

Year 5 & Year 6

Contemporary Fiction



**Hansel and Gretel**  
Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm  
Anthony Browne

This book brings together one of the most popular and powerful of all fairy tales and one of the world's greatest picture book artists, Hans Christian Andersen Award-winner Anthony Browne.

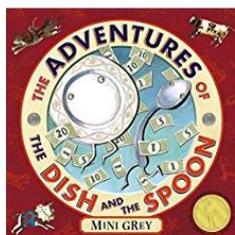
- Picture book
- Exceptional illustrations which provoke meaningful discussions about authorial intent
- Recommended by Aidan Chambers- excellent resource for Book Talk
- Compare to 'The Tunnel'



**FarTHER**  
Graham Baker-Smith

A young boy, bewitched by his father's unrelenting passion to fly; a desperate craving that absorbs his every waking minute, finds himself entranced by the dream. When his father goes to war and does not return it seems the spell is broken. Much later, the boy, now a young man finds himself drawn once more to his fathers drawings and failed experiments. Finally able to make his fathers dream a reality he flies.

- Picture book
- Complex themes around absence/presence, grief, ambitions and dreams.
- We also recommend 'Leon and the Place Between' by the same author- for all ages



**The Adventures of The Dish and The Spoon**  
Mini Grey

Part love story, part crime caper, *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon* is the rags-to-riches and back again tale of the most dazzling crockery-cutlery duo of all time. Reminiscent of Bonnie & Clyde.

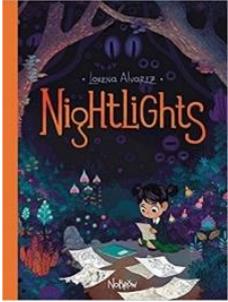
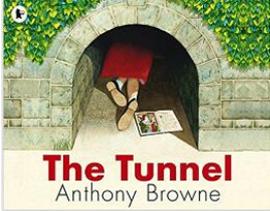
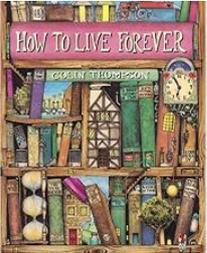
- Picture book
- Full of wit and humour
- Crime/adventure genre
- Developed narrative of the nursery rhyme; (The Dish ran away with the Spoon)
- Plentiful opportunities for writing outcomes



**The Arrival**  
Shaun Tan

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown? This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey.

- Wordless picture book/graphic novel
- Futuristic sci-fi setting
- Deals with themes of migration, isolation, acceptance and family
- Six chapters
- [SIL Reading Reasoning Question Pack available](#)

