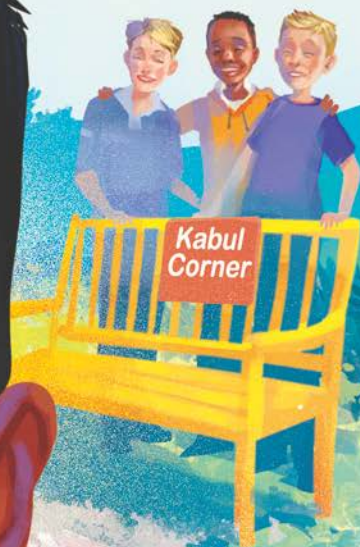




SARAH GUDGEON

THE KID FROM KABUL



Downloadable
**Audio
Files**

Book brief

- 1** Aarash is a teenage boy from Kabul in Afghanistan, but he has to leave his home and move to England.
- 2** Everything in England is different and Aarash misses his old life, but most of all, he misses his dad.
- 3** School is difficult and a couple of boys make fun of Aarash, but he makes a new friend there too.
- 4** Aarash likes hanging out with his new friend, Tim, and then of course there is Uncle Naz and the community project.
- 5** Main themes include immigration, diversity, culture and language, tolerance, and friendship.

Sarah Gudgeon

The Kid from Kabul

Illustrated by
Marco Bregolato

For Review Only

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Main Characters



Aarash

A teenage boy
from Kabul, Afghanistan



Tim

Aarash's
new best friend



Lewis

Classmate



Oliver

Classmate



Uncle Naz



Miss Lane

Teacher



Mrs Needham

Neighbour and
community garden leader



Esin

Mum



Yamna

Sister

Before you read

Reading · A2 Key

- 1 Complete the text about the book with the correct answer (A, B or C).**

Aarash has to leave his home in Kabul, in Afghanistan. He moves to England with his mum and younger sister, Yamna. They (1) _____ with Uncle Naz and his cat Freddie. Uncle Naz is very kind (2) _____. Aarash finds life in England difficult. He can't understand people because they speak English (3) _____ and use slang, and he doesn't know much about his new country. Aarash is (4) _____ and lonely. He is also very scared about his first day at school and (5) _____ of the kids don't make him feel very welcome. Luckily, Aarash meets Tim. (6) _____ the two boys help each other to learn more about other cultures and traditions? With Uncle Naz helping them, they will certainly try.

- | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| | A my | B his | C your |
| 1 | A lives | B live | C living |
| 2 | A but | B and | C so |
| 3 | A angrily | B slowly | C quickly |
| 4 | A sad | B happy | C hungry |
| 5 | A any | B much | C some |
| 6 | A Must | B Can | C May |

Speaking

**21st
Century
Skills**

- 2 At the start of the story Aarash misses his home in Afghanistan. Discuss these questions about home with a partner.**

- Where is home for you?
- Have you ever lived in any other countries?
- Which other country would you like to live in?
- You have to leave your home country. What do you miss?



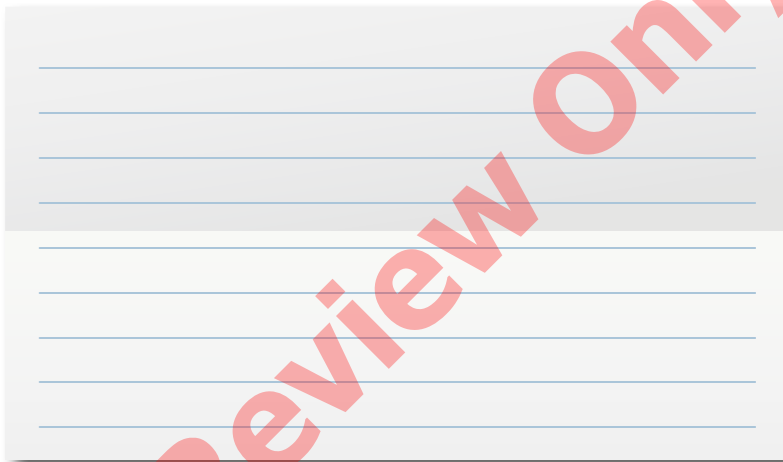
Writing · A2 Key

- 3 You live next door to Aarash in England. Write an informal note to Aarash.

In your note:

- Tell Aarash who you are.
- Welcome Aarash to the street.
- Invite Aarash to the park on Saturday.

Write between 25 and 35 words.



Listening

- 2 4 Listen to the start of chapter 1. Underline the correct answer, a or b.

Aarash is (a) awake / (b) dreaming.

- 1 It is (a) rainy / (b) sunny outside.
- 2 Aarash is (a) alone / (b) with his family in the bedroom.
- 3 He is in (a) Afghanistan / (b) England.
- 4 Aarash is at (a) home / (b) Uncle Naz's house.
- 5 Uncle Naz is (a) kind / (b) horrible.
- 6 Uncle Naz (a) likes / (b) doesn't like the British rock band Queen.

