK wide programme of events to celebrate the contributions refugee communities have made, and continue to make, to the UK.*

*The Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT), led by Ms Hadassah Radway, has played an increasingly important part in this event.*

*For the last few years, the EMAT Induction and Assessment Team (EIAT) has run the 'Journey to Safety' game - a giant, interactive 'board game' for primary-aged pupils adapted from the Refugee Council book, 'Refugees: A Resource Book for Primary Schools', edited by Jill Rutter, 1998.*

*This year, for the first time, EIAT (led by Ms Catherine Cranmer) collaborated with the Red Cross (led by Mrs Anna Kavar) to deliver the EIAT 'Journey to Safety' game as well as the Red Cross' 'Positive Images' workshops, aimed at challenging stereotypes about asylum seekers and refugees.*

*During Refugee Week, 15-19th June 2009, EIAT worked with 9 primary schools (see list below), 1 secondary school (Monks Park, now known as Orchard School) and a group of Home Educated pupils, reaching over 360 pupils in total.*

*There were various supplementary activities linked to the 'Journey to Safety' game, a poetry-writing workshop being one of these. The poetry in this booklet was written collaboratively in small groups by the pupils, either before or after they had played the game, in workshops led by EIAT bilingual Instructor, Mrs Rezina Rahman and PGCE student volunteer, Ms Dayna Stephens.*

# A BIG Thank You

Many thanks to all EIAT staff involved in planning and running the 'Journey to Safety' game and linked activities:

**Ms Sarah Dewey** -

Specialist Teacher

**Mr Mohamed Jama** -

Bilingual Teaching  
Assistant

**Mrs Nuzhat Malik** -

Bilingual Instructor

**Mrs Yasmin Malik** -

Specialist Teacher

**Mrs Rezina Rahman** -

Bilingual Instructor

**Mr Khadar Said** -

Bilingual Teaching  
Assistant

Thanks to all Red Cross staff and trained volunteers for their part in delivering the 'Journey to Safety' game and linked activities.

Thanks also to additional adults who worked with EIAT during Refugee Week:

**Ms Georgia Barker** – New Arrivals  
Coordinator, South Bristol

**Ms Becki Robinson** – CAMHS

**Ms Dayna Stevens** – PGCE Student  
Volunteer

Many thanks to all the schools and pupils involved in the writing of this poetry:

**Chester Park Juniors**

**Filton Avenue Juniors**

**Fonthill Primary**

**Glenfrome Primary**

**Lockleaze Primary**

**Millpond Primary**

**St Matthias & Dr Bell's Primary**

**Upper Horfield Primary**

**Whitehall Primary**

As well as the **Home Educated**  
pupil group.

Finally, special thanks again to **Mrs Rezina Rahman** and **Ms Dayna Stevens** for leading the poetry workshops, and thanks and congratulations to all the pupils involved for their wonderful, thought-provoking poetry.

**Catherine Cranmer** - Specialist Teacher,  
EMAT Induction and Assessment Team

**[catherine.cranmer@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.cranmer@bristol.gov.uk)**

## Chester Park Juniors

*My safe space is a tent where I would sleep every night.*

*It would be warm.*

*I can go there when I feel sad, angry, stressed.*

*The key is a DNA scan.*

**Mollie**

*My safe place is home.*

*I can go there when I feel depressed or scared.*

*The key is happiness.*

**Idris**

*My safe space is my hiding space.*

*My key is my family.*

**Anub**

*My safe space is my home.*

*I can go there when I feel upset.*

*My key is a DNA key.*

**Alina**



My safe space is my favourite place.

It is a tree house.

It is my own little space

I go there when I feel sad and lonely.

The key is a DNA space where I put my hand.

I can bake and cook there.

I have a telly and a minifridge - and my huge fluffy bunny.

My dog comes up with me.

## Talia

My safe space is the corner of my room.

I can go there when I feel depressed.

The key is in my imagination.

I hear the whistling in the wind when I feel depressed.

