



READING SPINE

Our Reading Spine at Horncastle

At Horncastle Primary School, our aspiration for each of our children is based upon the need for them to enter the world of work as articulate and literate individuals with a strong love of reading. We strive to give pupils a stimulating environment, where reading materials are at the heart of our learning and presented in an attractive and inviting way. The development of reading cannot be seen in isolation from writing, speaking and listening or drama.

From the earliest ages, reading is much more than decoding. From the start, reading is also accessing and further acquiring language knowledge and domain knowledge. This means that instruction and practice in fluency of decoding need to be accompanied by instruction and practice in vocabulary and domain knowledge. If we want to raise later achievement ..., we need to combine early instruction in the procedures of literacy with early instruction in the content of literacy, specifically: vocabulary, conventions of language, and knowledge of the world.'

E. D. Hirsch, Jr. (2003)

The aim of this reading spine is to provide a list of books which staff can apply to their own long-term plans. These are books to use as a class read (Reading for Pleasure texts) and study books as a stimulus for writing (Core Texts). The intention is that by the time they reach year 6 and beyond, they have developed a wide, rich vocabulary and broader knowledge of the world and, as a result, are able to access the more complex books expected of them in secondary schools. It should be noted that book and text selection in school not only considers narratives and poems but also recognises that a good balance of topic-appropriate non-fiction should also be read to help further develop children's background knowledge of the subject they are studying and should be available in classes.

Learning to Read

These are books which are particularly supportive for children who are learning to read. Books are included here because they help children to behave like readers. They may be:

- memorable texts that feature repetition and encourage predictions
- texts within which rhythm and rhyme are important
- texts that allow children to practice and apply their phonic knowledge
- books with strong story shapes and structures
- texts which positively reflect children's interests and backgrounds
- books with supportive illustrations
- books that draw attention to written language and to the way books work

Reading for Pleasure

The reading for pleasure fiction collection was developed from Doug Lemov's work 'Reading Reconsidered'. In his book, Doug Lemov points out that there are five types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence. These are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books. The selection in each age group aims to guide children (and staff supporting text selection) in ensuring children read books from these '5 plagues of reading': Archaic, Non-linear, Narratively complex, Symbolic/figurative and resistant.

Classic Books from 50+ years ago	Books with a complicated or unreliable narrator	Non-linear books (not in time order)	Books with a complicated plot or emotional/ethical theme	Books with uncertainties and inferences	Books with a simple plot and informal style	Non – Fiction Books

As well as ensuring time is dedicated to enjoying a book together, we want to make sure the books on offer are inspiring and of a high quality. We are keen to provide pupils with books that act as both a window and a mirror – a window to other lives, and a mirror reflecting back their own experiences.

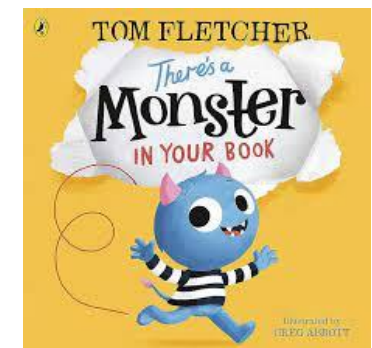
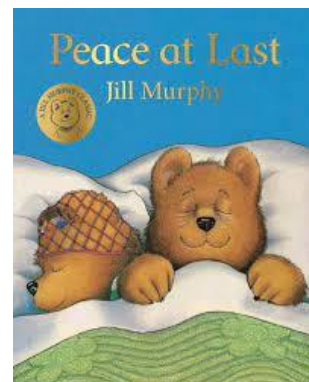
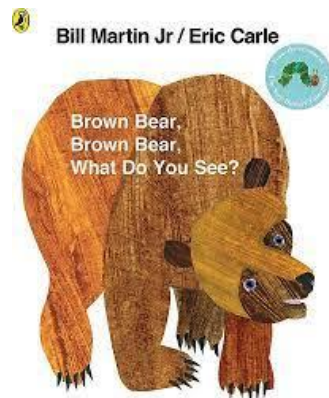
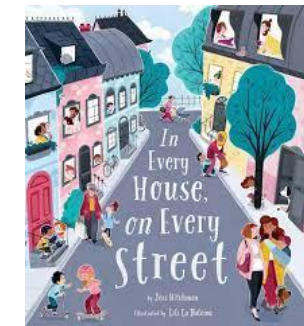
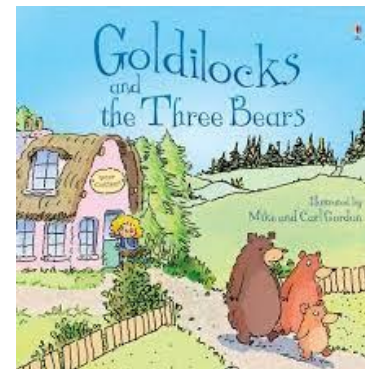
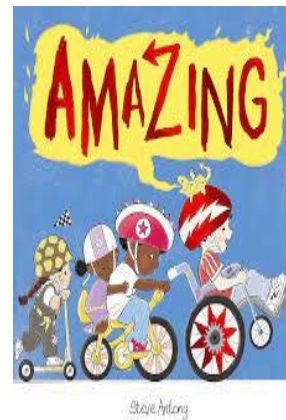
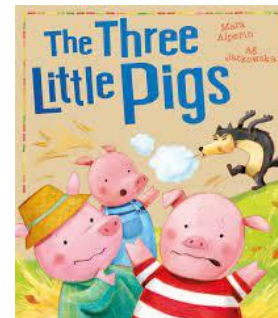
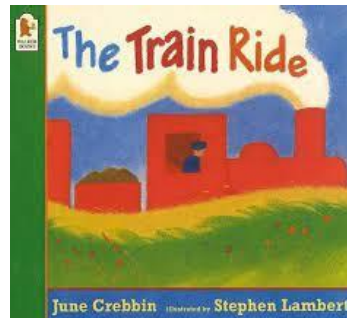
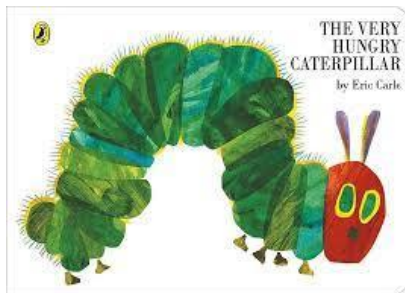
In each year group we have a reading spine, which is a set of carefully chosen books for each classroom. We hope these will provide quality reading experiences as well as showing the children a diverse view of our world. Our reading spine makes up the bulk of the texts used during story times in class, although there is also room to choose books based on the interests of the class.

Nursery Reading Spine

*"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirates loot on
Treasure Island" – Walt Disney*

Class Reads

These are read by an adult to the children each day. The aim of a class read is to introduce children to a story and re-read them again and again to build up familiarity, learn new vocabulary and explore a variety of texts allowing children to escape into a world created by the author– a perfect end to the day!



Book	Author	Why?
The Very Hungry Caterpillar	Eric Carle	A story that children love that's simple for them to quickly learn. As well as fruit and food names, it teaches the children about the days of the week and the lifecycle of a caterpillar.
The Train Ride	June Crebbin	Chosen for its rhythmic and rhyming text. The children may rarely go on a train ride so it's a chance for them to experience what they might see looking through the window
The 3 Little Pigs	Traditional Tale	The children love a villain, and they love to join in with the repetitive parts of this story
Supertato	Sue Hendra & Paul Linnet	Chosen because the children love a hero who saves the day and none more lovable than Supertato!
Stickman	Julia Donaldson	The suspense about whether Stickman will get back to the Family tree will keep our children wanting to hear this story over and over again and join in with the repetitive parts
Amazing	Steve Antony	This is the story of the boy and his pet. It is perfect for our children as it is about friendship and being oneself.
Goldilocks and The Three Bears	Traditional Tale	Another enjoyable repetitive story, this time one with a moral about kindness and honesty.
In Every House on Every Street	Jess Hitchman	An opportunity to look through someone else's window and see how they spend their family time. Is it the same or different as them.
Brown Bear Brown Bear What do you see?	Bill Martin Jnr & Eric Carle	Chosen for its repetitive rhythm that the children soon be reading themselves from the pictures
Peace At Last	Jill Murphy	This is a delightful story that the children want to help Mr Bear solve his dilemma of not being able to sleep! They also love to join in with the noises and repetitive parts
Pink is for Boys	Robb Pearlman	We want our children to enjoy what they love to do even though it may not be typical. It also visits the colours through vibrant illustrations
There's a Monster in your Book	Tom Fletcher	We have chosen this because it is interactive and the children can join in in a lively way – wanting to hear the story over and over again!

