

THE BOY I AM · BY K.L. KETTLE

MAKE THE CASE — TO PUT IT ON THE TIMETABLE OR THE SHELF

A one-page brief for heads of department, budget-holders & your DSL

The short version: a Carnegie-nominated dystopia that flips gender and power, hooks reluctant readers fast, and does double duty across English, PSHE/RSHE and Citizenship — with every teaching resource already built and free.

WHY NOW: THE CONVERSATION THE BOOK WALKED INTO

The gender conversation is back on every front page: a loud online culture selling boys a narrow idea of manhood and selling girls impossible ideals and constant scrutiny; some young people cooling on equality; and rights and gender-identity debates in the news. *The Boy I Am* gives every student — girls and boys — a safe, fictional way in: feeling a gender system from the inside, and asking who writes the rules and who pays.

WHY IT EARNS ITS PLACE the case in three

Engagement	The gender-flip premise — a world where boys are auctioned to women — is an instant hook, and lands especially well with reluctant and disengaged readers. Award-recognised (Carnegie-nominated), so it carries external credibility.
Curriculum value	One text, three subjects. It teaches narrative craft and viewpoint writing and anchors PSHE/RSHE and Citizenship units — efficient use of curriculum time, not an add-on.
Zero prep cost	A full free suite already exists: activity pack with answer keys, lesson plans, units, discussion guides, craft spotlights, reading-access support and a content map. Adoption doesn't cost teacher hours.

CURRICULUM FIT

English

Narrative voice & characterisation; language and structure analysis; viewpoint, bias and rhetoric; reading and writing openings and endings (KS3 & KS4, incl. GCSE AO2/AO5/AO6).

PSHE / RSHE

Consent as power and choice; identity and self-presentation; recognising abuse of power; resilience, agency and standing up for others.

Citizenship

Power, fairness and rights; how societies justify inequality; propaganda and control of information; protest and collective action.

SAFEGUARDING, BRIEFLY for your DSL

Handled with care	A dystopia in the tradition of <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> and <i>Noughts & Crosses</i> , taught in many schools from KS3 up. The four extract lessons are chosen to be classroom-safe (Year 9+); whole-novel study is best KS4.
Fully documented	A Content Map shows exactly where sensitive material falls (for previewing/redacting), and support links sit in the pack. Nothing is hidden; everything is plannable.

A paragraph for a letter home — copy, paste, adapt

"This half-term, [class] will study *The Boy I Am* by K.L. Kettle — a Carnegie-nominated dystopia in the tradition of *Noughts & Crosses* and *The Handmaid's Tale* — to explore power, identity and standing up for what's right, in English and PSHE. We've chosen extracts and framing suitable for the class; to know more, please contact [teacher]."

Everything referenced here is free at klkettle.com, where you can also book an author visit.