

Years 3 and 4

Contemporary Fiction

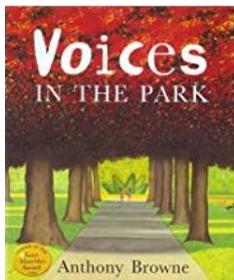


The Polar Bear Explorer's Club
Alex Bell

Join Stella Starflake Pearl and her three fellow explorers as they trek across the snowy Icelands and come face-to-face with frost fairies, snow queens, outlaw hideouts, unicorns, pygmy dinosaurs and carnivorous cabbages . . .

When Stella and three other junior explorers get separated from their expedition can they cross the frozen wilderness and live to tell the tale?

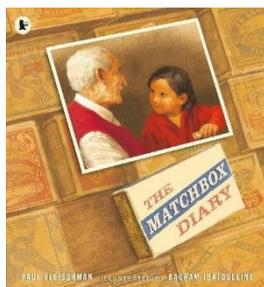
- Novel- narrative
- Recommended for Y4+
- An exciting narrative which covers gender issues
- Humorous sets of club rules at the end of the text which could be the basis for writing sequels



Voices in the Park
Anthony Browne

A charming book beautifully illustrated and told from the perspective of the four main characters; one voice after another retelling a simple encounter in the park. The story is enhanced through beautiful illustrations, which in true Anthony Browne style, contain many hidden meanings. There is plenty of opportunity to discuss many themes throughout.

- Picture book
- Viewpoint- great for exploring the Rashomon effect with children
- Themes of relationships, family, identity, acceptance and happiness
- Superb illustrations



The Matchbox Diary
Paul Fleischman

When a little girl visits her great-grandfather at his curio-filled home, she chooses an unusual object to learn about: an old cigar box. What she finds inside surprises her: a collection of matchboxes making up her great-grandfather's diary, containing objects she can hold in her hand, each one evoking a memory. Together they tell of his journey from Italy to a new country,

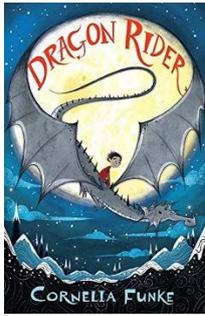
- Picture book
- Recommended for Y4+
- Great links to the wider curriculum.
- A lovely text to develop empathy with characters
- Themes of family, journeys, immigration



You're a Bad Man Mr Gum!
Andy Stanton

Mr. Gum may be the nastiest man on Earth, but he has the tidiest, greeniest, floweriest, gardeniest garden in the world...that is, until a giant whopper of a dog named Jake destroys it in a fit of doggy joy.
Lots of gross characters to attract children to the story.

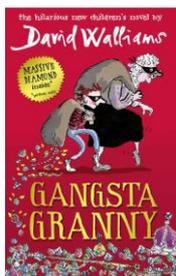
- Short novel- with illustrations, wide line spacing and fewer than usual lines on a page.
- Exceptionally silly- and brilliant.
- 1 of 9 so encourages further reading
- [SIL Reading Reasoning question pack available](#)



Dragon Rider
Cornelia Funke

A dragon. A boy. A journey. Firedrake, a brave young dragon, his loyal brownie friend Sorrel and a lonely boy called Ben are united as if by destiny. Together, they embark on a magical journey to find the legendary place where silver dragons can live in peace for ever. With only a curious map and the whispered memories of an old dragon to guide them, they fly across moonlit lands and seas to reach the highest mountains in the world. Along the way, they discover extraordinary new friends in unlikely places and a courage they never knew they had.

- Narrative
- Part of a series- so encourages further reading
- Fantasy adventure
- Themes of friendship, magic and trust
- Film version available to compare and contrast

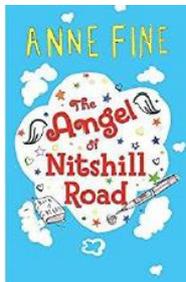


Gangsta Granny
David Walliams

Our hero Ben is bored beyond belief after he is made to stay at his grandma's house. She's the boringest grandma ever: all she wants to do is to play Scrabble, and eat cabbage soup. But there are two things Ben doesn't know about his grandma.

- 1) She was once an international jewel thief.
- 2) All her life, she has been plotting to steal the Crown Jewels, and now she needs Ben's help...

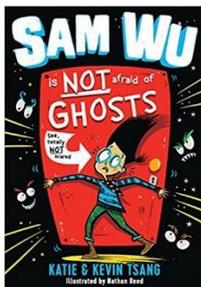
- Novel- narrative
- Family, relationships humour and adventure
- Encourages readers to challenge their own views of the elderly
- Film version available
- We also recommend 'Billionaire Boy' by the same author



The Angel of Nitshill Road
Anne Fine

A thought-provoking story of friendship and bullying. When a new girl joins the school she manages to change the hearts and minds of all the people in the school and leads them all to stand up collectively to the school bully and change things for the better.

- Short chapter book
- Themes of friendship, acceptance, belonging and bullying
- Set in a familiar setting of school
- [SIL Reading Reasoning question pack available](#)

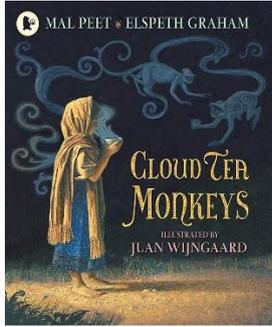


Sam Wu is NOT Afraid of Ghosts
Kevin Tsang

Sam Wu is NOT a scaredy-cat (except he is). When a trip to the Space Museum goes terrifyingly wrong, Sam begins a mission to prove to the school bully, and all of his friends, that he is a fearless space adventurer.

A truly laugh-out-loud, voice-led and madcap story of ghost hunting, snakes and mischievous pet cats called Butterbutt, perfect for fans of Tom Gates, Wilf the Mighty Worrier and Barry Loser, and readers aged six plus.

- Short chapter book
- A fun, easy to read, independent reader.
- Best suited for Y3
- Themes of friendship and overcoming fears
- Presented with lots of fun illustrations across the narrative
- Great for teaching emphasis and intonation when reading
- 1 in a series

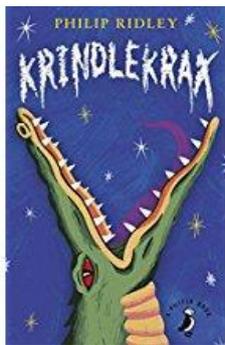


Cloud Tea Monkeys

Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham
Juan Wijngaard

Tashi lives in a tiny village below the tea plantations where her mother earns a living. One day her mother falls ill, and Tashi must pick tea to earn the money for a doctor. But she is too small to reach the tender shoots and the cruel Overseer sends her away empty-handed. Tashi needs a miracle. Then, on the mountains high above the plantation where only monkeys live, something extraordinary happens that will change her life for ever...