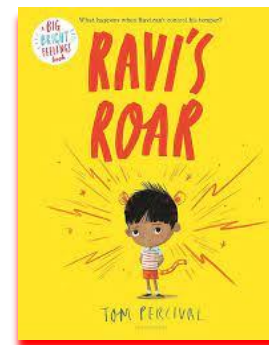
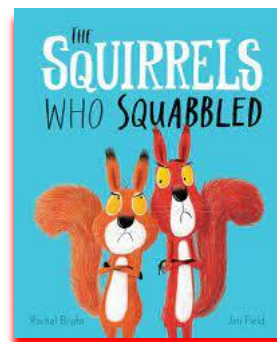
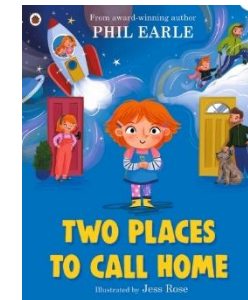
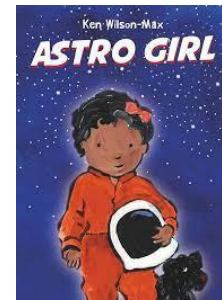
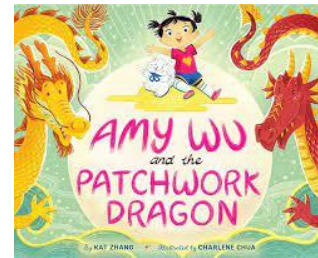
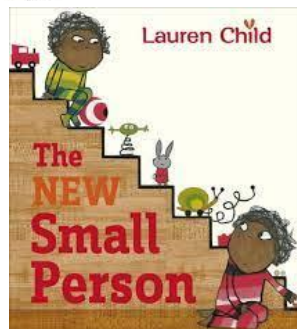
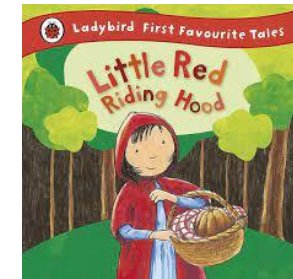
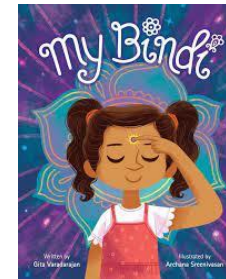
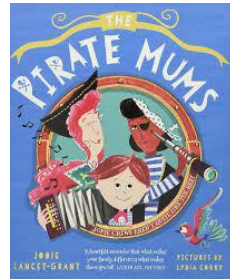
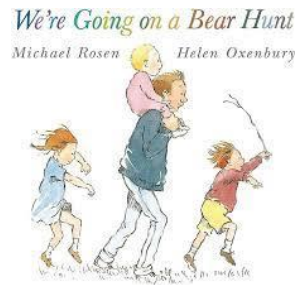
Reception Reading Spine

'A book is a gift you can open again and again.'

– Garrison Keillor

Class Reads and Talk Through Stories Texts

These are read by an adult to the children each day. The aim of a class read is to introduce children to a story and re-read them again and again to build up familiarity, learn new vocabulary and explore a variety of texts allowing children to escape into a world created by the author– a perfect end to the day!



Book	Author	Why?
The Gingerbread Man	Traditional	A traditional tale with lots of opportunities for children to join in with the repetitive parts and retell the story using puppets or acting out with their friends.
Little Red Riding Hood	Traditional	A traditional take that makes us aware of Stranger Danger. We can join in with the repetitive parts and retell with puppets, story maps and through role play.
We're going on a Bear Hunt	Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenbury	A repetitive story that the children can join in with over and over again, developing their directional language . It gives opportunities for the children to participate actively whilst the story is being read, developing key listening skills . It also provides a starting point to discuss family dynamics .
The Pirate Mums	Jodie Lancet-Grant	A heart-warming story that introduces the children to one of many different family dynamics. It teaches children to celebrate those differences. It opens up the beginnings of discussions around discrimination and valuing diversity .
My Beautiful Voice	Joseph Coelho	A story that many of our children will relate to. It teaches children that EVERY child is important and their opinions are valued. In this story, a little girl rarely speaks. Inspired and nurtured by Miss Flotsam, she slowly finds her voice. And when she does... it is beautiful.
Zog	Julia Donaldson	A story by a much-loved author. This repetitive story with lots of opportunities for discussions around rhymes and poetry , adds to the child's imagination and world of fantasy. This story is rich in tier two vocabulary and teaches the children how to show resilience , when faced with a challenge.
The New Small Person	Lauren Child	A common struggle for children....a new baby in the family. This story helps children relate and regulate their emotions if a new sibling is due.
Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon	Kat Zhang	A story based on team work and producing something you are proud of. It also celebrates and teaches children about Chinese cultural celebrations and respect .