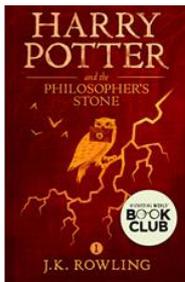
 <p><b>Nightlights</b> Lorena Alvarez</p>	<p>Every night, tiny stars appear out of the darkness in Sandy's bedroom. She catches them and creates wonderful creatures to play with until she falls asleep, and in the morning brings them back to life in the whimsical drawings that cover her room. One day, Morpie, a mysterious pale girl, appears at school. And she knows all about Sandy's drawings...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Part picture book, part graphic novel</li> <li>• Focuses on the nature of creativity and inspiration</li> <li>• Stunning almost manga-esque illustration style could inspire exciting written pieces</li> <li>• Some pupils may find the fantasy sequences frightening- read the text before using with a whole class</li> <li>• Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP</li> </ul>
 <p><b>The Tunnel</b> Anthony Browne</p>	<p>A brother and sister who don't get along. One day they discover the tunnel. The boy goes through it at once, dismissing his sister's fears. When he doesn't return, his sister has to pluck up the courage to go through the tunnel too. She finds her brother in a mysterious forest where he has been turned to stone...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture book- exceptional, thoughtful illustrations</li> <li>• Compare to 'Hansel &amp; Gretel' by the same author/illustrator</li> <li>• Good for inference</li> <li>• Explores themes of fear, courage and sibling rivalry.</li> </ul>
 <p><b>How To Live Forever</b> Colin Thompson</p>	<p>Colin Thompson's books are mystical and complex, they will appeal to children and adults alike and demand to be returned to as there is always a new image to see . . . something more to catch the eye. Peter and his family live among the Quinces in the cookery section of a mystical library, and at night, when the library comes to life, Peter ventures out of his home to find a missing volume: How To Live Forever.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture book</li> <li>• Great for inference/interpretation</li> <li>• Mystical and complex</li> <li>• Rich illustrations with unexpected surprises</li> <li>• Meaningful moral</li> <li>• Could also read 'The Second Forever (How to Live Forever Trilogy)'</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Asterix the Gaul</b> Renne Goscinny Albert Uderzo</p>	<p>In a tiny corner of Brittany, one small village of indomitable Gauls hold out against the almighty, all-conquering Romans. The Gauls are mighty fighters, but none more so than Asterix, a dauntless and cunning warrior who gets his tremendous strength from drinking a magic potion supplied to him by Druid Getafix. Together with his companion Obelix, he embarks on a series of adventures, beginning with rescuing Getafix when he is captured by the Romans.</p> <p>Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classic comic/graphic novel</li> <li>• Great for reading areas and history themed collections</li> <li>• First in a series so good for hooking readers for further reading</li> <li>• Puns, visual jokes and funny anachronisms would mean that an extract could be an interesting addition to guided reading/whole class reading focus on humour</li> </ul>



**The Lost Happy Endings**  
Carol Ann Duffy  
Jane Ray

What would happen if we lost the happy endings to stories? A fantastic and magical tale about what happens when, one night, a wicked witch steals the happy endings to bedtime stories. It is up to Jub, the keeper of the happy endings, to save the day and ensure sweet dreams everywhere in this lyrical story about storytelling. In the tradition of classic fairy tales for children.

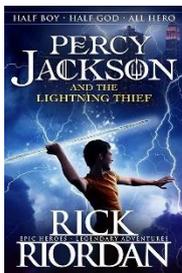
- Picture book
- Rich language & illustrations
- Great for both shared and guided reading
- Has the feel of a modern day fairy tale
- Language and vocabulary exploration



**Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone**  
J.K. Rowling

Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!

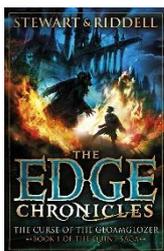
- Narrative
- Book 1 of 8 so encourages further reading.
- Great for character study and comparison within & across books
- Investigate character names using morphology/etymology
- Film version available to compare/contrast



**Percy Jackson And The Lightning Thief**  
Ric Riordan

Percy was just an average kid, playing basketball, skate boarding etc, until he accidentally vaporizes his maths teacher. This results in him battling monsters and generally trying to stay alive.  
Half boy. Half God. ALL Hero.

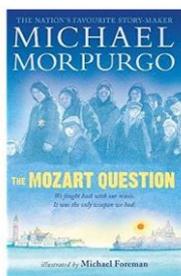
- Narrative
- Book 1 of 5 so encourages further reading
- Set in modern day America involving authentic Greek gods.
- Film version available to compare/contrast
- Illustrated edition also available



**The Edge Chronicles- The Curse of the Gloamglazer**  
Paul Stewart and Chris Riddell

This is the first book of the Quint Saga – first trilogy in *The Edge Chronicles*, the internationally best-selling fantasy series, which has featured on the UK and the New York Times best-seller lists and sold more than 3 million copies. There are now 13 titles and four trilogies in the series, but each book is a stand-alone adventure which can be read in any order.