- Picture book- beautiful illustrations
- Set in India- tea plantation
- Theme of relationships- with her mother and with the monkeys
- We also recommend 'The Mysterious Traveller' by the same author



Krindlekrax
Philip Ridley

Ruskin Splinter is small and thin, with knock-knees, thick glasses and a squeaky voice, and the idea of him taming a dragon makes the whole class laugh. Big, strong Elvis is stupid but he looks like a hero. So who is more likely to get the big part in the school play? But when the mysterious beast, Krindlekrax, threatens Lizard Street and everyone who lives there, it is Ruskin who saves the day and proves he is the stuff that heroes are made of after all.

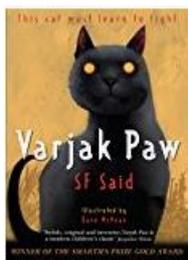
- Narrative
- Sci-fi Fantasy
- Themes of bullying, friendship and self-image
- Familiar setting of school
- Tale of good overcomes bad



Kaspar Prince of Cats
Michael Morpurgo

Johnny Trott is a bellboy at the Savoy and it is his engaging voice that tells us Kaspar's (and his own) story. Kaspar is the cat of a Russian opera-singing Countess. Period detail, especially the contrast between high and low classes of the time, is clearly-drawn and absorbing. The few chapters dealing with the Titanic voyage transported us there with depictions of sounds, smells and sights and a gripping account of the sinking.

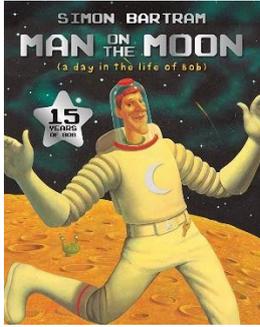
- Narrative
- Historical adventure set in the times of the Titanic
- Injustice based solely on class
- Some excellent descriptions throughout



Varjak Paw
SF Said

Varjak Paw loves his family, but they're always mean to him. Now their owner is ill and a strange man comes to live with them. He has two black cats and they kill the Elder Paw, head of the family but Varjak escapes to find a dog.

- Narrative
- Themes of finding your way in life, friendship and family
- Great as an independent reader for more able in Y4 or as a class reader
- 'The Outlaw Varjak Paw' is the fantastic sequel



Man On The Moon
Simon Bartram

A beautifully illustrated book about an ordinary looking man called Bob. He has a very interesting life travelling to the moon and back to entertain space tourists and unwittingly bring back lots of alien hitchhikers to earth.

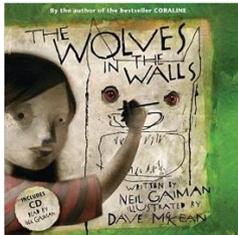
- Picture Book- exceptional quality of illustrations
- Inference and deduction
- Fantasy/Mystery
- First in a series of books about Bob, the man on the Moon.
- [SIL Reading Reasoning question pack available](#)



Dog Man
Dav Pilkey

New from the creators of Captain Underpants, it's Dog Man, the crime-biting canine who is part dog, part man, and ALL COP! George and Harold have created a new hero who digs into deception, claws after crooks, and rolls over robbers. When Greg the police dog and his cop companion are injured on the job, a life-saving surgery changes the course of history, and Dog Man is born. With the head of a dog and the body of a human, this heroic hound has a real nose for justice. But can he resist the call of the wild to answer the call of duty?

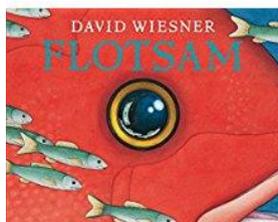
- Bright, appealing graphic novel
- First in a series so great for hooking readers
- Great addition to reading area
- Flip-o-rama pages and comic style appeals to reluctant readers
- Multi-modal and fourth-wall breaking introduces concepts of comic grammar
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



Wolves in the Walls
Neil Gaiman

When Lucy hears noises from behind the wall she tries to warn her parents that there are wolves banging about. But her parents don't listen. When the wolves finally take over the house and Lucy and her family are evicted to live in the garden, her parents realise perhaps they should have listened. This is a brilliant, witty and inventive picture book with cutting-edge art, which is sure to be a hit with existing fans of Neil Gaiman as well as young readers.

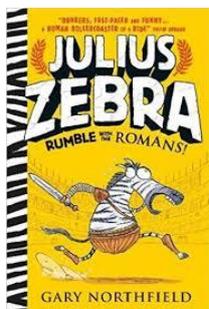
- Picture book
- A highly stylised book that links well to the art programme of study for KS2
- Dark and quirky text that offers lots of opportunity for writing



Flotsam
David Wiesner

A bright, science-minded boy goes to the beach equipped to collect and examine flotsam-anything floating that has been washed ashore. Bottles, lost toys, small objects of every description are among his usual finds. But there's no way he could have prepared for one particular discovery: a barnacle-encrusted underwater camera, with its own secrets to share . . . and to keep. A wonderful book that takes you through history via the photos taken by a camera washed up on a shore.

- Wordless picture book
- Great for teaching inference
- Belonging
- History cues- links to older technology- polaroid pictures



Julius Zebra
Gary Northfield

From a smelly watering hole deep in the heart of the Serengeti to the ferocious clamour of the Colosseum, join Julius Zebra and his motley menagerie of friends as they gear up to be ... gladiators! Only if they win the love of the Roman crowds will they win back their freedom. But do Julius and his pals have what it takes to succeed in a world where only the meanest and toughest survive? Madagascar meets Gladiator in this exciting, action-packed and hysterically funny story brimming with entertaining Roman facts.

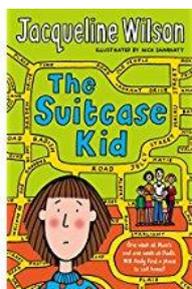
- A great combination of prose and comic strip
- Zany sense of humour will appeal to young readers
- Filled with true historical facts
- First in a series so great for hooking readers
- Great addition to reading area
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



Zita The Spacegirl
Ben Hatke

Zita's life took a cosmic left turn in the blink of an eye. When her best friend is abducted by an alien doomsday cult, Zita leaps to the rescue and finds herself a stranger on a strange planet. Humanoid chickens and neurotic robots are shocking enough as new experiences go, but Zita is even more surprised to find herself taking on the role of intergalactic hero. Before long, aliens in all shapes and sizes don't even phase her. Neither do ancient prophecies, doomed planets, or even a friendly con man who takes a mysterious interest in Zita's quest.

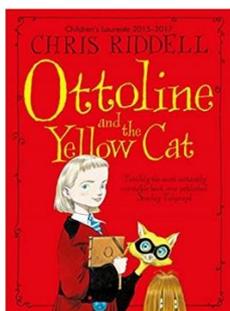
- Bright and attractive sci-fi graphic novel
- Adventure story featuring strong female lead
- Whimsical and quirky
- First in a series so great for hooking readers
- Great addition to reading area
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



The Suitcase Kid
Jacqueline Wilson

When my parents split up they didn't know what to do with me . . . My family always lived at Mulberry Cottage. Mum, Dad, me - and Radish, my Sylvanian rabbit. But now Mum lives with Bill the Baboon and his three kids. Dad lives with Carrie and her twins. And where do I live? I live out of a suitcase. One week with Mum's new family, one week with Dad's. It's as easy as A B C. That's what everyone says. But all I want is to go home - back to Mulberry Cottage...