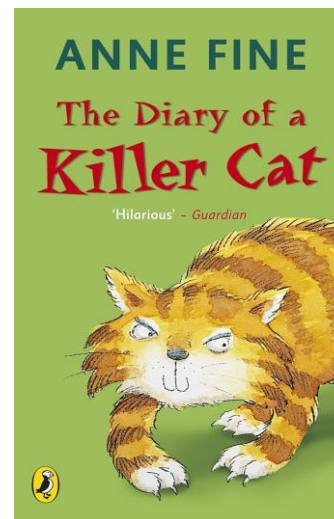
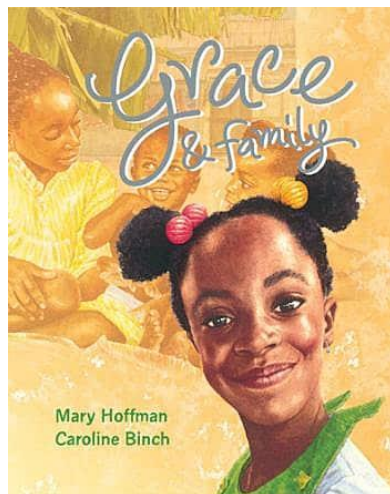
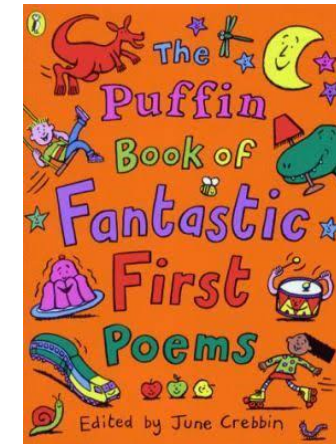
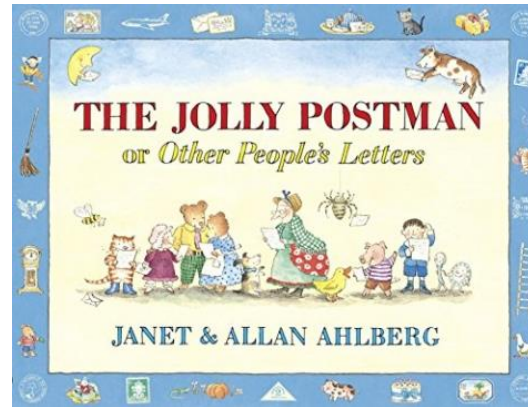
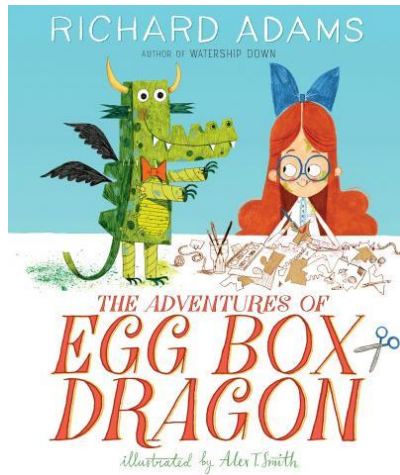
Astro Girl	Ken Wilson-Max	This story opens up lots of discussion around the popular topic of space and the role of an astronaut. It helps children to relate to parental separation and understand gender equality .
Jasper's Beanstalk	Nick Butterworth	A popular book by much-loved author, which explores the theme of patience . It teaches them that hard work does pay off in the end. Lots of opportunities for discussions around days of the week as well as unlocking their imagination , by guessing what could be at the top of the beanstalk!!
Two Places To Call Home	Phil Earle	This book explores parental separation, something that many children can relate to, during a difficult period of change. It helps children to realise there are many different ways of being a family .
My Bindi	Gita Varadarajan	This story helps children to understand and respect a religious belief and tradition to help support the building of a community free from discrimination . It teaches children that we are all different and that we have the right to live healthy, happy lives, where our different values are accepted and respected . It also helps children to understand the sense of belonging and what makes them feel like 'me'.
The Squirrels who Squabbled	Rachel Bright and Jim Field	This story looks at the theme and emotions linked to greed and falling out over something you want. It helps children to see how important it is to share, show kindness and work as a team .
Ravi's Roar	Tom Percival	This book explores the emotion of feeling 'cross' and how to handle those feelings. Some important messages to support those struggling to regulate that emotion appropriately and the effect it has on others.
My Must Have Mum	Maudie Smith and Jen Khatun	This story has many key messages for children, protecting our planet by 'upcycling' items and family dynamics to name a few. It also opens up opportunities to discuss different disabilities and how we should not discriminate because of them.

Year 1 Reading Spine

"You can find magic wherever you look. Sit back and relax all you need is a book!" — Dr. Seuss

Core Texts

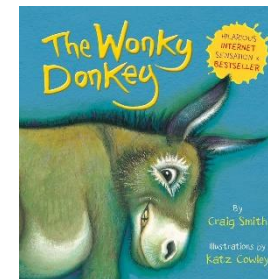
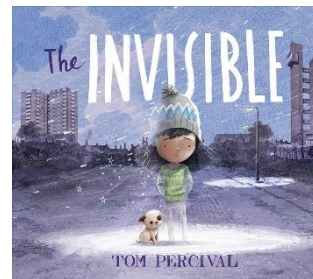
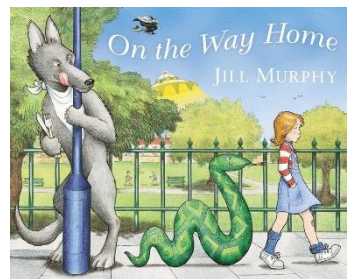
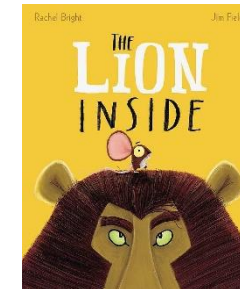
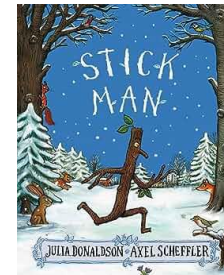
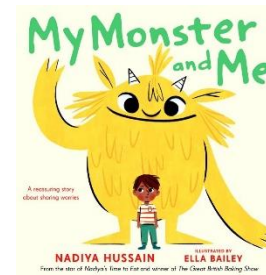
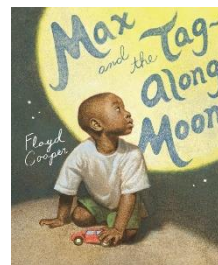
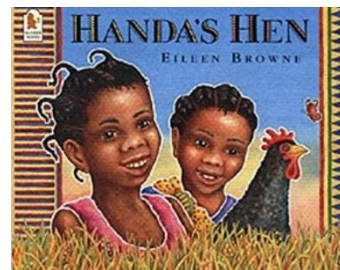
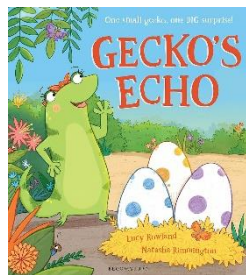
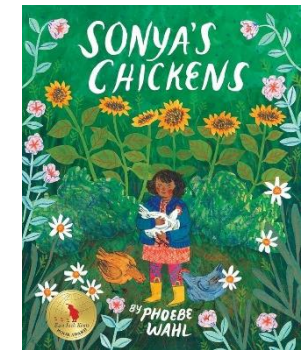
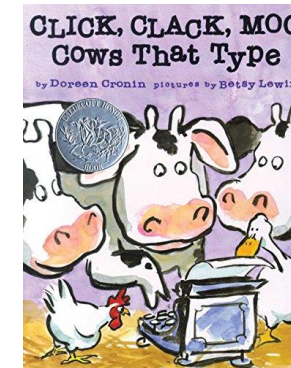
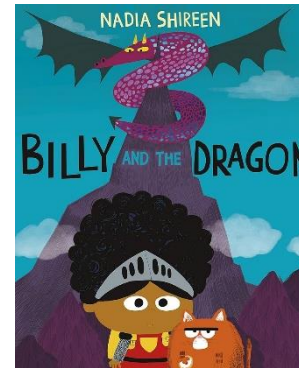
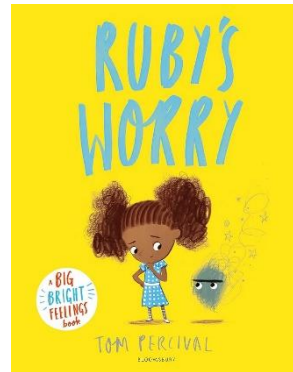
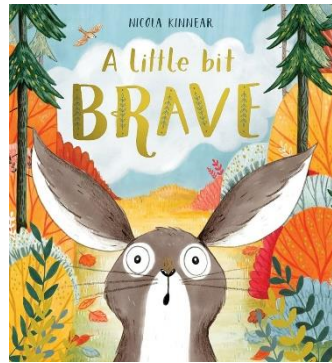
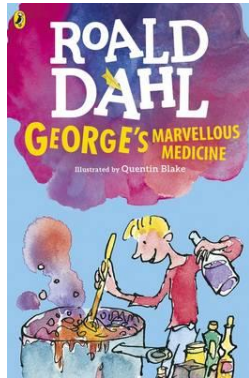
These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



Book	Author	Why?
The Egg Box Dragon	Richard Adams	Linked to our topic all about materials. Looking at what we can make and recycle.
The Jolly Postman and Other Stories	Janet and Allan Ahlburg	Links to traditional tales. We can explore different styles of writing through reading the character's letters.
The Fantastic First Book of Poems	Edited by June Crebbing A collection of poets	Introduction to poetry and looking at different styles of poetry.
Grace and Family	Mary Hoffman	Story from another culture. We can look at families and their importance in our lives.
The Diary of a Killer Cat	Anne Fine	Reading through a different style of writing and exploring how behaviours can sometimes be changed.
The Magic Finger	Roald Dahl	Classic author and a narrative filled with interesting, imaginative and nonsense vocabulary.

