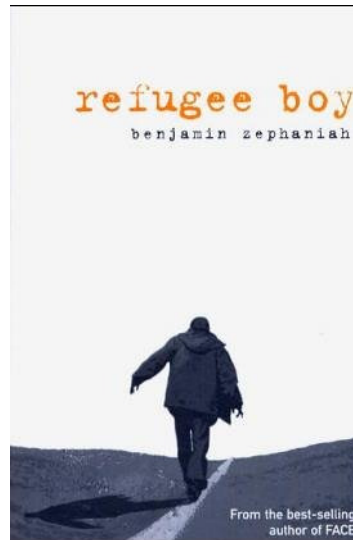


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Refugee Boy

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Alem Kelo hat eine eritreische Mutter und einen äthiopischen Vater, die sich aber beide als Afrikaner fühlen. Der nach wie vor anhaltende Bürgerkrieg macht es ‚Mischlingsfamilien‘ jedoch unmöglich, friedlich in ihrem Land zu leben.

Deshalb bringt der Vater den Sohn – unter dem Vorwand einer gemeinsamen Londonreise – nach England und läßt den Sohn alleine zurück. Alem wird vom Refugee Council betreut, erst in einem Heim, dann in einer Pflegefamilie. Es folgt ein langwieriger Asylprozess, der erst erfolgreich endet, als auch Alems Vater in London getötet wird (wohin er nach dem Mord an seiner Frau zurückkehrt).

Trying to learn as much as he could about British culture from the television meant that his mind was kept occupied, but every time there was silence he began to think about how he had got where he was. When did his parents have these conversations where they decided to bring him to England? Was bringing him to England really the best thing to do? Did they really love him or was this a plan to get rid of him? Would they care so much about his upbringing, his health, his education and then dump him?

At one point Alem even began to believe that this was some kind of rite-of-passage thing, a test of manhood, an initiation test to see how he would cope with being alone and having to fend for himself. As he walked down the different hallways of the hotel, he began to try and peep into the other rooms to see if his father was hiding there. (S.32 f)

Empfehlung: ab Klasse 9
Einzellektüre, vor allem für Migranten mit ähnlichem Hintergrund

Mögliche Themenreihen:
Growing up, Racism, Civil War, Asylum Seekers