- An accessible read that covers themes of loss, divorce, change and adjustment.
- Characters that are easy to identify with
- Great links to diary writing.
- Narrative text



Ottoline and the Yellow Cat
Chris Riddell

Introducing Miss Ottoline Brown, an exceptionally inquisitive Mistress of Disguise, and her partner in crime, Mr. Munroe. No puzzle is ever too tricky for the two of them to solve . . . They are the first to the scene of the crime when a string of high-society dog-nappings and jewel thefts hits Big City. Ottoline and Mr. Munroe go undercover - and expose an ingenious scam masterminded by furry feline crook, the Yellow Cat.

- Narrative
- Quirky mystery adventure

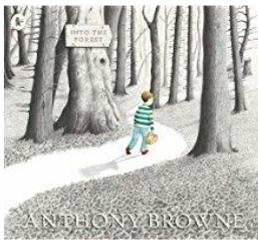


Little Red Reading Hood
Lucy Rowland

*Whilst leaving footpaths should never be done,
Straying from stories is all sorts of fun!*
Little Red Reading Hood **loves** reading books and making up stories of her own. When she meets a cunning wolf while on her way to the library, he convinces her to stray from the path and read for a little while. But hasn't she read this in a story before? Perhaps it's time she came up with a new ending . . .

This is a contemporary and fun take on the classic fairy tale, *Little Red Riding Hood*,

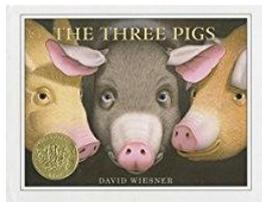
- Picture Book
- Modern version of Little Red Riding Hood-linked specifically to reading.



Into the Forest
Anthony Browne

One night a boy is woken by a terrible sound. A storm is breaking, lightning flashing across the sky. In the morning Dad is gone and Mum doesn't seem to know when he'll be back. The next day Mum asks her son to take a cake to his sick grandma. "Don't go into the forest," she warns. "Go the long way round." But, for the first time, the boy chooses to take the path into the forest, where he meets a variety of fairy tale characters.

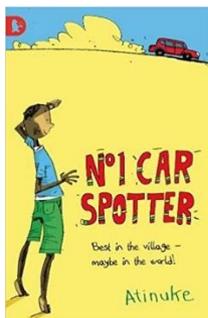
- Picture Book – with lots to look for beneath the surface
- A strikingly illustrated tale about facing fears.
- Children will recognise many fairy tale characters- great for reworking fairy tales.



The Three Pigs
David Weisner

Satisfying both as a story and as an exploration of story, *The Three Pigs* takes visual narrative to a new level. When the wolf comes a-knocking and a-puffing, he blows the pigs right out of the tale and into a whole new imaginative landscape, where they begin an adventure as they wander and fly-through other stories, encountering a dragon and a cat with a fiddle, among others. This familiar tale will never be the same old story again.

- Picture book
- A darker-than-most version of the traditional fairy tale.
- Compare and contrast with other versions



Number 1 Car Spotter
Atinuke

Oluwalase Babatunde Benson is No. 1. He's the No. 1 car spotter in his village. The No. 1 car spotter in the world!
The start of an exciting new series about the irresistible No. 1, whose hobby is car spotting but who is good at solving all sorts of problems for his village.
When the family's cart breaks down and there's no way of bringing goods to market, it's No. 1 who devises the Toyota Cow-rola and saves the day.

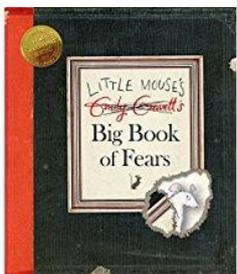
- Narrative
- First in a series of books
- Set in an African village
- Engaging characters
- An easy, fun read.



The Inventions of Hugo Cabret
Brian Selznick

Orphan, clock-keeper and thief, twelve-year-old Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric girl and her grandfather, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery.

- Part narrative, part wordless picture book.
- An exceptional text that is a whopping 526 pages long (made up mostly of double page spread images)
- Mystery, art and filmography play a big part in this book.
- Link to the real life work of Georges Melies



Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears
Emily Gravett

Young children will identify with the little mouse who uses the pages of this book to document his fears - from loud noises and the dark, to being sucked down the plughole. Packed with details and surprise treats including flaps, nibbled holes and even a hilarious fold-out map, *Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears* by Emily Gravett is an extraordinary, award-winning picture book.

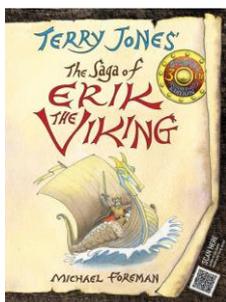
- Interesting starting point for exploring morphology and etymology through the many phobias listed
- Particularly recommended for Year 3



Beowulf: Monster Slayer
Paul D. Storie

Beowulf is a brave and mighty warrior, known to have the strength of thirty men. At home in Geatland, Beowulf hears about the terrible troubles of his father's friend, Hrothgar, the king of the Danes. Hrothgar's land is plagued by Grendel, a vicious monster who attacks the Danes by night. Beowulf sets sail to aid Hrothgar and the Danes. But is Beowulf strong enough to slay the monstrous Grendel? And even if he succeeds, what other dangers lie ahead for the warrior-hero?

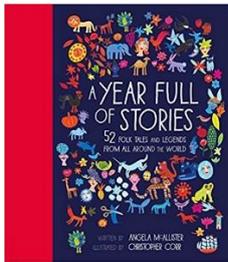
- Graphic novel version of Beowulf.
- Great to compare with extracts of other narrative versions- for example the Rob Lloyd Jones version.



The Saga of Eric the Viking
Terry Jones and Michael Foreman

A fantastically brilliant and amazingly adventurous saga of Erik the Viking. As Erik and the crew of The Golden Dragon set off in search of adventure, little do they know that their courage, skill, strength and stamina will all be tested to the extreme.

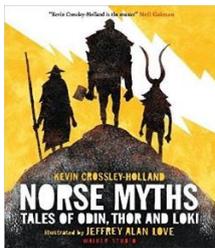
- Links well with history programme of study for KS2.
- Full of adventure and excitement
- Good example of a saga, told in episodic form.
- Great to read aloud with children



A Year Full of Stories: 52 Folktales and Legends from Around the World
Angela McAllister

Celebrate your year with this treasury of 52 best-loved stories from around the world. This rich resource collects together folk tales from home and legends and myths from distant lands to commemorate the changing seasons, cultural events and international festivals throughout the year. Stories include *Father Frost*, *The Magic Porridge Pot*, *The Frog Prince*, *The Runaway Pancake*, *The Pot of Gold*, *The Hare in the Moon* and *One Dark and Stormy Night*.