Class Reads and Talk Through Stories Texts

These are read by an adult to the children every day. The aim of these books is to introduce children to new vocabulary and explore a variety of texts allowing children to escape into a world created by the author– a perfect end to the day!



Book	Author	Why?
George's Marvellous Medicine	Roald Dahl	Classic author Mixing materials and ingredients
A Little Bit Brave	Nicola Kinnear	Filled with adventure! Logan has to be brave and step out of his comfort zone to help his friend.
Ruby's Worry	Tom Percival	A sensitive look at anxiety and worries and shares the message that a problem shared is a problem halved.
Billy and the Dragon	Nadia Shireen	A picture book exploring fantasy, friendship and animals. Diversity (BAME)
Click, Clack, Moo	Doreen Cronin	Picture book that shows children how to use their minds and think outside the box in order to solve problems.
Sonya's Chickens	Phoebe Wahl	A focus on nature and natural life cycles. An emotional story about Sonya raising, and loving, her chicks until one day, one goes missing.
Gecko's Echo	Lucy Rowland and Natasha Rimmington	A picture book with messages of bravery, courage, determination and love. Rhyming language used throughout.
Handa's Hen	Eileen Browne	Reinforces counting up to 10. Teaches determination and resilience when something goes wrong. Set in another country.
Max and the Tag-along Moon	Floyd Cooper	Main character with an African American origin. A story of love between a little bot and his Grandpa.
My Monster and Me	Nadiya Hussain	A story addressing emotions such as worry. A simple picture book highlighting the importance of talking to others about how you feel.
Stick Man	Julia Donaldson	Much loved children's author. Repetitive phrases.

The Lion Inside	Rachel Bright	A story about confidence, self-esteem, and a shy little mouse who sets out on a journey to find his roar
On the Way Home	Jill Murphy	Much loved children's author. Imaginative and playful stories to follow on Claire's journey home.
The Invisible	Tom Percival	An emotional story following Isabel's journey as her and her family have to move home and face poverty. Isabel doesn't feel like she belongs and feels as though she is becoming invisible.
The Wonky Donkey	Craig Smith	A book filled with silly sentences and funny verses about The Wonky Donkey. Repetitive phrases for children to join in with and laugh out loud with.

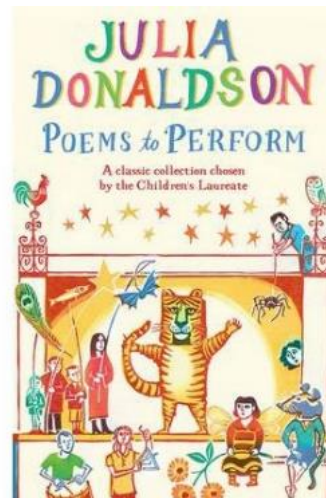
Year 2 Reading Spine

'Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.'

– Frederick Douglass

Core Texts

These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



Book	Author	Why?
Poems to Perform	Julia Donaldson	Performance Following a rhythm Working cooperatively
Leaf	Sandra Deickmann	Empathy Looking at things from a different perspective Helping others Debate Persuasive writing
Zeraffa Giraffa	Dianne Hofmeyr	Events based on a true story Different cultures Looking at the past Exploring new places Descriptive writing
One Day on Our Blue Planet ... in the Savannah	Ella Bailey	Global warming Current affairs Environment How we can influence change Commentary writing in the 3 rd Person
The Robot and the Bluebird	David Lucas	Seasonal changes Helping others Thinking of others Resilience Writing in role
The Secret Sky Garden	Linda Sarah	Conservation Making friends Creating new things Using imagination Instruction writing

Class Reads and Talk Through Stories Texts

These are read by an adult to the children at the end of each day. The aim of a class read is to introduce children to longer books, learn new vocabulary and explore a variety of texts allowing children to escape into a world created by the author– a perfect end to the day!



Book	Author	Why?
I Thought I Heard a Tree Sneeze	Brian Moses	To expose children to different genres
The Boy Who Grew Dragons	Andy Shepherd	Introduce children to the fantasy genre
Flat Stanley	Jeff Brown	Classic read Adventure story Inspire imagination
The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me	Roald Dahl	Classic author Award winning
Lifesavers	Eryl Nash	Job roles Top 50 recommended read Non-Fiction
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond	Top 50 recommended read Link to films Classic read
Mog and the Forgetful Cat	Judith Kerr	Classic read Well-loved character Multiple stories about Mog Adapted for TV
Six Dinner Sid	Inga Moore	An enjoyable read
Dogger	Shirley Hughes	Emotions Friendships Sharing Empathy

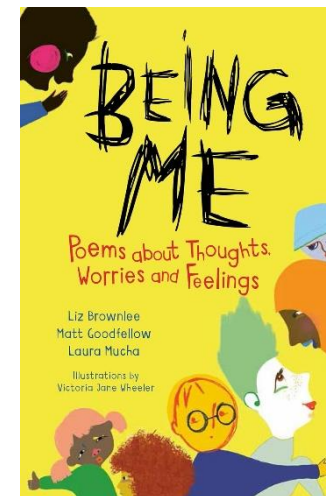
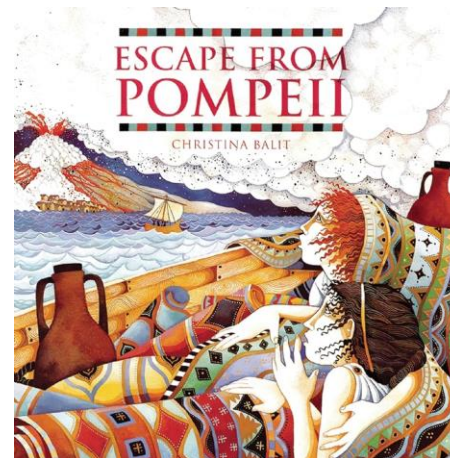
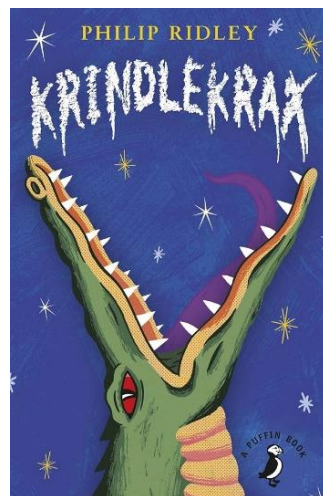
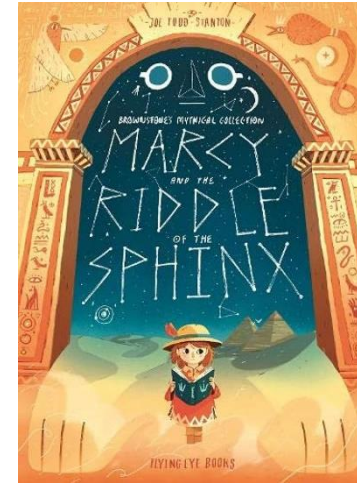
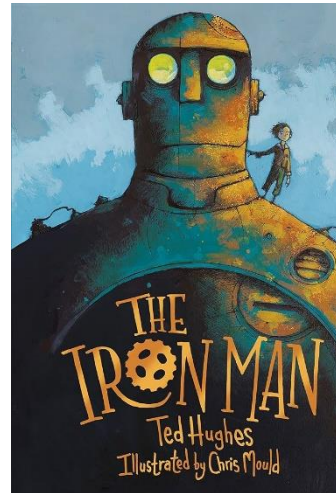
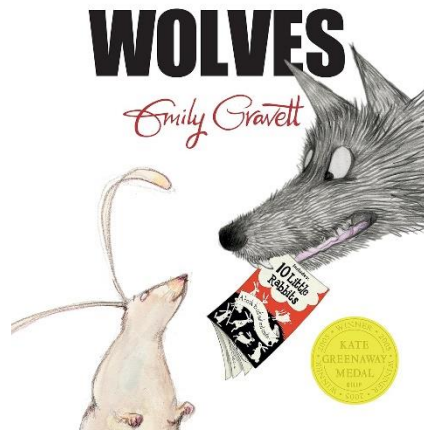
The Rainbow Fish	Marcus Pfister	Sharing Accepting others Being respectful
The Snake in my School	David Walliams	Modern author Humour Relatable plot Encourage discussion about the right thing to do
George and the Dragon	Chris Wormell	Different perspectives Out of the ordinary Relate to children experiences Respectful Empathy

