

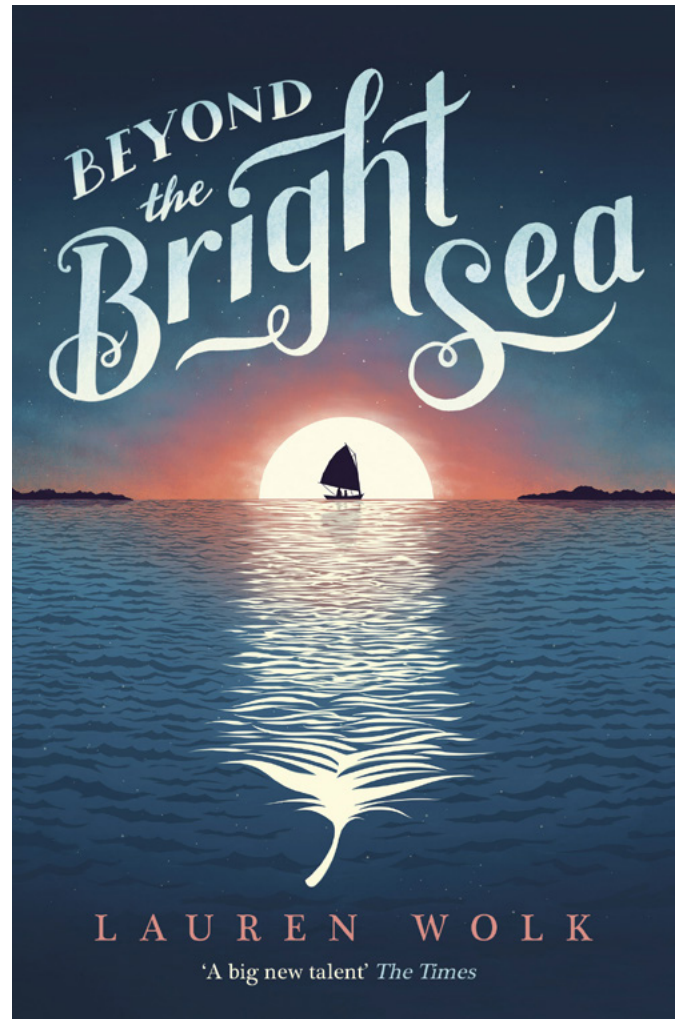
# BEYOND THE BRIGHT SEA

By Lauren Wolk

Corgi Books

2018 Carnegie Medal shortlist,  
eligible for Amnesty CILIP Honour

**'Simple, sparing prose and a vivid sense of time and place combine beautifully... provides profound comments on identity and what it means to belong.'**  
*Judging panel*



## UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 6: We all have the same right to use the law

### ABOUT THIS BOOK

Set in 1925 Massachusetts, this book explores identity. Crow is washed up on an island as a baby and is 'adopted' by loner Osh. But, age 12, she sets out to discover her roots, unwittingly putting everyone she loves in danger.

A determined and independent heroine, Crow pieces together her past with a growing awareness of what family truly means. The story illustrates that children have a right to identity, and a right to their own opinions and to be heard. It also explores how we treat people and things we are afraid of and how everyone has the right to dignity and respect regardless of illness or disability.

### HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS STORY

Right to identity; to education; to healthcare; to equality; to safety; to freedom of movement; to privacy; to have opinions and to be heard.

### YOU CAN TALK ABOUT...

#### Crow

- What makes Crow a good role model? What do you like about her?
- Does she always do the right thing?

#### The right to identity

- Why does Crow need to know where she came from? Would she have been better off not knowing?

- Why do names mean so much to Osh and Crow? By the end, is Osh's name important or not?
- Crow learns about her origins. Osh keeps his past a secret. Why is he so reluctant to talk about it?
- Osh says 'What you do is who you are' (page 75). Do you agree?

### The right to a family

- Why does Osh foster Crow?
- How does he feel when she wants to look back at her past? Why?
- Crow is determined to find her brother. Why?
- Crow says 'There are better bonds than blood...'. What does she learn about family?
- What does family mean to you? Are all families treated with the same respect?

### Discrimination

- How do you feel about how the islanders treat Crow? How would you have treated her?
- Why did Miss Maggie want Crow to go to school and Osh didn't?
- Crow says 'If I wasn't good enough for them before, I don't think I want to be one of them now' (page 84). What do you think?
- Is Crow right to blame the islanders for not helping those on Penikese?
- Has fear ever affected your behaviour?

### Finally

- The story is set in 1925 – could it have taken place today? How?

### ACTIVITY

Imagine what happened to Osh before he reached the island and smashed up his boat. What did he leave behind? Read what he says on page 7. Think about the fact he rarely shares his name and how he responds to the police officers.

### RESEARCH

Find out about Hansen's disease (leprosy) today, and how discrimination and stigma prevent people accessing the treatment that can cure it.

**'And then, one night, when I was twelve, I saw a fire burning on Penikese and I decided that it was time to find out where I'd come from and why I'd been sent away. But I didn't understand what I was risking until I nearly lost it.'** *Crow*

## WE ARE ALL BORN FREE AND EQUAL

The atrocities of World War II sparked a determination to protect the rights of all human beings everywhere. On 10 December 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The preamble says it must be shared, learned by children and be a part of all our lives.

When using these notes, you can download for reference:

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights simplified version, especially useful for younger children [amnesty.org.uk/udhr](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/udhr)
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child [unicef.org/crc](https://www.unicef.org/crc)

For more free educational resources from Amnesty International go to [amnesty.org.uk/education](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/education)



The CILIP Carnegie & Kate Greenaway Children's Book Awards