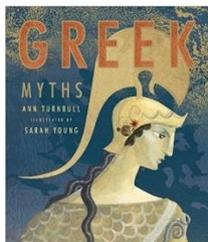
- Short stories
- Includes many myths, folktales and legends from many cultures
- Organised around the calendar
- Engaging illustrations



Norse Myths: Tales of Odin, Thor and Loki
Kevin Crossley-Holland

An extraordinary and enthralling illustrated anthology of Norse Myths from a Carnegie-Medal winning author. These dramatic, enthralling and atmospheric tales are based on the Scandinavian myth cycle – one of the greatest and most culturally significant stories in the world – and tell of Odin with his one eye, Thor with his mighty hammer and Loki, the red-haired, shape-shifting trickster.

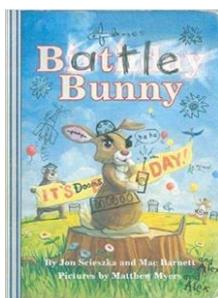
- Anthology of myths
- Links well with history programme of study for KS2.
- Tales of bold, but flawed, Viking Gods
- 20 separate stories to share with children
- Illustrated short stories



Greek Myths
Ann Turnbull

Beautifully written and illustrated, this collection of seventeen Greek myths is truly something to treasure. The timeless stories of Theseus and the Minotaur, Persephone, King Midas, Ariadne, Orpheus and Eurydice, and Echo and Narcissus are told with great freshness.

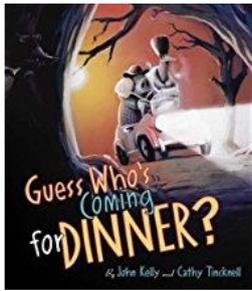
- Illustrated short stories
- Links well with history programme of study for KS2.
- Good balance between the gentler myths and the ones packed with battles and monsters.



Battle Bunny
Jon Scieszka

When Alex is given a silly, sappy picture book called *Birthday Bunny*, he picks up a pencil and turns it into something he'd actually like to read: *Battle Bunny*. An adorable rabbit's journey through the forest becomes a secret mission to unleash an evil plan – a plan that only Alex can stop. Featuring layered, original artwork, this dynamic picture book celebrates children as storytellers.

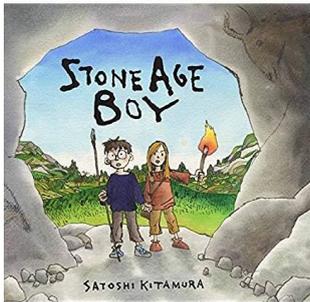
- Picture book
- An absolutely fabulous book to illustrate the power of editing and redrafting.
- An original story 'Birthday Bunny' lies under all the handwritten edits that create 'Battle Bunny'
- Caution: contains some violence



Guess Who's Coming for Dinner
John Kelly & Cathy Tincknell

Horace and Glenda Pork-Fowler have been invited to an "all-you-can-eat" weekend at Eatum Hall - a dream come true for the pair for whom no plate is too big. However, their greed and desire to make the most of their luxurious surroundings distract them from the true purpose of why they are there!

- Picture book
- Superb for teaching inference- lots of gaps to fill using clues in the text and images
- Dark humour
- Great for exploration of viewpoint and character perceptions



Stone Age Boy
Satoshi Kitamura

One day a little boy is walking along when he trips, stumbles and falls ... into the Stone Age! He meets a girl his own age and her tribe, and learns all about their way of life. He watches them make tools, clothes and weapons. He sees how they hunt, fish, cook, celebrate – and even how they paint on the walls of caves. But when a furious cave bear attacks, he wakes up back in his own time where everyone tells him it was only a dream. But was it?

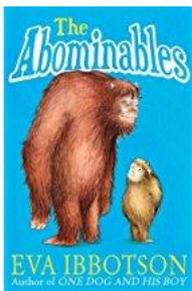
- Links well with history programme of study for KS2
- Picture book
- First person narrative



The Witches
Roald Dahl

Witches really are a detestable breed. They disguise themselves as lovely ladies, when secretly they want to squish and squelch all the wretched children they despise. Luckily one boy and his grandmother know how to recognize these vile creatures - but can they get rid of them for good?

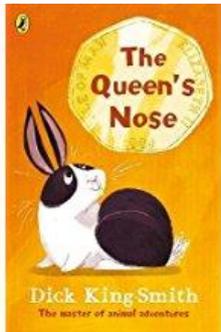
- Adventure
- Relationships
- Humour
- Word play
- Vocabulary
- Great examples of character descriptions
- Compare and contrast extracts with film version
- Compare with Walliams and Stanton



The Abominables
Eva Ibbotson

A hundred years ago, in the Himalayan peaks of Nanvi Dar, the daughter of an English earl is kidnapped by a huge hairy monster. She is introduced to a family of motherless yetis and devotes her life to their upbringing. She teaches them to speak, tells them stories and insists on polite manners. This early novel, never submitted for publication, contains all the trademark qualities that made Eva's subsequent books so successful.

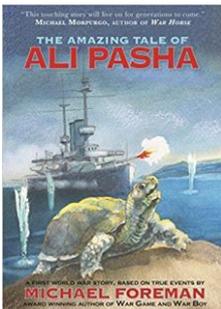
- Chapter book
- A witty and eccentric adventure
- Great for comparing and contrasting with Alex Bell's 'The Polar Bear Explorer's Club'
- We also recommend 'Journey to the River Sea' and 'One Dog and His Boy' by the same author.



The Queen's Nose
Dick-King Smith

Harmony's uncle sends her on a treasure trail - which disappointingly ends in her finding a 50p piece. But the coin is a magic one, and when you rub the queen's nose, your wishes will come true!
From the number one author for animal magic comes this wonderful new edition of a much-loved classic.

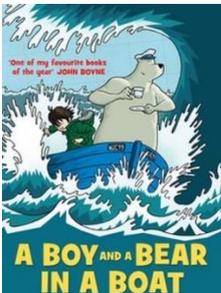
- A light-hearted and entertaining animal story
- Magic and wishes a-plenty
We also recommend other stories by the same author.



The Amazing Tale of Ali Pasha
Michael Foreman

On 6th May 1915, Henry Friston, a 21-year-old seaman, rejoined his battleship after ten days in Hell. Hell was just 180 metres long and seven metres wide and was otherwise known only as 'X Beach', Gallipoli. Henry, ferrying the wounded from the battlefield, had not eaten or slept for three days. Then, somehow, in the midst of the bombardments, he met an unlikely companion - a tortoise.

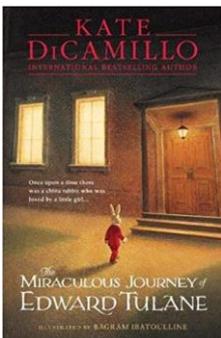
- Short chapter book with illustrations
- A collection of photographs are also included in the book
- Part retold through dialogue and part through diary entries
- Very ambitious and aspirational vocabulary
- WWII
- Best suited for Y4



A Boy and a Bear in a Boat
Dave Shelton

A boy and a bear go to sea, equipped with a suitcase, a comic book and a ukulele. They are only travelling a short distance and it really shouldn't take long. But their journey doesn't quite go to plan . . .
Faced with turbulent storms, a terrifying sea monster and the rank remains of a very dangerous sandwich, the odds are against our unlikely heroes. Will the *Harriet*, their trusted vessel, withstand the violent lashings of the salty waves? And will anyone ever answer their message in a bottle?