Year 3 Reading Spine

*"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body" – Sir
Richard Steele*

Core Texts

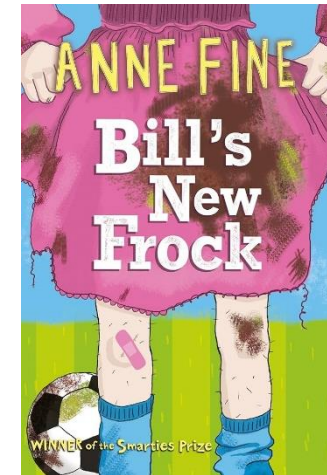
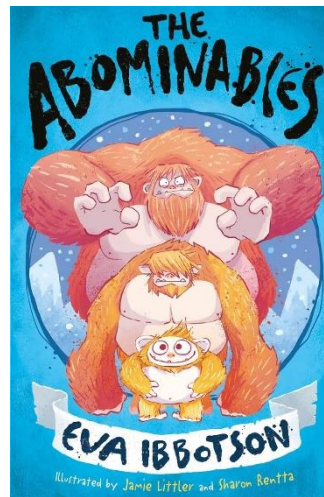
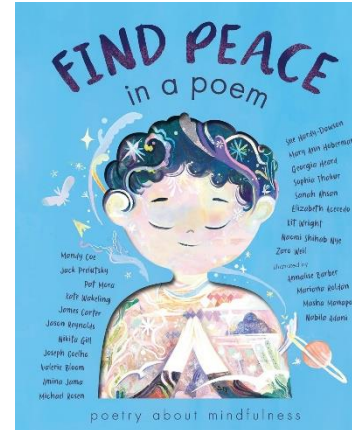
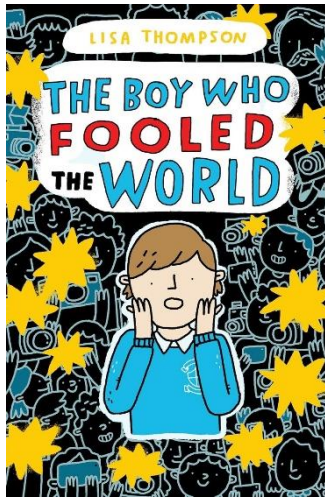
These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



Book	Author	Why?
Wolves	Emily Gravett	<p>A picture book which plays on the interaction of books with real life in various ways, including the use of envelopes, library tickets and labels. Links are made with information books about wolves and with their portrayal in fairy tales.</p> <p>The playful use of text and images offers opportunities for writing in a range of styles and text types.</p>
The Iron Man	Ted Huges	<p>A modern fairy tale with a dramatic opening and memorable language. A story of bravery, fear, prejudice and friendship.</p> <p>The book allows opportunities to learn about plot, character development and emotional response to themes and events.</p>
Marcy and the Riddle of the Sphinx	Joe Todd Stanton	<p>Links to our history focus of the Ancient Egyptians.</p> <p>An adventure story exploring family dynamics and overcoming fears to save loved ones.</p> <p>Many opportunities for engaging in authentic writing for different purposes and audiences.</p>
KrindleKrax	Philip Ridley	<p>An action-packed chapter book in which the central character proves looks do not determine a person.</p> <p>The book allows for exploring setting, narrative plot and character development. Issues and dilemmas faced by the main characters provide meaningful opportunities for pupils to respond in role.</p>
Escape from Pompeii	Christina Balit	<p>Links to our history focus of the Romans and previous work in Geography on volcanoes.</p> <p>This text engages children with the genre of historical fiction Set against the backdrop of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, it helps bring the topic to life and provides children with a rich background knowledge of a significant historical period.</p>
Being Me	Liz Brownlee, Matt Goodfellow and Laura Mucha	<p>Many poems in the collection relate to children's direct and personal experiences. They will be able to connect to and share their feelings and experiences linked to school, family, everyday experiences and the wider world.</p> <p>Opportunities are given to listen and respond to and perform a range of poems. There is a focus on rhythm and rhyme and how to convey this effectively in a performance.</p>

Class Reads

These are read by an adult to the children at the end of each day. The aim of a class read is to introduce children to longer books, learn new vocabulary and explore a variety of texts allowing children to escape into a world created by the author– a perfect end to the day!



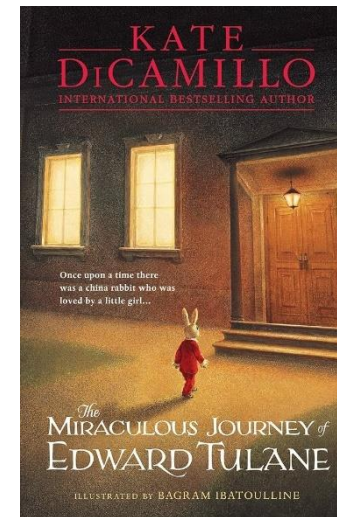
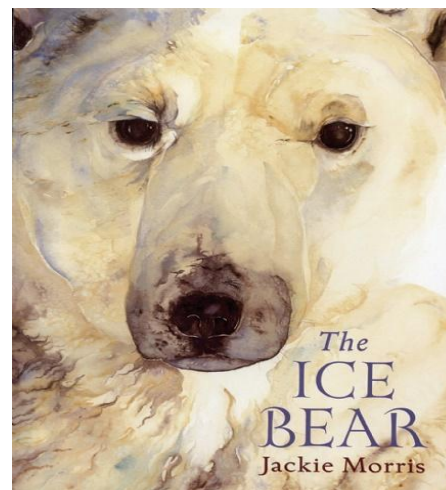
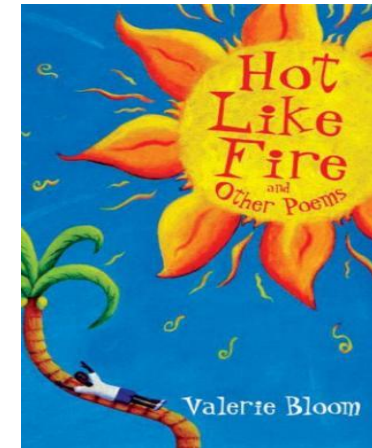
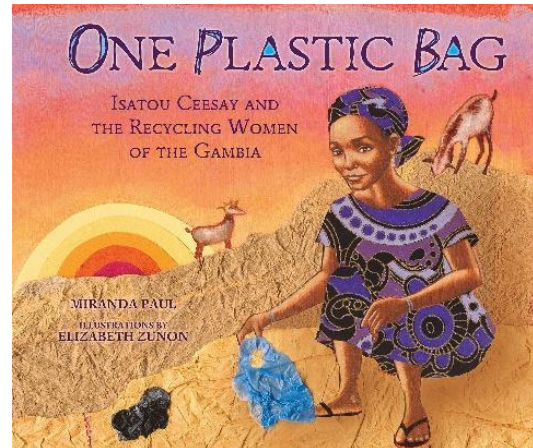
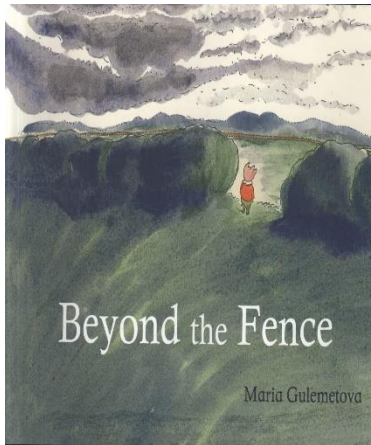
<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Why?</u>
Find Peace in a Poem	Various authors	Exposure to poetry Vibrant illustrations Relatable themes. For young readers who may find the world overwhelming at times. The poets featured include past and current laureates, and Carnegie and CLIPPA award winners.
Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine	A humorous and exciting book. Opportunities to discuss moral implications and gender stereotypes. World-famous author and former Children's Laureate.
Ocean Meets Sky	Terry Fan and Eric Fan	Stunning illustrations. Explores themes of family, memory and loss. Characters from ethnic minorities.
The Abominables	Eva Ibbotson	A fabulous, fun adventure story. Full of magical imagination. But as well as humour, there is also a powerful message about the importance of nature and the environment, protecting endangered species, and opposing cruelty and injustice.
The Boy Who Fooled the World	Lisa Thompson	A story of fame and fortune, making mistakes and learning to be true to yourself. Complex feelings such as shame and anxiety written for children to understand and relate to.
The Nothing to See Here Hotel	Steven Butler	Magical, mythical adventure. A laugh-out-loud chapter book where 'whacky creatures' are brought to life.