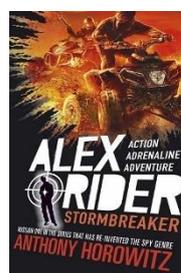
- Good to challenge more able readers
- Set in a fantasy world- the Edge- populated by goblins, trolls, trogs, telepathic waifs and more
- Deals with many themes throughout
- Encourages further reading



**The Mozart Question**  
Michael Morpurgo

When Lesley is sent to Venice to interview world-renowned violinist Paulo Levi on his fiftieth birthday, she cannot believe her luck. She is told that she can ask him anything at all – except the Mozart question. But it is Paulo himself who decides that the time has come for the truth to be told. And so follows the story of his parents in a Jewish concentration camp. As the story unfolds, the journalist begins to understand the full horror of war – and how one group of musicians survived using the only weapon they had.

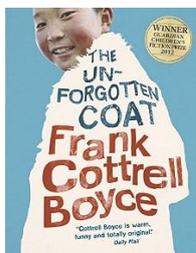
- A superb short read (95 pages including illustrations)
- Excellent for developing empathy
- Link to the real-life story/biography of Anita Lasker Wallfisch (info and videos online)
- [SIL Reading Reasoning Question Pack available](#)
- Compare to books on a similar theme



**Stormbreaker**  
Anthony Horowitz

Fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger. The government has given him the technology, but only he can provide the courage. Should he fail, every child in England will be murdered in cold blood.

- Spy adventure- full of high speed chases and enemy gunfire
- Lots of cliff hangers- so great for teaching devices for suspense
- Book 1 of 9 so encourages further reading
- Film of the book available
- Graphic novel available



**The Unforgotten Coat**  
Frank Cottrell Boyce

Two refugee brothers from Mongolia are determined to fit in with their Liverpool schoolmates. Their new friend and guide, Julie, recalls a special friendship that was abruptly ended.

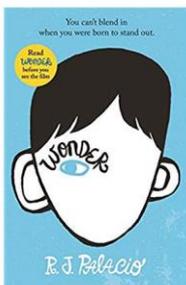
- Set in Liverpool- written by local author
- Slim novel (112 pages)
- Themes of immigration, survival, difference and acceptance
- interesting layout including notebook paper and polaroid pictures
- First person narrative
- Lots of humour



**Kensuke's Kingdom**  
Michael Morpurgo

A castaway adventure. Washed up on an island in the Pacific, Michael struggles to survive on his own. With no food and no water, he curls up to die. When he wakes, there is a plate beside him of fish, of fruit, and a bowl of fresh water. He is not alone . . .

- Narrative
- Themes of exploration, loss, hope, love and forgiveness
- Adventure story
- Link the events to the many [shipwrecks](#) on our North-West coast

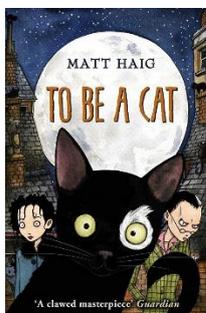


**Wonder**  
R.J. Palacio

Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go.

Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?

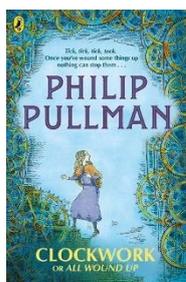
- Narrative
- Each chapter is told from different viewpoints- Great for exploring points of view (Rashomon effect).
- Lots of powerful themes to identify including difference, acceptance and courage
- [SIL Reading Reasoning Question Pack available](#)
- Sequel available- 'Auggie and Me'



**To be a Cat**  
Matt Haig

Barney Willow's life couldn't get any worse. He's weedy, with sticky-out ears. Horrible Gavin Needle loves tormenting him - Barney has no idea why. And headteacher-from-hell Miss Whipmire seems determined to make every second of Barney's existence a complete misery! Worst of all, Dad has been missing for almost a year, and there's no sign of him ever coming home. Barney just wants to escape. To find another life. To be a cat, for example...

