

Maria Luisa Banfi A Faraway World

Marquat, born in Cardiff, but with Nigerian parents, is your usual teenager. He's a clever boy who likes learning about new things, but is also sometimes unsure of himself and is not very good at speaking to people he doesn't know. He hopes to do well in life and works hard to to make his dreams come true. One day, unfortunately, some bullies are unkind to him because of the colour of his skin. However, just as he begins to think he's alone, he starts to understand how important friends are when you have a problem.

In this reader you will find:

- A section focusing on background and context
- A glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A2 Key style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Friends | Social problems

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STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

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Maria Luisa Banfi

A Faraway World

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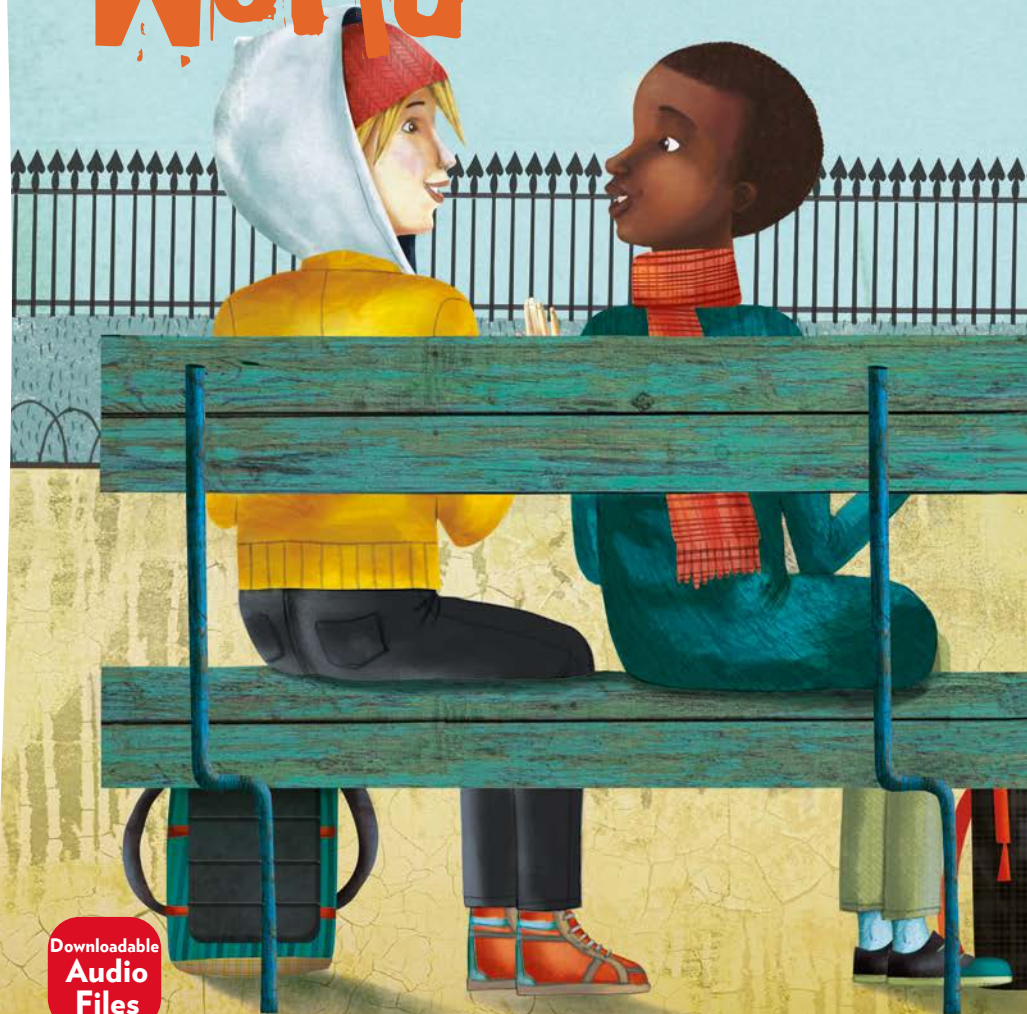
Teen Readers

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Stage 2 A2

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TEEN ELI READERS
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Book brief

- 1** Set in Cardiff, Wales, it tells the story of Marquat, a boy whose parents are from Nigeria.
- 2** Marquat feels British and gets angry when people say he's African.
- 3** School life is hard because Marquat is shy and his classmates don't have time for him, except his one and only friend, Alex.
- 4** The story touches serious issues like racism and bullying.
- 5** Its message is that through friendship and understanding, we can overcome all problems.