Year 4 Reading Spine

"I do believe something very magical *can happen when you read a good book*" – J K Rowling

Core Texts

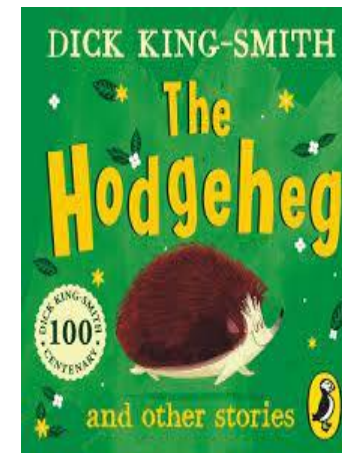
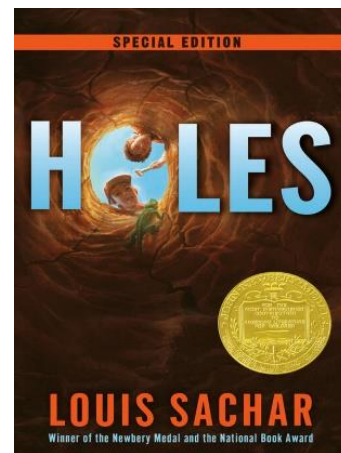
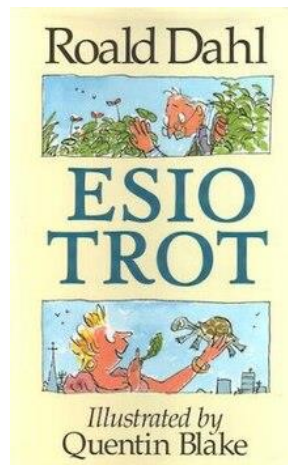
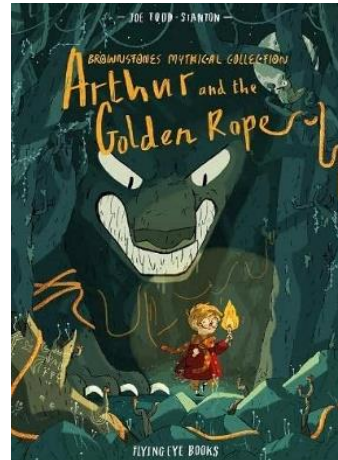
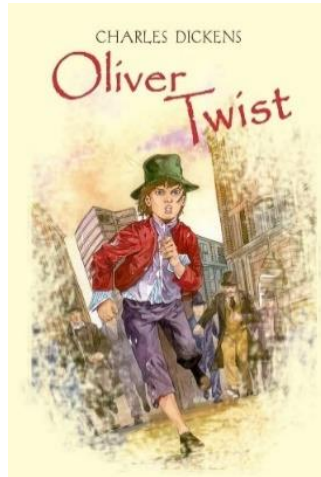
These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Why?</u>
Beyond the Fence	Maria Gulemetova	<p>Links to our science focus on Animals and their Habitats.</p> <p>Explores the life of pets and animals living in captivity, controlling friendships and freedom.</p> <p>Children write an adventure story about their own pets inspired the main character (pig) who leaves his owner to find freedom.</p>
One Plastic Bag	Miranda Paul	<p>Opportunities to create a persuasive leaflet.</p> <p>Children write creatively.</p> <p>Children are exposed to a picture book.</p> <p>Children explore issues around the world (protecting the environment).</p> <p>Teaching children how our actions in the west are affecting people in the east.</p>
Hot Like Fire	Valerie Bloom	<p>Children notice that we are a community within a world.</p> <p>Exploration of vocabulary from a Caribbean culture.</p> <p>Children have opportunities to create and perform their own poems.</p> <p>Developing self-confidence, as children are performing to the class.</p>
The Wild Robot	Peter Brown	<p>Explores the life of a robot (that has no feelings). Children understand the important messages of adapting, making meaningful friendships and importance of family.</p> <p>Children write an empathy story.</p>
The Ice Bear	Jackie Morris	<p>In the tradition of myths of old, this powerful story entwines magical themes, shape shifting, harsh realities and pure emotions into a story from another time. The concepts of love, balance and respect for all life are strong explored in this story. Children will write their own magical story with a shape shifter.</p>
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate DiCamillo	<p>This story explores love, loss, kindness, compassion and the journey to self-discovery.</p> <p>Children write in role and also a story inspired by the themes in the book.</p>

Class Reads

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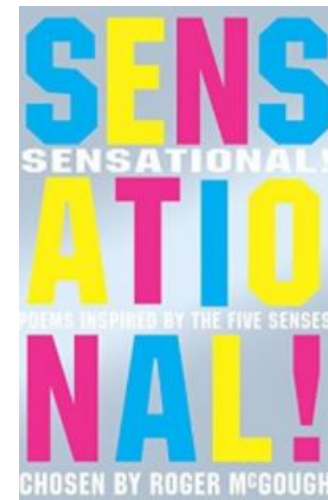
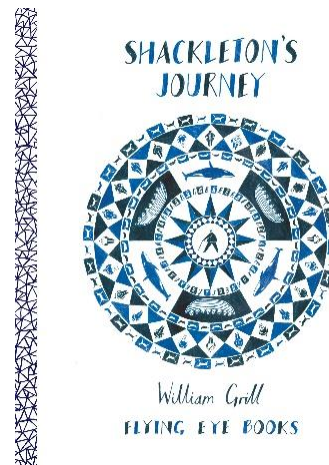
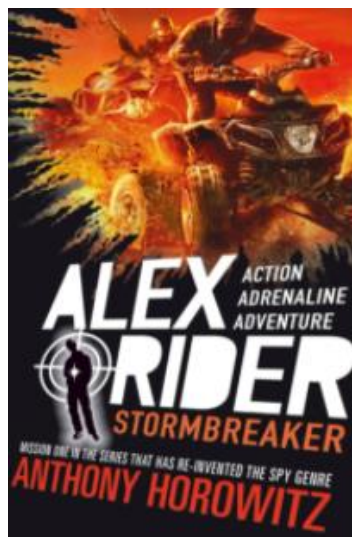
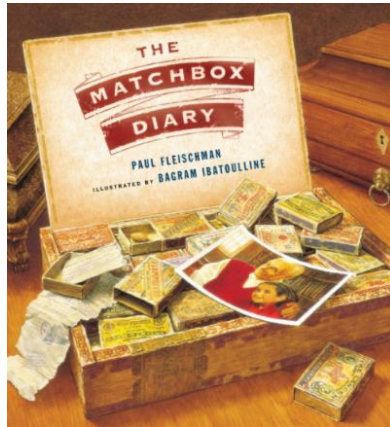
<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Why?</u>
The Hodgeheg	Dick King-Smith	Links to our science topic and is crammed with humour, empathy, fast-paced action and relatable characters.
The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	Nizrana Farook	A book set in the dazzling jungles of Sri Lanka. It's a thrilling adventure that touches on themes of loyalty, bravery and friendship.
Esio Trot	Roald Dahl	A modern classic by a very loved children's author, this story explores themes of love, ageing and friendship. It also has a good dose of Roald Dahl's witty fun with words.
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	Links to our history topic. The story is set in Victorian England and will give children an insight into what life was like for a Victorian child.
Holes	Louis Sachar	This book is written for young readers and is written with humour and creativity that provokes the emotions of the reader. It explores themes of crime, punishment and redemption. It encourages the reader to think about what they would do in this situation.
Arthur and the Golden Rope	Joe Todd-Stanton	This is another book in the same series which builds on from Year 3. It also links with our history topic of the Vikings. The story explores themes of bravery and outer connection.