- Humour mixed with the macabre
- Good for discussing narrative voice as the narrator speaks directly to the reader at certain points
- Themes of loss, overcoming challenges, identity and self-esteem
- Compare with 'They All Saw A Cat' by Brendan Wenzel



**Clockwork**  
Philip Pullman

Tick, tock, tick tock! Some stories are like that. Once you've wound them up, nothing will stop them... A tormented apprentice clock-maker, a deadly mechanical knight...Wind up these characters, fit them into a story on a cold winter's evening and suddenly life and the story begin to merge in a peculiarly macabre-and unstoppable-way.

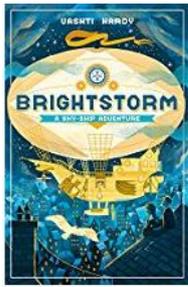
- Interesting structure- commentary fact style boxes and a narrative within a narrative
- Good for discussing how language contributes to meaning & for effect
- Scary



**Cogheart**  
Peter Bunzl

Lily's life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends - Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox - Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realises that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart... Murder, mayhem and mystery meet in this gripping Victorian adventure.

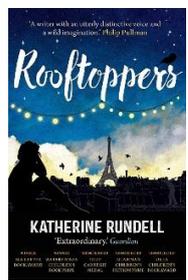
- Set in Victorian England
- Good for discussing how language contributes to meaning & for effect
- Compare content/themes to 'Clockwork' and 'Hugo Cabret'
- Sequel- 'Moonlocket'-is just as good



**Brightstorm**  
Vashti Hardy

Twins Arthur and Maudie receive word in Lontown that their famous explorer father died in a failed attempt to reach South Polaris. Not only that, but he has been accused of trying to steal fuel from his competitors before he died! The twins don't believe the news, and they answer an ad to help crew a new exploration attempt in the hope of learning the truth and salvaging their family's reputation. As the winged ship *Aurora* sets sail, the twins must keep their wits about them and prove themselves worthy of the rest of the crew. But will Arthur and Maudie find the answers they seek?

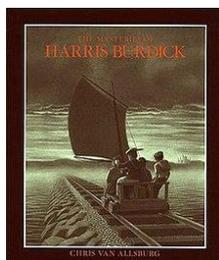
- An engaging, fun and exciting steampunk adventure narrative which takes place aboard a wonderful sky-ship
- Themes include loss, determination, exploration and family
- Links well to 'Cogheart'



**Roof Toppers**  
Katherine Rundell

Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, and shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal. Everyone thinks that Sophie is an orphan. Found floating in a cello case and swaddled in a Beethoven score, she is the only recorded female survivor of a shipwreck on the English Channel. But Sophie remembers seeing her mother wave for help...

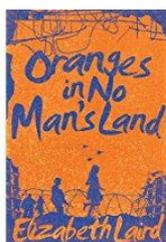
- Set up amongst the chimney tops in Paris
- Fantasy/historical fiction
- Strong imagery throughout
- Lovely [video here](#) to share with the children of Rundell talking about her book and where her ideas came from



**The Mysteries of Harris Burdick**  
Chris Van Allsburg

An author and illustrator named Harris Burdick leaves fourteen images complete with captions at the office of an editor, with the promise that, should the editor choose to purchase them, he will return with the complete stories for each image. Burdick was never seen again, and the samples are all that remain of his supposed books. Readers are challenged to imagine their own stories based on the images in the book.

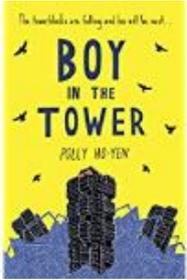
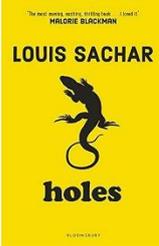
- A good stimulus for encouraging imaginative writing
- Unusual images supported by thought-provoking captions capture the imagination
- Rich in mystery and suspense
- Short stories version available

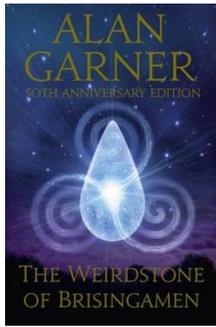


**Oranges in No Man's Land**  
Elizabeth Laird

Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill, Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.

