

“Staying Outraged *and* Empathic”
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Margaret Mackey’s *One Child Reading: My Autobiography* (2016) retraces her reading of many kinds of texts—both reading and writing—during her childhood. In this session, I use Mackey as a framework for my reading of children’s and young adult literature that keep me, for many decades, both outraged and empathic. Deborah Ellis’s seminal work in 2000 with *The Breadwinner*, and subsequent novels in “The Breadwinner Trilogy” has evoked me for the past eighteen years to stay engaged, whether I wanted to or not (which often I did not, with children’s and young adult literature describing the plight of genocide victims and refugees from genocide and war. In this session, I will discuss such books as *The Bone Sparrow* (2016) by Zana Faillon, one of the first books on the genocidal plight of the Rohingya in Myanmar who are often doomed to desperate refugee camps in Australia or left to die on the open waters between Myanmar and Australia. There is also *Nujeen: One Girl’s Journey from War-Torn Syria in Aleppo* (2016), with this evocative scene: “There was a lot of barbed wire and a little girl with blonde hair standing like a statue with one hand trying to open the gate. ‘Hungary, open the door! Hungary, open the door!’” (180-181). There is also the beautifully, finely crafted, picture book, *Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family’s Journey* by Margriet Ruurs. In this session, I will share the books that continue to disturb and evoke to action.