Year 5 Reading Spine

"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet." - Jhumpa Lahiri

Core Texts

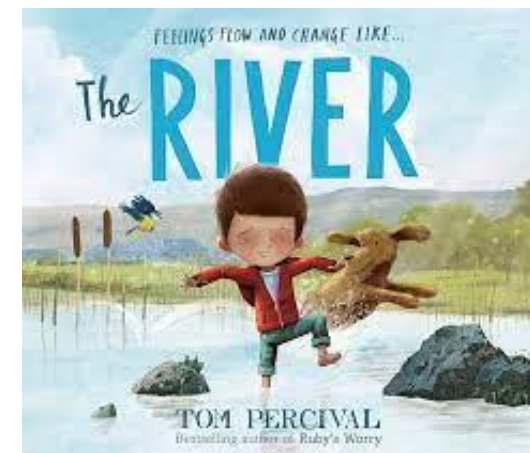
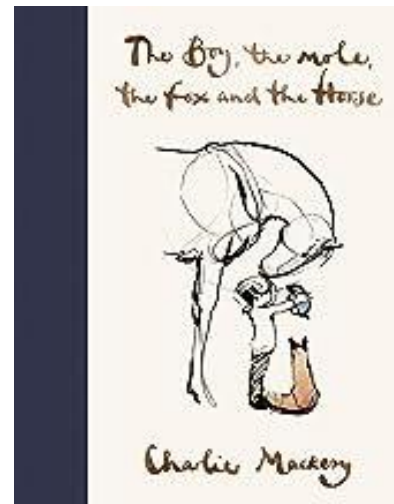
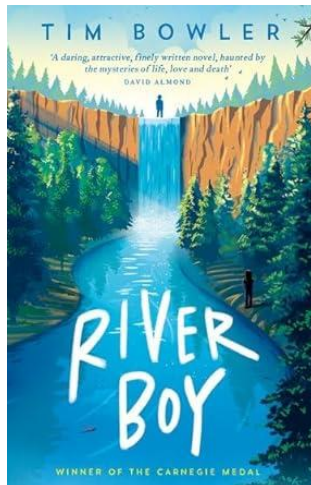
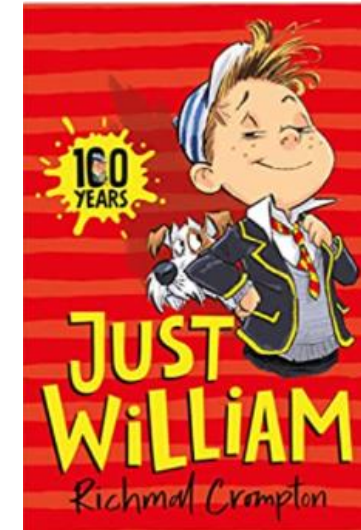
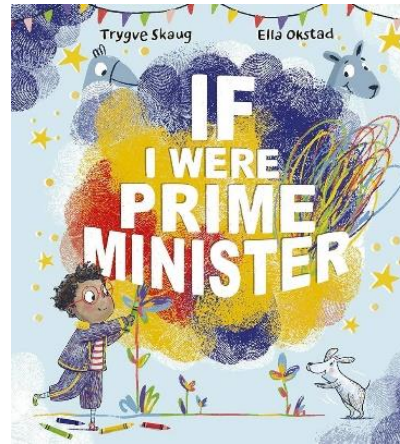
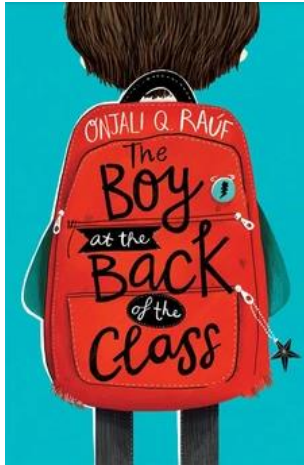
These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



Book	Author	Why?
The Match Box Diary	Paul Fleischman	<p>Exploring new cultures and North America.</p> <p>A powerful journey that captures the hardships, self-reliance, strength and simple joys that characterised early immigrants.</p> <p>Link to memories and personal items that are special to us.</p> <p>Children will write about items that are personal to them and the memories they evoke.</p> <p>Children will write an autobiographical story.</p>
I love you, Michael Collins	Lauren Baratz-Logsted	<p>Link to science topic of space.</p> <p>First moon landing and the space race.</p> <p>Family conflicts and the power of a best friend.</p> <p>Fun, historical fiction through a series of letters.</p> <p>Being true to yourself.</p> <p>Children will write an informal letter.</p>
The Midnight Fox	Betsy Byars	<p>A classic, atmospheric and heartfelt story.</p> <p>Builds up suspense.</p> <p>Prompts discussions about our morals.</p> <p>In-depth study of character and setting.</p> <p>Children will write a rescue story.</p>
Alex Rider Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz	<p>An action-packed story about a daring teenage spy.</p> <p>Cleverly plotted and full of excitement, the combination of spy gadgets and undercover escapades appeals to boys in particular when writing.</p> <p>Children will write an action and adventure story using suspense.</p>
Shackleton's Journey	William Grill	<p>Filled with diagrams, maps and fascinating facts that will both delight readers and transport them through an imaginary exploration of frozen worlds.</p> <p>Engaging for reluctant readers.</p> <p>Children will write a newspaper report.</p>
Sensational!	Chosen by Roger McGough	<p>Children explore poetry and how they can use it to express the stimulation of their senses.</p> <p>Offers many opportunities to enjoy words, word play, rhyme and imagery.</p> <p>Enable discussions on how poets use language in a range of ways.</p> <p>To explore how their senses evoke memories.</p> <p>Children will write and perform poetry.</p>