- Published in 2006 but still feels very current
- The main character is faced with serious dilemmas at different points in the story
- Strong/deep themes throughout
- Feels like a snap-shot of a bigger story
- [SIL Reading Reasoning Question Pack available](#)

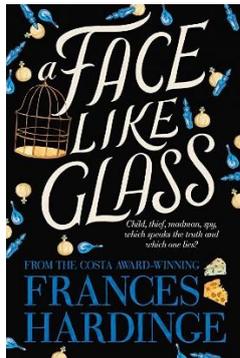
 <p><b>Boy In The Tower</b> Polly Ho-Yen</p>	<p><i>When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way. Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. But one day, other tower blocks on the estate start falling down around them and strange, menacing plants begin to appear. Now their tower isn't safe anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there's no way out . . .</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sci-fi narrative set in London</li> <li>• Strong themes but dealt with sensitively-essential to read ahead</li> <li>• Compare opening chapter with 'Varmints' by Helen Ward</li> <li>• Contrast with 'The Greenling' by Levi Pinfold</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Who Let the Gods Out?</b> Maz Evans</p>	<p>A shooting star crashes to earth and changes Elliot's life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. When the pair accidentally unleash the wicked death daemon Thanatos, they turn to the old Olympian gods for help. But after centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Links with a study on the Ancient Greeks</li> <li>• Exciting adventure</li> <li>• Humorous but deals with serious theme of dementia</li> <li>• 1 out of 4 so encourages further reading</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Holes</b> Louis Sachar</p>	<p>Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised. Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five foot wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Great for studying narrative structure/subplots including flashback</li> <li>• Film of the book available</li> <li>• <a href="#">SIL 'Reading Reasoning Question Pack' available</a></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Rollergirl</b> Victoria Jamieson</p>	<p>For most of her twelve years, Astrid has done everything with her best friend Nicole. But after Astrid falls in love with roller derby and signs up for derby camp, Nicole decides to go to dance camp instead. And so begins the most difficult summer of Astrid's life as she struggles to keep up with the older girls at camp, hang on to the friend she feels slipping away, and cautiously embark on a new friendship...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bright, appealing graphic novel about friendship and changes</li> <li>• Deals with the idea of transitions so would be great for Y6s thinking about secondary school A great addition to reading corners</li> <li>• Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP</li> </ul>



**The Weirdstone of Brisingamen**  
Alan Garner

When Colin and Susan are pursued by eerie creatures across Alderley Edge, they are saved by the Wizard. He takes them into the caves of Fundindelve, where he watches over the enchanted sleep of one hundred and forty knights. But the heart of the magic that binds them – Firefrost, also known as the Weirdstone of Brisingamen – has been lost. The Wizard has been searching for the stone for more than 100 years, but the forces of evil are closing in...

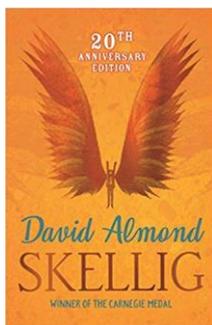
- Would make a challenging but great whole-class read
- Mythological basis (links to Norse/Welsh mythology) would make for great compare/contrast work with other fantasy texts
- First in a series so great for hooking readers
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



**A Face Like Glass**  
Frances Hardinge

In the underground city of Caverna there are wines that can remove memories and perfumes that convince you to trust the wearer. The people of Caverna are more ordinary, but for one thing: their faces are as blank as untouched snow. Expressions must be learned, and only the famous Facesmiths can teach a person to show joy, despair or fear - at a price. Into this dark and distrustful world comes Neverfell, a little girl with no memory of her past and a face so terrifying to those around her that she must wear a mask at all times.