Chapter 1

A New Home

- 2 Aarash was dreaming about home. He was sitting on the Persian rug in front of the TV. He was with his mum and dad and Yamna was there too. They were playing a board game¹ together and his dad was laughing at a joke. TIP TAP TIP TAP. TIP TAP TIP TAP. The noise became louder and louder but Aarash didn't want to wake up. Slowly, he opened his eyes. There was rain dancing on the bedroom window. It took Aarash a few seconds to remember where he was. He didn't really want to remember. He wanted to be back in Afghanistan, laughing with his dad. But he was here in England, at Uncle Naz's house. Uncle Naz was cool but he wasn't dad – actually he wasn't even that cool! He was kind and funny but 'cool' was probably the wrong adjective for a fifty-year-old guy who liked gardening and Queen. Uncle Naz was a huge fan of the British rock band which probably explained the giant² poster and why his duvet³ cover had a huge picture of the lead singer, Freddie Mercury, on it. ■

Aarash dreams about his family and his home in Afghanistan. He lives in England now at Uncle Naz's house.

1 **board game** a traditional game in a box where players move around the board to win

2 **giant** very big

3 **duvet** a thick quilt that you put on a bed instead of sheets and a blanket

The Kid from Kabul

3 Freddie was the charismatic frontman¹ of Queen and Uncle Naz says he was an amazing performer – and maybe he was – but he's been dead since 1991! Anyway, apart from the rain, the house was quiet that morning. Uncle Naz was at work and mum and Yamna were out. Aarash realised² he was actually very hungry and went downstairs to find some breakfast. The kitchen was small but Uncle Naz loved food and the cupboards were full. At home Aarash always had cheese, sweet bread and sweet milky tea for breakfast. Delicious! Today he decided to try something different: cereal with orange juice on it. Hmm... maybe the orange juice wasn't a good choice. He must remember to ask Uncle Naz about the best liquid to put on cereal. Tea maybe? After breakfast, Aarash went through to the living room and turned on the TV. There were three people sitting on a sofa in a TV studio. They were laughing and talking but Aarash couldn't understand anything they said – it was too fast! *This isn't like the English we learnt at school!*

Uncle Naz loves the British rock band Queen. Aarash is home alone. He has a very strange breakfast.

1 **frontman** lead performer in a rock group

2 **realised** became aware of the fact that

Aarash is sad and lonely. He doesn't know England and he doesn't understand the English on TV.

Aarash suddenly felt very alone. He was in a country that he didn't know, where the people spoke a different language and where the weather was terrible! He stared out of the rainy window and everything looked grey. The rain came down again and again and Aarash thought that it looked like tears falling from the sky. Just when he thought that he might cry too, Aarash felt something soft on his leg. He looked down and saw Freddie (yes, you've guessed who he's named after). Uncle Naz's old tabby cat¹ jumped onto Aarash's knees and he didn't feel so alone anymore.

'Hey, Freddie. Do you want to be my new friend?' he whispered to the cat.

Before Freddie had the chance to answer, the front door burst open and Yamna ran into the living room.

'Get ready, Aarash,' she shouted. 'We have to go to school in five minutes!'

Aarash and his sister Yamna have to go to school. Yamna is happy but Aarash is scared.

'School?' replied Aarash. 'Today?'

'Yes! Yes! Yes!' laughed Yamna.

Aarash was not as excited as his sister. In fact, he was terrified. *What if all the other kids spoke like the people on TV?*

1 **tabby cat** a grey or brown cat with dark stripes



Aarash is sad.



Just then, the phone rang. It was Uncle Naz.

‘Hey, Rashi! Are you ready for your first day?’
he asked enthusiastically.

‘Erm, no. Uncle Naz, what should I do? The other kids might not like me,’ said Aarash quietly.

‘Just be yourself, Aarash,’ advised Uncle Naz.
‘And remember what Mr Mercury said.’

‘OK...’ replied Aarash.

‘We are the champions!’¹ sang Uncle Naz down the phone.

At home in Kabul, Aarash was a champion chess² player – he won the regional tournament last year – but he wasn’t sure that he would be a champion at anything in England. *Did they even play chess here?*

‘Come on, Rashi! Hurry up!’ called Yamna.
‘I want to go to school!’

Aarash didn’t have any more time to think about his English or about being a champion, it was time to go.

He walked slowly down the road to Heartshead Secondary School while Yamna ran ahead. She shouted back questions to mum every two seconds.

Uncle Naz tries to make Aarash feel better. Aarash was a chess champion in Kabul. Yamna asks a lot of questions about her new school.