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A Faraway World

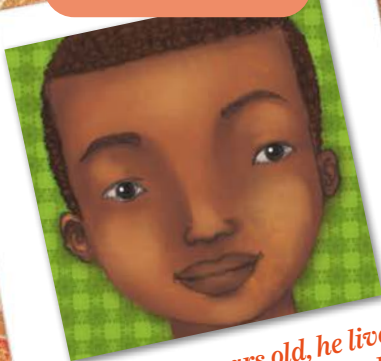
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For Review Only

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Main Characters



Marquat 14 years old, he lives in Cardiff with his parents. He doesn't like it when people say he's from Africa. Cardiff is his home.



Alex
He's Marquat's only friend, but he isn't good at school like him.

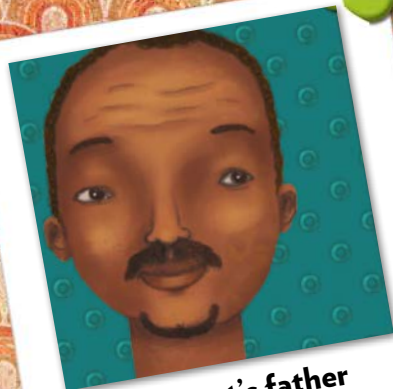


A classmate
He doesn't like Marquat and laughs at his name.



Jay & Kylie
Two girls in Marquat's class at school. They try to talk to him, but he's very shy.





Marquat's father

He's got a supermarket and works hard. Money is very important for him.



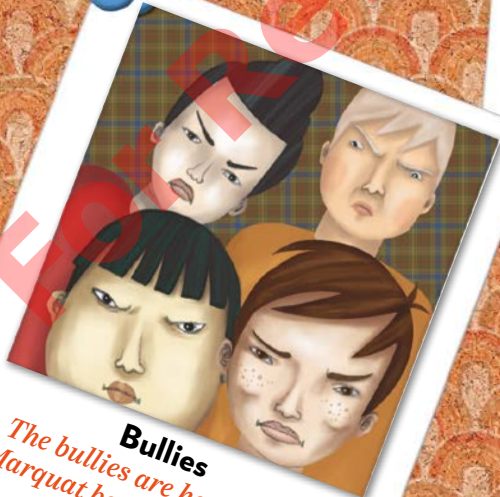
Marquat's mother

She tells Marquat that school is important but he must also help at home.



Marquat's sisters

They're younger than Marquat and he has to take them to school in the morning and do other things for them.



Bullies

The bullies are horrible to Marquat because his family is from Africa.

Before you read

Vocabulary

- 1 Read the sentences describing things about school and complete the words.

The exercises you do at home after school: h o m e w o r k

- 1 The school you go to after nursery school: p _ _ _ _ _ school
- 2 French, physics, music, drama are all examples: s _ _ _ _ _
- 3 In the classroom you usually sit at a d _ _ _ .
- 4 It's where you eat your lunch at school: c _ _ _ _ _
- 5 The person who works in a school and teaches the students: t _ _ _ _ _

- 2 Match the parts of the body with the pictures.



