I read Refugee boy by Benjamin Zephaniah. The main character, Alem is a son of both an Ethiopian and an Eritrean. This would be fine if the two countries weren’t at war against each other. Alem and his father take a trip to London to take a break from the fatigue of living in a war torn county. One morning, Alem’s father disappears, leaving the young boy by himself with a letter explaining that Alem was to stay in England because it was too dangerous for Alem to be in Ethiopia or Eritrea. A worker from social services helps handle his case. Alem is taken to a children’s home, where he faces bullying and boredom. Fights get picked over the smallest things, and the adults really don’t try to stop it. After a failed escape attempt, he is put with a foster family. He makes friends, learns all he can and faces everyday life in English suburbia. He has a loving family, and no worries. Suddenly, Alem’s life is somewhat normal. That is, until the home council denies him the right to political asylum in England. After a tearful letter telling of the death of his mother and the return of his father, they try again for asylum. It seems as if there is no hope. Amidst the trials and tears, Alem and his father muddle through. They get denied and tried multiple times. In the end, Alem and his new friends band together to fight the home office and keep Alem in England. My favorite part of the book is when Alem goes to meet a man that lives in town who claims to be Ethiopian, but is actually Jamaican, because one of the morals in the story is laid out.

I enjoyed reading Refugee Boy very much. Alem seemed real, and Zephaniah made the story come alive. The characters were very distinct from one another, and everyone was interesting. I would recommend this book to all of my friends and classmates. This is the book for people who want to read a tale of struggle, passion and heart. I thought that the story, even though it is a bit sad, was phenomenal. I don’t think people who need to have action in a book for it to interesting to them would be interested in this book, but I would tell them to try it anyway. I don’t think people who hate crying would enjoy it much, but my advice is to try to read it at least a couple of times.. The people who would enjoy this book would be people who love to see the rightness people can do, even when all seems lost. If I had to redo this report, I would still pick Refugee Boy, because it is a heartwarming story that I could read again and again.