

# Refugee Week: What is a Refugee?

Refugee  
Week



Refugee Week is a UK wide festival celebrating the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.

This year it is being held on the 14th – 20th June.

## What does “Refugee” mean?

Write down what you think the definition might be...

A refugee is somebody who has had to flee their country and cannot return home safely. They may be escaping war, persecution, climate change, natural disasters and/or conflict.

Did this match your definition?

It is important to remember that refugees are not just a single group that have all the same characteristics; their experiences and lives are all very different.

## Read the poem “this girl you see” by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater to the right:

- Have a think about the poem and what it might be telling us.
- Write down some of the thoughts and feelings you had when reading it.

We think the poem is saying that refugees can be anyone and that they’re just like us.

It is saying that people are more than just one label; that refugees can also be book lovers, grandchildren, or anything else we might describe ourselves as.

**free**

last year  
this girl  
this girl you see  
she was not a refugee  
but just a child  
who loved to read  
to walk with grandma  
by the sea  
the nights were loud  
they had to flee  
so now  
we call her refugee  
she is a child  
may she be free  
she could be you  
she could be me

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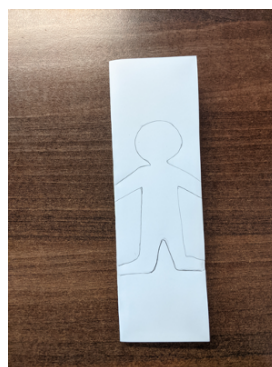
## Activity: Paper chain pals

Follow these step-by-step instructions to create some paper friends.

### You will need:

- Paper (scrap is fine, so long as you can still write on the paper)
- Pencil/pen
- Scissors
- Coloured pencils/pens

### Instructions:



1. Grab some scrap paper and fold the paper into a concertina like the image above.
2. Draw on the paper the shape of a body like above, make sure the shape goes to the edge of the folds! (the hands and feet on both sides should overlap the folded edge)
3. Carefully cut out the shape and unfold the paper cut out. Make sure you leave the hands and feet connected at the folded edges when cutting!
4. You should now have a paper chain of people!
5. Write as many different qualities on them which you think make people good friends. You could choose happy, kind, or funny. Challenge yourself to think of as many different qualities as you can and make them as colourful as possible!

Once you have finished, take a look at each friend. **Have you noticed how they all have different qualities from one another?**

We all have different qualities which makes us who we are and we can all still stand hand-in-hand next to one another, just like your paper friends do.  
This is important to think about during Refugee Week and beyond.

People who may be fleeing war, persecution or climate change may seem different to us on the surface, but they're people just like us. It should be our mission to make sure they feel welcome here and celebrate their contributions, creativity and resilience!

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