1 feet



2 _ _ _ _



3 _ _ _ _



4 _ _ _ _



5 _ _ _ _



6 _ _ _ _



7 _ _ _ _



8 _ _ _ _



9 _ _ _ _



10 _ _ _ _

a lips

b mouth

c skin

d eyes

e face

f hand

g body

~~h~~ feet

i back

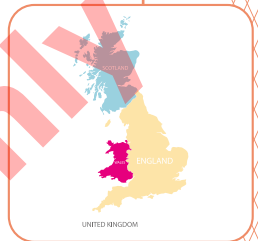
j nose

Speaking

- 3** This story is about a boy called Marquat who lives in Wales, but his grandparents live in Nigeria. Answer these questions with a partner. Use the Internet to help you.

**21st
Century
Skills**

- 1 Where's Nigeria and what's its capital?
- 2 How many countries are there in Africa?
- 3 Where's Wales and what's its capital?
- 4 How many countries are there in Great Britain?
- 5 How many people live in Nigeria?
- 6 How many people live in Wales?
- 7 Which of these two countries would you prefer to visit? Why?



Listening

- 2 4** Listen to the start of Chapter 1 and write one word in each space.

Marquat

Age:

14 years old

He lives in a small

(1) _____ .

His parents come from

(2) _____ .

Today, Marquat is going to a new

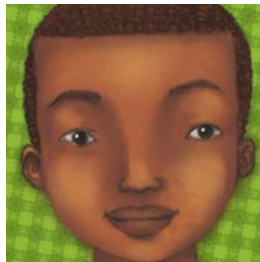
(3) _____ .

School starts at

(4) _____ .

Marquat has two little

(5) _____ .



Chapter 1

The New School

Marquat's parents are from Nigeria but he feels British because he lives in Wales. This is his first day at a new school.

② **MARQUAT** is 14 years old. He lives with his family in Cardiff, Wales. They live in a small flat in Westgate Street, near Bute Park. His parents come from Nigeria, a country in Africa, but Marquat feels British because his home is here, in Britain.

Today is a very important day for him because it's his first day at the new school: new classmates, new teachers, new everything!

School starts at about 9.15, but before going to school Marquat has to take his two little sisters to their schools: one is at nursery school¹ and the other is at primary school².

¹ **nursery school** the school you go to between 3 and 5 years of age

² **primary school** the school you go to between 5 and 10 years of age

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Marquat's mother always says to him, 'School is important, Marquat, but you have to help at home, too!' Marquat knows this and he usually helps his mother at home.

Marquat helps his mother at home and also works in his father's supermarket. His father thinks he studies too much.

When he's got time, he also works in his father's supermarket. Marquat doesn't like working in the supermarket because he finds it really boring! He prefers reading and studying, but his father doesn't understand this, 'Marquat, you study too much! Why don't you work for me and make some money? I know school is important, but money is, too!'

His mum and dad always talk about money. They work very hard and they make enough money to look after the family and the house.

Marquat's parents work hard and send money to Marquat's grandparents in Nigeria.



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They also send money back to Nigeria where Marquat's grandparents still live. Marquat's mother always says that they need money. 'Poor Grandma and Grandpa!' thinks Marquat to himself.

Marquat is good at school and he wants to go to university and then to be a journalist. He always sits at the front of the class near the teacher.

Marquat wants to study. When he finishes school, he wants to go to Cardiff University and then he wants to find a job as a journalist¹.

It's very hard when you have to study and work at the same time, but he knows he can do it!

Marquat learns things very fast - faster than his classmates. All his teachers know this and one of them, his English teacher, always says, 'You have to keep² studying, Marquat, because you've got a bright future ahead of you³'

¹ **journalist** a person who writes for a newspaper

² **keep doing something** not stop doing something

³ **a bright future ahead of you** your future looks very good



Here is Marquat with his family. He's ready to take his sisters to school before he goes to his new school.



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Marquat tries to be friendly to the boy sitting next to him, but everyone in the class laughs when they hear Marquat's name. The next day Marquat has nobody sitting next to him.

In class, Marquat sits at the front. There's always a free desk there. His new classmates don't usually like sitting at the front because they're too close to the teacher! They like sitting at the back.

The boy sitting next to Marquat is small and wears glasses.

Marquat smiles at him and says, 'Hi, I'm ...' but he doesn't finish his sentence because the boy puts a finger to his lips¹ and says, 'Shhh ...'