Class Reads

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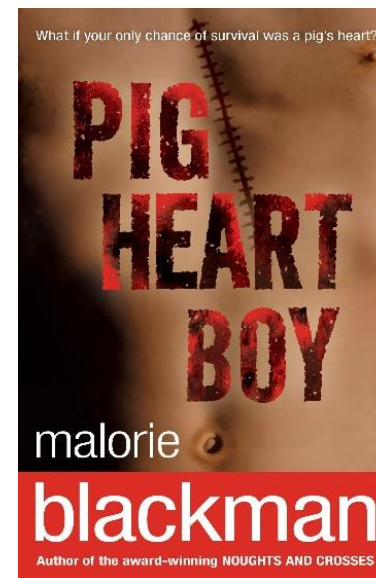
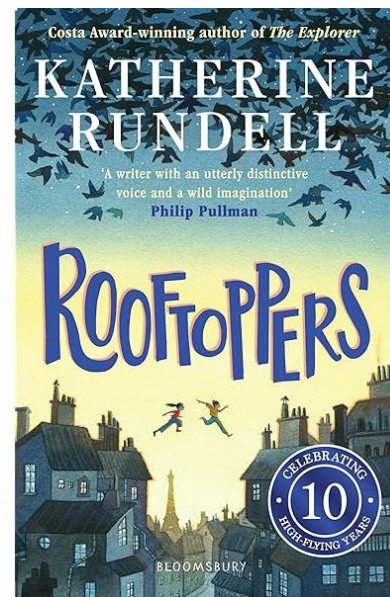
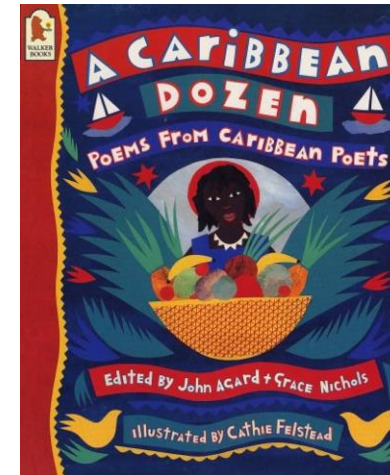
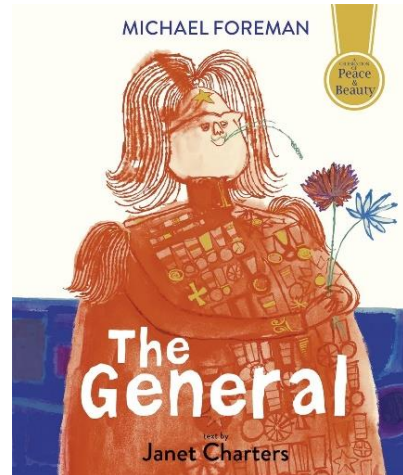
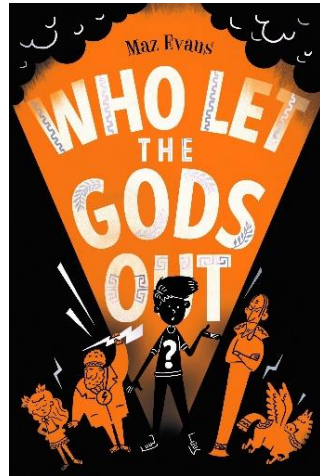
Book	Author	Why?
The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Raúf	<p>Themes of migrating to a new country and adapting to the culture. Told with heart and humour.</p> <p>A child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.</p>
If I Were Prime Minister	Trygve Skaug	<p>A feel-good story which looks at how our country is run through the eyes of a kind, thoughtful and playful child.</p> <p>A conversation starter into politics, social change, environmental issues, friendship and various every day reflections.</p> <p>Inspire children to think about what they could do as Prime Minister.</p>
Just William	Richmal Crompton	<p>A collection of stories with a historical background.</p> <p>Children can compare school life as a child 100 years ago to present day.</p> <p>Funny adventures to make the children laugh.</p>
River Boy	Tim Bowler	<p>A well-crafted, poetic novel.</p> <p>Visual images with few, carefully chosen words.</p> <p>About life, death and relationships.</p>
The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse	Charlie Mackesy	<p>A reminder that we are all fragile and that the world can be a tough place, as well as a beautiful one.</p> <p>The solution is equally simple – it's to focus on kindness, compassion and love.</p> <p>Full of positive messages.</p> <p>'Home' isn't a physical place.</p> <p>The reason we are here is to love and be loved.</p>
The River	Tom Percival	<p>An exquisite, thought-provoking book to help children understand the idea of ever-changing emotions.</p> <p>A powerful book about feelings.</p> <p>The river is like your emotions: sometimes it's quiet and calm, on others it's light and playful, and then there are days when it roars along, wild and angry.</p>

Year 6 Reading Spine

"Reading is the gateway for children that makes all other learning possible." – Barack Obama

Core Texts

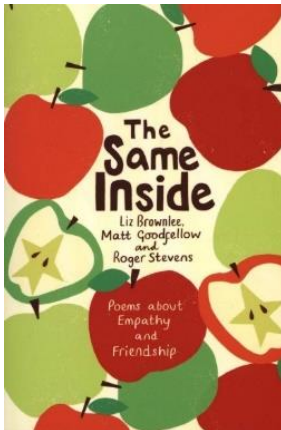
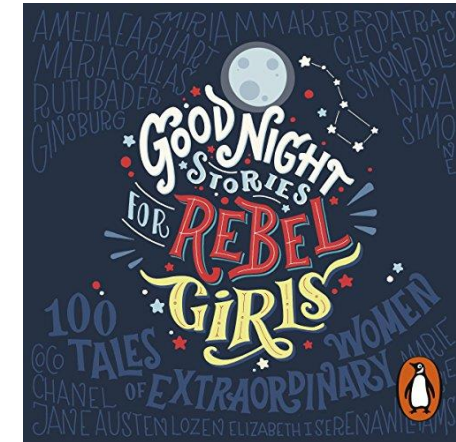
These books are used in our English lessons to inspire our writing.



Book	Author	Why?
Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans	<p>Links to our history focus of the Ancient Greeks.</p> <p>Explores the reality of some children's lives (finding school tricky, struggling with money at home, parents' who are unwell).</p> <p>Children write in role of character.</p> <p>Discovering characters who are good and evil.</p>
The General	Michael Foreman	<p>Opportunities to write in role.</p> <p>Children write creatively.</p> <p>Children are exposed to a picture book.</p> <p>Children explore issues around the world (protecting the environment).</p> <p>Teaching children that it is ok to slow down in life and notice the small things.</p>
A Caribbean Dozen	Poems from Caribbean poets	<p>Children notice that we are a community within a world.</p> <p>Exploration of vocabulary from a Caribbean culture.</p> <p>Children have opportunities to create and perform their own poems.</p> <p>Developing self-confidence, as children are performing to the class.</p>
Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell	<p>Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award and Waterstones Children's Book Prize – a high quality text enjoyed by many.</p> <p>Children learn about the adventures of a female hero and understand the importance of always following dreams.</p> <p>Encourages discussion about friendships.</p> <p>Children learn about the friendship of characters from differing countries.</p> <p>Explores the reality of some children's lives (living away from parents)</p>
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	<p>A link to the science unit of 'The Circulatory System'</p> <p>Children write in role of character.</p> <p>Explores the reality of some children's lives (Living with an illness, new sibling).</p> <p>Encourages discussion and argument about the rights and wrongs of news reporters.</p> <p>Encourages discussion about the ethics of a controversial surgery.</p>

Class Reads

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<u>Book</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Why?</u>
The Danger Gang	Tom Fletcher	Adventure and humour themed. Written by a popular children's author. Number One Bestselling fiction book. Children explore a novel that is informal and diary style. Relatable themes, including friendship and family.
A selection of biographies (Little people BIG DREAMS)	Maria Isabel Sánchez Vegara	Increased knowledge of famous figures around the World. Widened understanding of the successes of people from various cultures. Encourages discussion about determination and resilience, in order to achieve goals. Exposure to picture books. Empowers children to believe in their dreams.
Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls: 100 tales of Extraordinary Women.	Francesca Cavallo Elena Favilli	Opportunity to discuss the successes of famous women. Encourages discussion about determination and resilience, in order to achieve goals. Introduces children to remarkable women. Empowers children to believe that they can achieve anything.
The Same Inside	Liz Brownlee Matt Goodfellow Roger Stevens	Exposure to poetry Encourages discussion about friendship and empathy. Relatable themes for children. Shortlisted for Teachers' Book awards
Finn's Little Fibs	Tom Percival	Encourages discussion about the importance of telling the truth. A humorous book, with an important message for children to understand. Children get to enjoy a picture book. Children can relate to experiences where they may not have always been honest – opportunities to learn from previous mistakes.
The Night Bus Hero	Onjali Q Rauf	Helps children understand and think deeply about real people who are impacted by homelessness. Encourages discussion about the importance of kindness, friendship and empathy. Shows children how everyone has the potential to change for the better.