- Chapter book
- Funny and tender
- Themes of friendship adventure, despair and joy

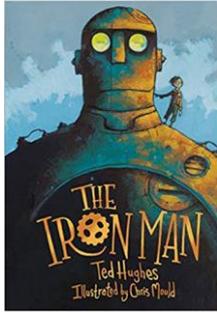


The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
Kate DiCamillo

The magical story of the adventures of a lost toy rabbit. Abilene loves her blue china rabbit, but Edward Tulane is extremely vain and only loves himself. On a voyage from New York to London, Edward falls overboard and from there finds himself on an amazing journey. He travels with tramps, works as a scarecrow, comforts a dying child ... and finally learns what it is to truly love.

- Chapter book
- Beautiful illustrations
- A great choice vocabulary
- Journey/adventure story
- Perfect to read as a class

Literary Heritage

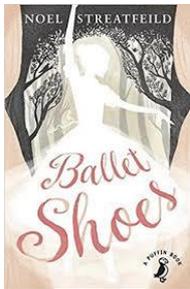


The Iron Man
Ted Hughes
Chris Mould

*The Iron Man came to the top of the cliff.
Where had he come from?
Nobody knows.
How was he made?
Nobody knows.*

Mankind must put a stop to the dreadful destruction by the Iron Man and set a trap for him, but he cannot be kept down. Then, when a terrible monster from outer space threatens to lay waste to the planet, it is the Iron Man who finds a way to save the world.

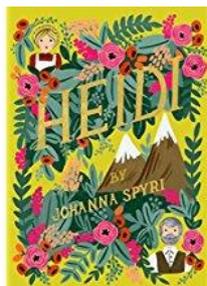
- Science-fiction story
- Short chapter book- 5 chapters in total
- Ideal as a basis to write a prequel or sequel
- Great for examining layout and punctuation for impact. Hughes uses one-word paragraphs very well.
- Illustrations updated this year by Chris Mould



Ballet Shoes
Noel Streatfeild

Pauline, was rescued from a shipwreck as a baby. She longs to be an actress. Petrova, is a Russian orphan. She is happiest when playing with cars and engines. Polly was handed over with just a pair of ballet shoes to her name. If she could, she would dance all day! But one thing they DO have in common is, that with money running out at home and Great Uncle Matthew missing, the sisters want to stay together. Whatever it takes.

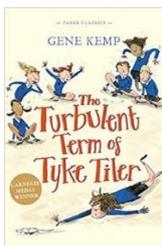
- Exploration of gender roles and expectations of girls
- Would make good compare/contrast with other books from that era featuring girls- how are they portrayed?
- Will appeal to budding dancers
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



Heidi
Johanna Spyri

At the age of five, little orphan Heidi is sent to live with her grandfather in the Alps. Everyone in the village is afraid of him, but Heidi is fascinated by his long beard and bushy grey eyebrows. She loves her life in the mountains, playing in the sunshine and growing up amongst the goats and birds. But one terrible day, Heidi is collected by her aunt and is made to live with a new family in town. Heidi can't bear to be away from her grandfather; can she find a way back up the mountain, where she belongs

- Narrative
- Historical adventure
- Relationships
- Inference and discussion
- Vocabulary
- We also recommended 'James and the Giant Peach' and 'The BFG' by the same author



The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler
Tyler
Gene Kemp

The Turbulent Term of Tyke Tiler is considered one of the children's classics of the twentieth century, and contains one of the most amazing and affirming twists in all of literature. Tyke Tiler and Danny Price are best friends. Wherever the pair go, trouble is never far behind. Mischief and astonishment abound in this hilariously funny classic story from award-winning author Gene Kemp.

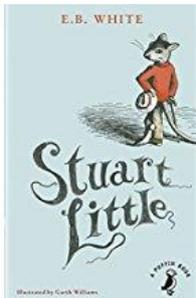
- Narrative
- Great for examining gender stereotypes
- A twist in the tale that will surprise
- Perfect to read aloud to children.



The Borrower's
Mary Norton

The Borrowers: The Borrowers own nothing at all; they live in the secret places of quiet old houses - behind the mantelpiece, inside the harpsichord, under the kitchen clock. Everything they have is borrowed from the 'human beans', who don't even know they exist. Girls aren't supposed to go borrowing but as Arrietty is an only child her father breaks the rule. She makes friends with a 'human bean' - and from that moment danger is never far away.

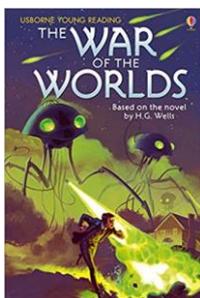
- First in a series so promotes further reading
- Film version available to compare/contrast



Stuart Little
E.B. White

Stuart is both valiant and very polite, and finds himself on one of the biggest adventures of his life as he sets off to find a lost friend. He encounters several dangers in the process because of his size, but the mood stays light and imaginative. Stuart proves to be a protagonist that many readers can admire and respect.

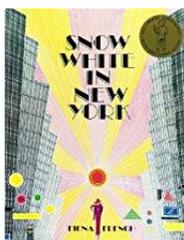
- Chapter Book
- Animal story
- Film version available to compare and contrast with text.
- We also recommend 'Charlotte's Web' by the same author



The War of the Worlds
Based on HG Wells
Usborne Young Reading

Mysterious explosions on the surface of Mars signal the beginning of an alien invasion. Soon the ruthless creatures are terrorising Earth with their unstoppable death rays. Can nothing prevent these merciless Martians from taking over the world? H.G. Wells' classic story of Martian invasion, vividly retold for newly independent readers.

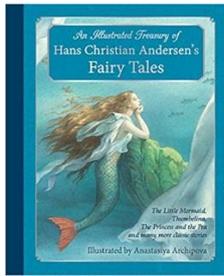
- Science-fiction adventure story
- Great for independent reading
- Chapter book- short chapters with vivid illustrations throughout



Snow White in New York
Fiona French

This is the tale of Snow White set in New York in the 1920s. Snow White's wicked stepmother uses her position of influence in the city's underworld to contract the killing of Snow White. Snow White stumbles into a club where the seven jazz-men take pity on her and she joins their band. With stunning Art Deco illustrations, this book won the Kate Greenaway Medal in 1986.