Just then², the teacher walks in and explains what they're going to study this year. Then he calls out³ everybody's name.

When he says, 'Marquat!' all the other students look at him because his name



¹ **put a finger to (your) lips** move (your) finger to (your) mouth to say 'be quiet'

² **just then** at that moment

³ **call out** read, say

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isn't English. The small boy sitting next to him asks, 'What's your name?' but he doesn't wait for Marquat to answer. He just laughs.

The next day, when Marquat goes and sits at his desk, he's all alone.

Marquat's classmates don't talk to him very much. At school, Marquat knows everything. He always answers the teacher's questions and he always does his homework.

'He's a swot!' says the small boy with the glasses. He doesn't like Marquat.

Kylie and Jay are two girls in his class. They sometimes talk to Marquat, but he's very shy² and quiet. He just answers 'yes' or 'no' when they ask him something.

At school, most of his classmates don't talk to Marquat and they call him a swot because he studies hard. Only two girls try to speak to him, but Marquat is too shy to answer. He thinks nobody likes him.



¹ **swot** (slang) a person who works very hard at school

² **shy** if you're shy, you find it difficult to talk to other people

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Marquat's mum doesn't understand why he thinks the colour of his skin stops him having friends. She's got lots of friends.

He doesn't talk to anyone because he thinks that nobody likes him.

'My skin's black,' he says to his mum, 'and I'm very good at school. That's why nobody likes me.'

His mother looks at him, confused¹, 'Marquat, that's ridiculous²! I've got black skin, too, but I've got lots of friends. A lot of people have got black skin. That doesn't mean you can't have friends! You're very special, my love³, especially⁴ because you're so good at school!' she smiles. ■

Think

Do you talk to your parents like Marquat when you're sad about something?

¹ **confused** (here) she doesn't understand

² **ridiculous** silly

³ **my love** (here) a kind way of talking to somebody

⁴ **especially** above all



The boy with the glasses doesn't like Marquat because he's good at school.



Reading A2 Key

1 Choose the correct answer for each question about Chapter 1.

Where does Marquat live?

- ☒ A Wales B Nigeria C England

1 Where does Marquat have to take his sisters?

- A Home B To school C To the supermarket

2 Who does he help at home?

- A His grandparents B His father C His mother

3 Where does his father work?

- A In a factory B In a supermarket C In a hospital

4 Who do Marquat's parents send money to?

- A His sisters B His teacher C His grandparents

5 What does Marquat want to become when he's older?

- A A journalist B A doctor C A teacher

6 Who's sitting next to Marquat on the first day of school?

- A A small girl B A small boy C A tall boy

Grammar

2 Underline the correct word in the sentences.

Marquat is fourteen / *thirteen*.

1 School starts at a quarter *to* nine / *past* nine.

2 Marquat's parents *always* / *often* talk about money.

3 Marquat *never* / *sometimes* has problems learning things at school.

4 Marquat always sits at the *front* / *back* of the class.

5 Marquat *does* / *doesn't* do all his homework.

6 Marquat *talks* / *doesn't talk* to his classmates.

7 Marquat's *mum* / *dad* tells him he's special.

Speaking

3 Chapter 1 tells us about Marquat and his new school.

Talk to a partner and answer these questions.

How many of your answers are the same?

**21st
Century
Skills**

- 1** How did you feel on your first day at school?
- 2** Where do you like sitting in the classroom?
- 3** Do you talk to your classmates during lessons? Why? / Why not?
- 4** What subjects are you good at? Why?
- 5** What's the most difficult subject for you? Why?
- 6** Who's your favourite teacher? Why?
- 7** What would you like to do when you're older?



Before-reading Activities

Writing and Speaking

4 Who do you think says these lines? Choose between: Marquat / Marquat's friend. Discuss in pairs.

1 Everybody likes you. You're very popular.

2 I have to get good marks this year.

3 This is my country. My country is Britain.

Listening

3 5 Listen to the next chapter. Check your answers in exercise 4.