1 **champion** a person who wins a contest/match/tournament

2 **chess** a board game where you have to get your opponent’s king

The Kid from Kabul

‘Mum, will there be a computer lab¹?’

‘Can I play football with the boys?’

‘Is there a library?’

Mum didn’t have time to answer one question before Yamna asked the next one.

‘Your sister is very excited about her new primary school,’ mum laughed.

‘Yeah, me too,’ lied² Aarash.

‘In you go, then, Rashi,’ mum said. ‘Have a great first day.’

Aarash walked through the iron gates and into the main building. He had to find class 2B.

‘Excuse me,’ he asked nervously. ‘Class 2B?’

‘Over there,’ called a girl in a uniform as she ran down the hall.

‘No running!’ shouted a man’s voice from behind a plant.

Aarash continued silently down the corridor. He stopped outside a door that said 2B, took a big breath, and opened it.

‘The answer is...’ The teacher stopped talking as Aarash hovered³ at the classroom door.

Everyone else stopped talking too and 26 curious faces turned to stare at a very red-faced Aarash.

Aarash doesn’t tell mum he is scared. He is very embarrassed when he goes into class 2B.

1 **lab** laboratory

2 **lied** didn’t tell the truth

3 **hovered** waited uncertainly

The teacher broke the silence.

‘Come in, come in,’ she said, smiling.

Aarash wasn’t really sure that he wanted to go in – not all the faces looked friendly – but he didn’t have a choice.

‘Welcome to our class, Aarash,’ said the teacher. ‘My name is Miss Lane and I’m your maths teacher.’

Aarash? That’s not how you say my name! The teacher’s pronunciation was wrong but Aarash didn’t know how to tell her. *Were you even allowed to correct a teacher?* Aarash decided to say nothing, he didn’t want to get into trouble on his first day.

Two boys near the back started to laugh behind their hands and some of the other kids were trying not to laugh too.

‘Quiet, class,’ ordered Miss Lane. ‘Aarash is from Kabul in Afghanistan. Tim, please be Aarash’s class buddy¹ and show him where everything is.’

Tim smiled at Aarash but the two boys near the back were still laughing at him.

Aarash had a feeling that THEY were not going to be his new friends. 

Miss Lane is the maths teacher. She welcomes Aarash to the class but some boys laugh. Tim has to help Aarash at school.

1 **class buddy** a person who helps a new student at school



Aarash meets Miss Lane and class 2B.



Reading • A2 Key

- 1 Complete the sentences about Chapter 1 with the correct answer (A, B or C).

Aarash didn't want to be in England.

A wants

B wanted

~~C~~ didn't want

- 1 Aarash _____ his usual breakfast.

A had

B didn't have

C has

- 2 Aarash couldn't understand the people _____ TV.

A on

B at

C in

- 3 Freddie jumped _____ Aarash's knees.

A to

B on

C in

- 4 Aarash was _____ chess champion in Kabul.

A the

B a

C an

- 5 _____ stared at Aarash when he opened the classroom door.

A Nobody

B Anybody

C Everybody

- 6 The teacher pronounced Aarash's name _____.

A correctly

B incorrectly

C normally

Grammar

- 2 Complete the sentences in the past continuous. Use the verbs in brackets.

He was dreaming. (dream)

- 1 He _____ on the Persian rug. (sit)

- 2 They _____ a board game. (play)

- 3 His dad _____ at a joke. (laugh)

- 4 They were laughing and _____. (talk)

- 5 Some of the other kids _____ not to laugh too. (try)

- 6 The two boys near the back _____ still _____.
(laugh)

Speaking

21st
Century
Skills

- 3 Aarash always had cheese, sweet bread and sweet milky tea for breakfast in Afghanistan. Discuss these questions about food with a partner.

- 1 What do you usually have for breakfast?
- 2 What's your favourite meal of the day?
- 3 Do you like to try new food?
- 4 Do you prefer sweet or savoury food?
- 5 Do you prefer the food from your country or international cuisine?
- 6 What's your favourite dish?



Before-reading Activity

Listening · A2 Key

- 4 Listen to the start of Chapter 2. Complete the sentences with a, b or c.

- Aarash was right about the two boys.
A right **B** wrong **C** not sure
- 1 A boy with _____ hair stood up and shouted.
A brown **B** black **C** blond
 - 2 Tim told _____ to shut up.
A Aarash **B** Oliver **C** Miss Lane
 - 3 Lewis drew _____ all over his hands.
A dots **B** squares **C** lines
 - 4 Oliver told everyone not to go _____ Aarash.
A near **B** away **C** behind
 - 5 Miss Lane sent Oliver and Lewis to the _____ office.
A secretary's **B** teacher's **C** headteacher's
 - 6 Aarash didn't _____ why Oliver and Lewis laughed at his name.
A think **B** say **C** know