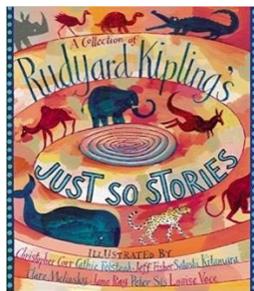
- Alternative version of the classic Fairy Tale-ideal to compare to original and discuss authorial intent
- A quick, fun read
- Picture book
- Bright, art-deco style illustrations



An Illustrated Treasury of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales
Hans Christian Andersen and Anastasiya Archipova

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tales of foolish emperors, lonely mermaids, icy queens and clever princesses have delighted children and adults alike for nearly two centuries. The stories' unique magic and wonder make them essential reading for any childhood. This beautifully illustrated collection of Andersen's best-loved fairy tales includes The Little Mermaid, The Snow Queen, Thumbelina, The Princess and the Pea and The Emperor's New Clothes.

- Traditional and original versions- ideal to compare with more modern day alternatives
- Beautiful illustrations
- Perfect for helping you meet statutory requirement of reading fairy tales in year 3/4

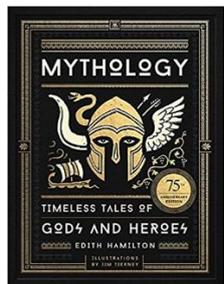


Just So Stories
Rudyard Kipling

How did the rhinoceros get his wrinkly skin?
Why won't cats come when they're called?
How did one curious elephant with a nose for trouble change the lives of all elephants everywhere?

These eight well-loved stories give inspired answers to these and other intriguing questions. Each story is illustrated by a major contemporary picture-book artist.

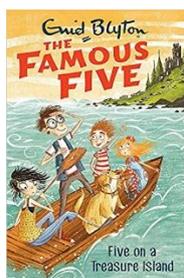
- Illustrated collection containing eight (of the original twelve) of Kipling's short stories
- Good for vocabulary development



Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes
Edith Hamilton

For 75 years readers have chosen this book above all others to discover the thrilling, enchanting, and fascinating world of Western mythology-from Odysseus's adventure-filled journey to the Norse god Odin's effort to postpone the final day of doom. This version is fully-illustrated throughout.

- 75th Anniversary edition
- Anthology of myths from a range of places and times



The Famous Five Collection
Enid Blyton

Meet THE FAMOUS FIVE - Enid Blyton's most popular adventure series. Julian, Dick and Anne are spending the holidays with their tomboy cousin George and her dog, Timothy. One day, George takes them to explore nearby Kirrin Island, where they make a thrilling discovery, which leads them deep into the dungeons of Kirrin Castle on a dangerous adventure. Who - and what - will they find there?

- Mystery adventure
- First in a series
- We also recommend other books by this author
- All 22 'Famous Five' titles are available as audiobooks

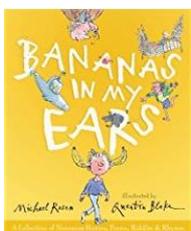
Poetry and Playscripts



**I've Got a Poem for You
(Poems to Perform)**
John Foster

This collection features poems by the likes of Roger McGough, Benjamin Zephaniah, Michael Rosen and Rudyard Kipling. All the poems have a great sense of rhythm which makes them perfect for learning by heart, sharing and performing aloud.

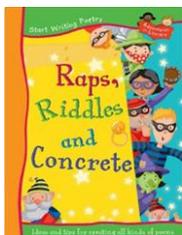
- Poetry
- Ideal for performance poetry and learning poems by heart



Bananas in My Ears
Michael Rosen

From the chaos of breakfast to the calm of bedtime, this whimsical collection, pairing two former British Laureates, is full of delightful moments. Explore the pleasures of acting silly and the pains of feeling ill, the camaraderie of siblings and strange goings-on at the beach. . . . All this and a trip on a flying bed, too!

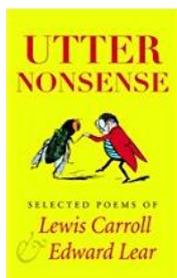
- Poetry
- A Collection of Nonsense Stories, Poems, Riddles, and Rhymes
- Split into four sections
- Humorous and silly



Raps, Riddles and Concrete
Pie Corbett

From riddles and shape poems to haiku and nonsense rhymes. It features model poem types followed by detailed instructions on how to achieve the same style of poem.

- Poetry
- A good starting point for teaching poetry in year 3 or 4
- Different styles of poems with tips on how to write each type



Utter Nonsense
Lewis Carroll
and Edward Lear

The nonsense poems of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear have a freshness and a sense of fun that still speak to children of all ages. These two masters of the absurd created characters that have entranced generation after generation: the Walrus and the Carpenter, the Dong with the Luminous Nose and the Quangle Wangle Quee are just a handful of the remarkable creatures to be found in these pages. Whether shared aloud or enjoyed on your own, these verses will continue to delight for years to come.

- Classic poetry
- Selected poems of Lewis Carroll and Edward Lear
- Fresh, fun and absurd
- Great for performance and for word play
- Compare and contrast with Dr Seuss

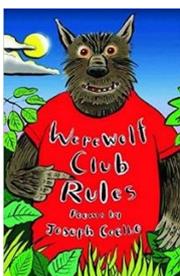


Love That Dog
Sharon Creech

"I guess it does look like a poem when you see it typed up like that."

Jack hates poetry. Only girls write it and every time he tries to, his brain feels empty. But his teacher, Ms. Stretchberry, won't stop giving her class poetry assignments -- and Jack can't avoid them. But then something amazing happens. The more he writes, the more he learns he does have something to say.

- Fantastic whole class novel that depicts a reluctant writer getting to grips with poetry
- Deals with grief and bereavement- good links with PHSE
- Intertextual links to the work of Walter Dean Myers and other poets- good for introducing close reading
- Great stimulus for writing journals
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



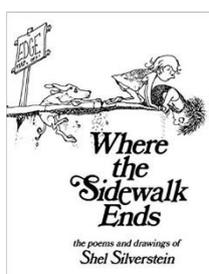
Werewolf Club Rules
Joseph Coelho

Do not talk about Werewolf Club!
You can howl about it
But never talk.

Do not walk to Werewolf Club!
You can bound to it in moonlight
But never walk.

Find out the mysterious rules of Werewolf Club, how to look like a rainbow, what happens when puppies fall in love – and how to fold up your gran!

- A wonderful collection of funny and moving poems many of which are about school/family life
- Great for developing performance
- 'Conquer' - is a great poem for exploring puns and wordplay
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP

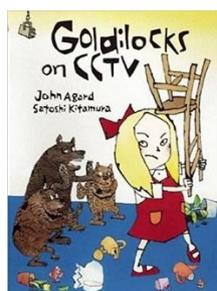


Where the Sidewalk Ends
Shel Silverstein

Come in . . . for where the sidewalk ends, Shel Silverstein's world begins. You'll meet a boy who turns into a TV set, and a girl who eats a whale. The Unicorn and the Bloath live there, and so does Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout who will not take the garbage out. It is a place where you wash your shadow and crocodiles go to the dentist.

Shel Silverstein's masterful collection of poems and drawings is at once outrageously funny and profound.