## Joe



*My safe space is a tent where I  
can go to and sleep and play and I  
feel warm and cosy.*

*I can go there when I feel  
happy, sad, glad, unhappy.*

*The key is a J.G.S.S. scan.*

*It has got my sister's name.*

### **Caitlin**

*My safe space is my bedroom  
where I hear my guinea pigs  
squeaking and my fish.*

*I can go there when I feel sad,  
happy and worried.*

*The key is happiness.*

### **Bethany**



# Glenfrome Primary

My safe space is a friend's house.

I hear a warm wind.

I smell crisps.

I see lovely birds.

I can go there when I feel unhappy or scared.

I feel happy or nice.

The key is magic.

## Kawsar

My safe space is playing outside.

I hear warm wind.

I smell chocolate.

I can go there when I feel happy, fun, nice.

The key is cool and it's magic too.

It can open every door.

## Mounira

My safe space is my cousin's house.

I hear a smooth wind.

I see a little cat.

I smell warm hot chocolate.

I can go there when I feel dramatic and shocked and worried.

The key is special to me and magic.

That we didn't get shot on the way.

## Anon

# Upper Horfield Primary

## Leaving Home

*I would miss my family, friends  
and neighbours*

*I would miss my pets lying on  
my lap*

*I would miss my garden when the  
squirrels come to collect the nuts*

*I would miss the smell of cooking,  
cherries and the fresh air of my  
back garden*



## Ashley, Kahial, Jasmin, Harry and Kelsey

### I Would Miss

*I would miss my home, especially  
my bedroom that makes me feel  
special.*

*I would miss my family and friends  
who make me feel warm and happy.*

*I would miss the smell of my  
mum's cooking.*

*I would miss my garden, pets,  
trampoline and all the things I love.*

## Charley-May, Lucy, Eli, Amber, David



# Filton Avenue Juniors

## **We Will Miss**

We will miss our family and friends who make us feel loved, happy, secure and safe.

We will miss our pets – dog, cat, hamster, guinea pig and rat – that we look after.

We will miss food – my mum’s curry, my auntie’s roast, mum’s pasta, nan’s spaghetti Bolognese.

We will miss the birthdays and Christmas that we will celebrate without our family.

We will miss our climbing tree, bedroom and carpet where I sit every day to watch TV

And all of the things that make us different and special.

**Danielle, Frankie, Callum, Khalid, Tiffany**

## **We Would Miss**

We would miss our family who look after us and make us feel happy and comfortable and keep us safe.

We would miss friends who make us happy when we are sad.

We would miss our pets – guinea pig, doves, dogs, cats, hamster and goldfish.

We would miss our home – the back garden, t.v. programmes, my cosy bed, my luxury settee, games and toys.

We would miss all the food, fruits, flowers and trees that make us feel at home.

**Thaminah, Olivia, Arthur, Tom and Bradley**

# Fonthill Primary

## We Would Miss

*We would miss our family, who give us all the love and care.*

*We would miss our friends who are funny and make us laugh.*

*We would miss our family who help us when we get hurt.*

*We would miss the friends who make us happy when we are sad.*

**Jordan, Bayleigh, Alyssa, Sophie and Rebecca**

## Leaving the country

*I am frightened to leave my country behind.*

*I am worried to be separated from my friends and family.*

*I am scared of being alone.*

*I am broken-hearted to think of missing everything around my world.*

**Amelia, Courtney, Megan, Scott and Connor**

# Lockleaze Primary

## No Rights

No right to be with my family.

No right to speak freely.

No right to my belongings.

No right to go where I want to.

No right to smile and show my emotions.

If I have no rights then what is the point in living?

**Vanessa, Olliver, Kayley Anne,  
Victoria, and Joseph**

## Leaving My Land

Leaving my land makes me feel frustrated because I am forced to leave.

Leaving my land makes me worried that I'm separated from my family.

Leaving my land makes me feel left out of all the things I had to leave behind.

