

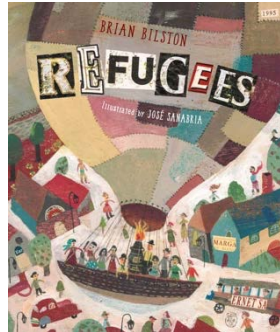
BOOK STUFF

#43 'One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.'

Jeanette Walls, *The Glass Castle*

Refugees

They have no need of our help
So do not tell me
These haggard faces could belong to you or me
Should life have dealt a different hand
We need to see them for who they really are
Chancers and scroungers
Layabouts and loungers
With bombs up their sleeves
Cut-throats and thieves
They are not
Welcome here
We should make them
Go back to where they came from
They cannot
Share our food
Share our homes
Share our countries
Instead let us
Build a wall to keep them out
It is not okay to say
These are people just like us
A place should only belong to those who are born there
Do not be so stupid to think that
The world can be looked at another way



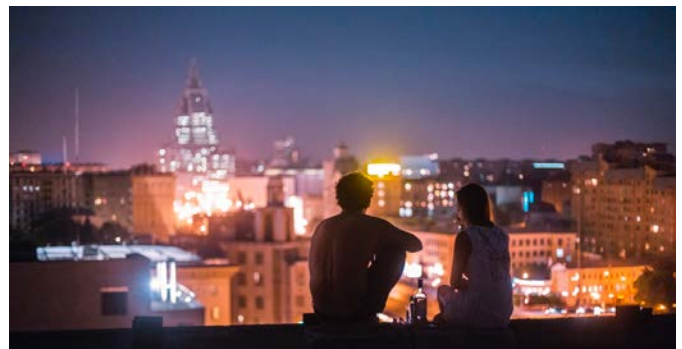
(Now read from bottom to top) Brian Bilston

Streets at Night

We took to the streets and to the rooftops high on inhalants and high on each other and high on ourselves, high with the confidence of a victory over everything we had yet to become and could not imagine becoming but which we always knew could befall us when light came, if not that morning then perhaps the next or even five thousand daybreaks away, but no mistake could be made about the threat of dawn, so in the darkest hours before it reached its pale fingers over the horizon and clawed at our swollen eyes, we made everything ours.

Lee L Krecklow

The challenge: the story above is exactly 100 words. See if you can write one the same length on the theme of 'being young'.



Around the world in books

Match the setting with the book

1. *The Shepherd's Hut*, Tim Winton
2. *A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn
3. *The Fishermen*, Chigozie Obioma
4. *The Last King of Scotland*, Giles Foden
5. *Snowblind*, Ragnar Jonasson
6. *Born a Crime*, Trevor Noah
7. *Outlander*, Diana Gabaldon
8. *The Commitments*, Roddy Doyle
9. *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez
10. *The Fortune Men*, Nadifa Mohamed

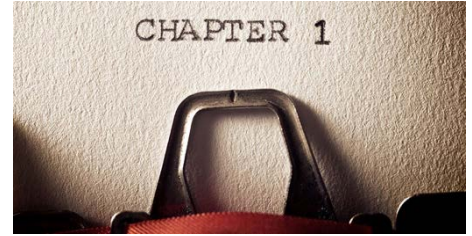
- i. Wales
- ii. Australia
- iii. Ireland
- iv. Soviet Union
- v. Scotland
- vi. Nigeria
- vii. Colombia
- viii. Uganda
- ix. Iceland
- x. South Africa



First lines

Match these openings with the books they come from

11. The sweat wis lashing oafay Sick Boy; he wis trembling.
12. 124 was spiteful. Full of a baby's venom.
13. As Gregor Samsa awoke one morning from uneasy dreams he found himself transformed in his bed into a gigantic insect.
14. All children, except one, grow up.
15. We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold.
16. It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.
17. You don't know about me without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, but that ain't no matter.
18. It was a pleasure to burn.
19. The past is a foreign country. They do things differently there.
20. It was the day my grandmother exploded.

**Bank error in your favour**

When Richard went to the ATM he got a very pleasant surprise. He requested £100 with a receipt. What he got was £10,000 with a receipt – for £100.

When he got home, he checked his account online and found that, sure enough, his account had been debited by only £100. He put the money in a safe place, fully expecting the bank swiftly to spot the mistake and ask for it back. But the weeks passed and nobody called.

After two months, Richard concluded that no one was going to ask for the money. So he headed off to the BMW dealership with a hefty down-payment in his pocket.

On the way, however, he did feel a strange twinge of guilt. Wasn't this stealing? He quickly managed to convince himself it was no such thing. He had not deliberately taken the money, it had just been given to him. And he hadn't take it from anyone else, so no one had been robbed. As for the bank, this was a drop in the ocean for them, and anyway, they would be insured against such eventualities. And it was their fault they had lost the money – they should have a safer system. No, this wasn't theft. It was just the biggest stroke of luck he had ever had.

Do you agree?

From Julian Baggini, *The Pig that Wants to be Eaten and 99 Other Thought Experiments*

**ANSWERS**

- Answers
1. ii.
2. iv
3. vi
4. viii
5. ix
6. x
7. v
8. iii
9. vii
10. i

11. b.
12. d.
13. g.
14. i.
15. j.