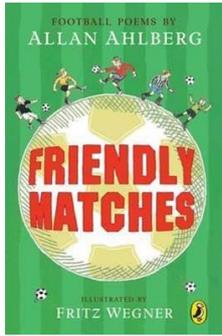
- Poetry
- A wonderful book to read with children of any age



Goldilocks on CCTV
John Agard

Here are 30 amazing poems which are rooted in the world of fairy tale and legend. Wickedly witty, deliciously subversive and utterly modern, the poems are also affectionate and big-hearted tributes to the original tales and characters that inspired them. This is a sizzling collection from a master poet, enhanced by Satoshi Kitamura's extraordinary black-and-white illustrations.

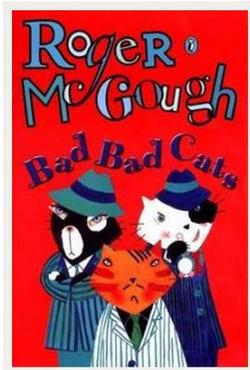
- Poetry
- Great to compare/contrast with traditional and other alternative versions of fairy tales



Friendly Matches
Allan Ahlberg

A superb collection of football poems covering many aspects of the game. Written in a variety of verse forms - sonnets, rhyming couplets and more.

- Poetry
- Football themed
- Great to perform, share in class or read independently



Bad Bad Cats
Roger McGough

A brilliant collection of poems. The poetry contains the clever word-play, rich ideas and humour associated with Roger McGough. It includes a series of poems about the exploits of some gangster cats and verse based on CARNIVAL OF THE ANIMALS by Saint Saens.

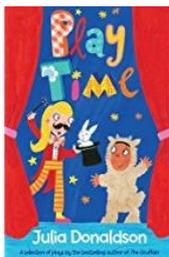
- Poetry
- Local poet
- Great to perform, share in class or read independently



The BFG: A Set of Plays –
adapted from Roald Dahl by
David Wood

Five of Dahl's hugely popular books have been adapted into winning plays for children. With useful tips on staging, props, and costumes, these plays can be produced with a minimum amount of resources and experience. Teachers, parents, and children everywhere will recognize Quentin Blake's appealing classic cover art and will find these easy-to-perform plays to be a great source of entertainment!

- Playscript
- Roald Dahl's original BFG story has been re-written as a play
- Great to perform
Great to compare to the original

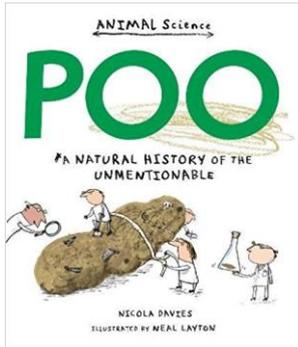


Play Time: Plays for all ages–
Julia Donaldson

This includes eleven fun-to-act short plays for all children to enjoy from KS1-KS2. Each play comes complete with helpful guidance on target age, running time and cast. Ranging from adaptations of traditional tales (e.g., the legend of Persephone and The Three Billy Goats Gruff) to original and contemporary short plays.

- Playscript
- A collection of short playscripts for children to read or to perform

Non-Fiction

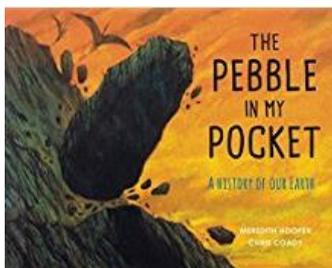


Poo

Nicola Davies

Hippos navigate by it, sloths keep in touch through it, rabbits eat it ... and most grown-ups prefer not to mention it at all! But however you look at it, poo is probably the most useful stuff on Earth. It comes in all shapes and sizes, and every animal has its own special sort. Find out what it's for, where it goes, what we can learn from it and lots more in this book, one of six in the Animal Science series – the best biology series ever!

- Illustrated non-fiction book.
- A disgusting topic that will surely delight!
- A great WAGOLL for information texts to compare with more traditional versions that contain photographs etc
- Digestion

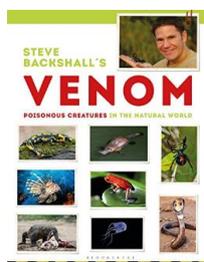


The Pebble in my Pocket

Meredith Hooper

This information book does what all information books should do: excite the reader's interest, curiosity and sense of wonder where none may have existed. Meredith Hooper, an award winning science writer, brings her...

- The story of how a pebble came to be
- Filled with facts across thousands of years of history
- Fits well with geography programme of study at KS2 but best placed in an English lesson

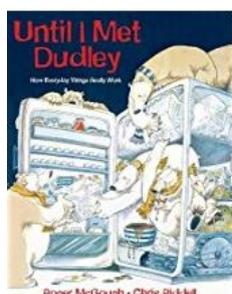


Venom

Steve Backshall

From species such as the King Cobra, Lionfish, Fat-tail Scorpion and Poison Dart-frog to the diminutive but lethal Black Widow Spider, the author takes a fascinating look at the different types of natural venoms. On a tour of the world's continents, he looks at over 60 of the most venomous creatures, describing their main characteristics and explaining how they administer their venom and what its effects are.

- Information text full of photographs
- Includes some recounts of encounters with deadly animals
- Use as a WAGOLL information text to compare with other illustrated versions
- We also recommend other texts by the same author

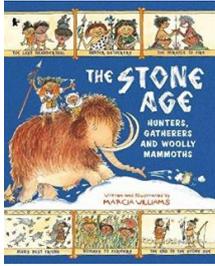


Until I Met Dudley...

Roger McGough and Chris Riddell

In this fun-filled book of how things work, Dudley, the techno-wizard dog, provides the answers to how things work. Roger McGough's delightfully ingenious text and Chris Riddell's striking illustrations take children from the furthest realms of fantasy into the fascinating world of technology to discover the workings of familiar machines, making it an exciting book which will delight again and again.

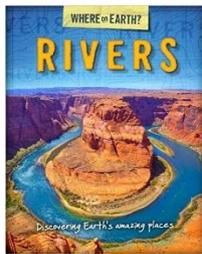
- Comical, non-sensical versions of how things work including toast gnomes and a mini-fiery dragon hidden inside a toaster
- A superb springboard from which to research for and write explanation texts



The Stone Age
Marcia Williams

Meet the people of Clan Woolly as they hunt mammoths and reindeer, learn how to make fire, invent stone tools and turn wild wolves into tame dogs! Full of facts, jokes and colourful comic strips.

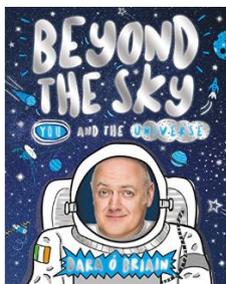
- Links well with history programme of study for KS2
- Great as an option for reading for pleasure to complement in-class learning
- Humour



Where on Earth: Rivers
Susie Brooks

The *Where on Earth? Book of Rivers* takes you on a journey along the world's rivers, from the Amazon to the Nile, answering questions such as how old is river water? Where can you hear a river wave ROAR? And which river creatures spell DANGER? Along with many others. It looks at flesh-eating turtles, river festivals, the Grand Canyon, the world's biggest waterfall, the water cycle and much, much more. Crammed full of ferocious fish and weird water facts, geography has never been so exciting!