**Danielle, Sol, Claire, Redley and CJ**



# Whitehall Primary & Home Educated Pupils

## I Will Remember

*I will remember the time I spent with my family.*

*I will remember all the wonderful friends I have played with.*

*I will remember all the pets I have looked after.*

*I will remember all my luxuries.*

*I will remember my huge garden, my allotment, the beach and the zoo.*

*I will remember all the take-away foods and all the bubbly fizzy drinks.*

*I will remember all the electronics and consoles.*

*I will remember.*

**Sitar, Sabele, Ahmed, (Whitehall Primary School) & Elfin, Poppy (Home Educated Pupils)**

## Memories of my Country

I remember the sound of the birds chirping in the morning.

I remember sitting by the fire with a mug of hot chocolate.

I remember how my cats lay on my bed.

I remember playing out in the garden with my sister.

I remember the smell of new grass and big space to play.

I remember the sound of freedom.

**Mandeeka, Patryk, Chelsea, Jason,  
Aysha, Whitehall Primary School & Home  
Educated Pupils**



# St Matthias & Dr Bell's Primary

## I Feel Safe

*I feel safe on my bed.*

*I feel safe hiding my head.*

*I talk to my toys when I feel sad.*

*When I cuddle my toys I don't feel  
as bad.*

*When I am angry I go under my  
covers.*

*I feel safe in my room.*

*It's happy, peaceful and quiet.*

*Yellow makes me happy.*

*I feel safe on my bed.*

## Heather and Abby

### I Feel Safe

*My safe space is in my garden*

*where I can hear birds and wind.*

*The sun gives me a burst of energy.*

*The birds' chirping calms me down.*

*I feel cosy in my safe space.*

*When I lie in my garden I can see  
the clouds.*

*I feel peaceful and want to join the  
cloud and reach somewhere amazing.*

## Jonathan and Alex M.

## **I miss**

I miss the smell of my mum's cooking.

I miss my mum and dad flipping pancakes.

I miss my snake and lizard.

I miss camping with my dad .

I miss my mum and dad – they used to buy me nice clothes and make me breakfast.

I miss my dad because he used to help me when I'm stuck and he used to teach me.

I miss my home because of the smell of cooking shepherd's pie.

I miss my creaky door in the living room and I miss my mum and dad's hugs.

I miss the annoying sound from the TV when I turn it on.

I miss my friends when they knock on my door and ask me to play.

I miss my sister because she always annoys me.

I miss my brother when he cries in the morning.

I miss my school when I have to wake up and go and learn.

I miss my birthday cakes.

I miss my chatting with Nan upstairs and my Grandad downstairs.

I miss the feeling of my mum and dad's hugs.

I miss the smell of cooking fish.

I miss my friends on the street.

I miss my nephew annoying me.

I miss my little cousin screaming at me and kissing me.

I miss the smell of my Nan cooking chicken on Sundays.

I miss the pond in my back garden – the fish, the plants, the decoration.

I miss my hamster and my cats.

I miss the helping of my teacher.

I miss the smell of flowers in my room.

I miss my own bedroom and my two cats and the scrape of the chair on the floor.

I miss my brother on the trampoline.

I miss my dad's roast chicken and my mum's company.

I miss the frogs and the tadpoles in the pond.

**Clair, Emilia, Rhianna, Anita and George.**



# Millpond Primary School

## Safe Place

*My safe space is in my home with my family around me.*

*My safe space is at school with friends around me.*

*I feel safe at the bus station where there are security cameras.*

*My safe space is people around me who can protect me -*

*police officers, teachers, neighbours and entrusted, protective and helpful people.*

## Abdil, Samira, Ikram, Nasteho, Rosie

### I miss

*I miss the smell of my mum's perfume.*

*I miss my green room.*

*I miss the splashing of my sister diving in the water trying to swim.*

*I miss the smell of my mum's curry chicken going around the house.*

*I miss my family - my sister.*

**Anon**



