

Drama - Study of text in contemporary, cultural contexts

# Exploring and understanding context: *Refugee Boy*

## Downloadable Resource

Mrs Bradley



# **First task: Understanding the context of *Refugee Boy***

For your first task, ask your parent or carer to help you search on the Amnesty International website for the section on refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and read the information.

This will help you understand the context of the play

Make notes on the definitions of the key terms, and write down key facts you learn. Return to the video when you have finished this task.



# Alem's Monologue - extract from scene 5

**Alem** *runs away from the children's home and the school.*

I am not running away. My home is not broken. I throw my shadow at the moon so you may sense my spirit, so you can say my SON. My SON. I am coming.

I shall not speak to the police, not a word. They will tell you I have run away. They will tell you that I am a bad boy, a refugee boy. I am not a runaway. I am not a refugee boy.

The policeman asks if I have drugs in my pocket, asks where I am from, asks me who I am, asks for my parent's address, asks my name again, asks me my father's name and my mother's name and asks me where I am from, says he'll call the social services or the refugee council, asks who I am again, asks me where I'm from... I didn't runaway. I was searching for you. I only wanted to be found.



# References

Slide 3 - © Benjamin Zephaniah, adapted for the stage by  
Lemn Sissay, 2013, Refugee Boy, Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