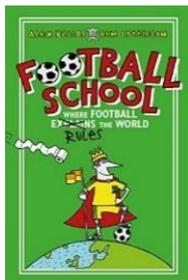
- Traditional non-fiction formatting and features
- Full of photographs and diagrams
- Complements Y3/4 programmes of study
- We also recommend the other books in this series



Beyond The Sky
Dara O'Briain

So you want to go into space? WHY?! (No, really – it's sort of a terrible idea. We humans are perfectly designed for life on Earth. People have been dreaming about space travel for centuries – there's something amazing about the idea of leaving our planet behind and setting out to explore the Universe – there's so much we still don't know. Dara O'Briain takes you on a journey from the safety of your comfiest chair to the furthest reaches of space (and beyond!)

- An illustrated, narrative-style book
- Entertaining, while also giving fascinating facts and information on space in an accessible way
- Suitable for children aged about 8+



Football School
Alex Bellos, Ben Lyttleton and Spike Gerrell

A book that teaches you about the world through the prism of football. When do footballers poo? Can you play football on Mars? What is a magic sponge? You will find the answers to these questions and more in chapters on subjects such as history, geography, biology and maths. Your coaches at Football School, Alex Bellos and Ben Lyttleton, are journalists, broadcasters and award-winning science and sports writers. Their knowledge, enthusiasm and engaging writing make them the perfect team to teach you how to score with your head.

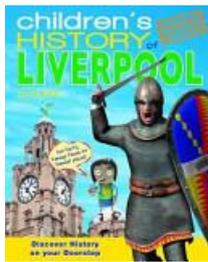
- Great for reading areas
- Full of facts and true stories that link football to science, history, geography and maths
- Great opportunities to embed across the curriculum
- Can link to World Cup
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



The Street Beneath my Feet
Charlotte Gullian
and Yuval Zommer

When you're walking along the city streets there's always so much to see and hear. But do you ever stop and look down? Have you ever wondered what's going on deep in the ground under your feet? What about in the countryside? What goes on underground there? Take a journey down through the layers of the Earth, all the way to the planet's core and out the other side.

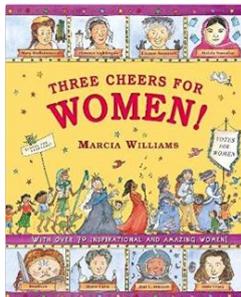
- An exceptional book, from which the pages pull out into one very long page which illustrates and explains all the different layers of earth beneath our feet



Children's History of Liverpool
Curtis Watt

Have you ever wondered what it would have been like living in Liverpool when the plague struck? How would it have felt arriving at Clarence Dock having escaped the Irish Potato Famine? This book uncovers the important and exciting things that happened in Liverpool.

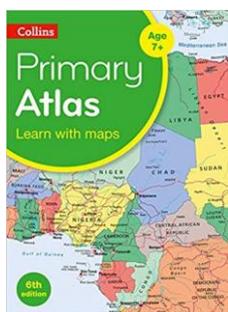
- A great addition to your school or classroom library for children to dip in to, to learn about local history



Three Cheers For Women
Marcia Williams

Join Marcia Williams as she celebrates incredible women from around the world and throughout history. From writers to warriors and astronauts to activists, discover their awesome stories and be amazed by their achievements. Marcia Williams' much-loved comic-strip style will encourage even the most reluctant reader to enjoy this inspirational book packed with facts, quotes and jokes.

- Comic strip style information
- Humour- packed with facts, quotes and jokes.
- A celebration of women and their achievements in history

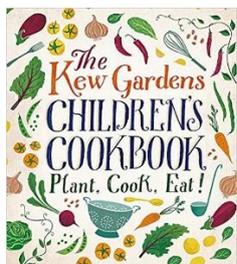


Collins Primary Atlas

This primary atlas provides an introduction to mapping of the UK, Europe and all major regions of the world. It includes information on map reading skills, the meaning of scale and measuring distances.

The reference maps are informative, politically coloured, and easy to read with national capitals and major cities easily identifiable. The maps are supported with national flags and basic national statistics.

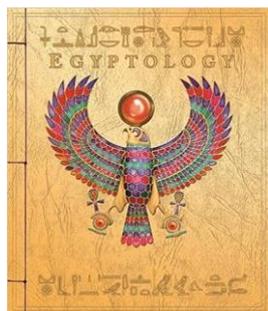
- Aimed at age 7+
- Organised into sections covering the UK, Europe, the world and continents with more detailed larger scale maps of countries and regions popular for focus studies.



**The Kew Gardens
Children's Cookbook**

This beautiful kitchen-garden cookbook, produced in association with the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, contains step-by-step guides to show how easy it is to grow peas, beans, potatoes, carrots and more in your garden, in patio containers or in window boxes or on an allotment. Then transform your home-grown produce into delicious meals and desserts by following easy, step-by-step recipes.

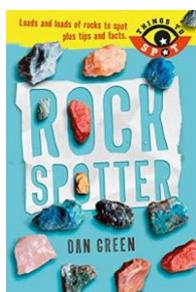
- Fits beautifully with Design and Technology programme of study
- Follows food from fork to plate
- Great for looking at instructions in English
- Links to healthy eating



Egyptology
Emily Sands/TGH James

With a stunning gold foiled and embossed cover featuring three 'jewels', and with its creation overseen by TGH James, ex keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum, Egyptology is Emily Sands' lavish 1926 scrapbook journal of a lost expedition. Full of novelties and recreations, such as a piece of mummy cloth, a booklet on hieroglyphs and a working board game, the book brims with beautiful art and fascinating facts about Ancient Egypt, and has a final magnificent novelty in the back case.

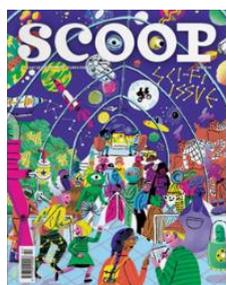
- Real-life explorer of Egypt Emily Sands' journal
- Sands and her party mysteriously disappeared during their expedition- never to be seen again. The book ends in a suitably mysterious way
- Beautiful interactive text



Rock Spotter
Dan Green

What is the toughest mineral on Earth? What are meteorites made of? Which rock forms long, hairlike strands? Learn how to find and identify different rocks, minerals and fossils with this handy spotters guide. Search for precious metals, compare different rocks from all over the world and identify everything from serpentine to slate. This book will get kids outdoors, helping them learn about the natural world – and become a rock spotting expert!

- Well presented information book with eye-catching photos and diagrams.
- Good quality contents, glossary and index
- Links well with Year 3 Science programmes of Study



Scoop
scoopthemag.co.uk

Authors including Neil Gaiman and Eoin Colfer are among contributors to this children's magazine about literature and illustration. Aimed at readers aged 8-12, it features stories and poetry from authors, as well as non-fiction, comic strips, puzzles, reviews, and reader competitions.

- Magazine especially written for children
- Each issue includes short stories, non-fiction, poetry, comics, interviews, reviews, activities and quizzes.
- Links to the wider curriculum