- Fantasy narrative
- A long read- needs stamina-good to challenge the able reader
- Very gripping
- Powerful themes



**Skellig**  
David Almond

When a move to a new house coincides with his baby sister's illness, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive. With his new friend Mina, Michael nourishes Skellig back to health, while his baby sister languishes in the hospital. But Skellig is far more than he at first appears.

- Won the Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book Award
- Great to just simply read or to use for a unit of work
- Film of the book
- Will probably end up being regarded as a classic



**The Greenling**  
Levi Pinfold

Mr Barleycorn picks a green baby growing on his land, letting loose the incredible power of nature. When melons grow in the kitchen and apples sprout out of their television, Mrs Barleycorn says the Greenling has to go. But the bounty and beauty of nature has a strange power - the power to bring a whole community together.

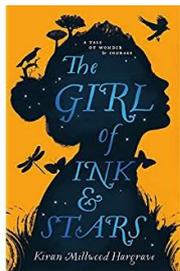
- Picture book with stunning detail
- Poetic, enthralling vocabulary
- Rhyming text
- Contrast with 'Boy in the Tower'



**Varmints**  
Helen Ward

Once, the only sounds to be heard were the buzzing of bees in the grass, the murmuring of moles in the earth, and the song of birds in the sky. These warmed the hearts of those who cared to listen - until the others came to fill the sky with a cacophony of noise.

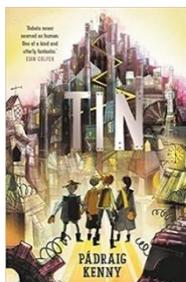
- Picture book
- Exceptional, evocative art work throughout
- Opportunities for both emotive and formal writing
- Environmental themes can be explored
- Compare with chapter 1 of 'Boy in the Tower' by Polly Ho Yen



**The Girl of Ink and Stars**  
Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Forbidden to leave her island, Isabella dreams of the faraway lands her cartographer father once mapped. When her friend disappears, she volunteers to guide the search. The world beyond the walls is a monster-filled wasteland - and beneath the dry rivers and smoking mountains, a fire demon is stirring from its sleep. Soon, following her map, her heart and an ancient myth, Isabella discovers the true end of her journey: to save the island itself.

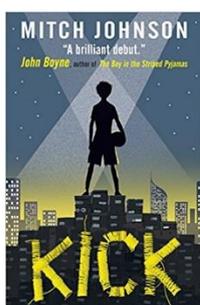
- Narrative
- Themes include friendship, myths and magic
- We also recommend the equally profound 'Island at the End of Everything' and 'Way Past Winter' by the same author



**Tin**  
Pádraig Kenny

Christopher is 'Proper': a real boy with a real soul, orphaned in a fire. He works for an engineer, a maker of the eccentric, loyal and totally individual mechanicals who are Christopher's best friends. But after a devastating accident, a secret is revealed and Christopher's world is changed for ever ... What follows is a remarkable adventure, as Christopher discovers who he really is, and what it means to be human.

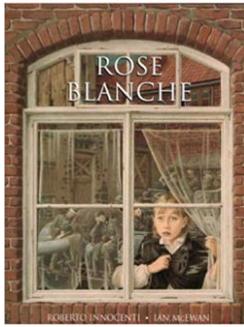
- Narrative
- Science-fiction mixed with fairy tale
- Themes around courage, friendship and finding your own identity
- Links to Pinocchio, the Wizard of Oz and Cogheart



**Kick**  
Mitch Johnson

Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

- Narrative
- Great for vocabulary development
- Set in Indonesia- explores child labour
- Strong themes around equality, poverty, injustice
- SIL Reading Reasoning pack available



**Rose Blanche**

Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti

Rose Blanche was the name of a group of young German citizens who, at their peril, protested against the war. Like them, our protagonist, Rose, observes all the changes going on around her which others choose to ignore. She watches as the streets of her small German town fill with soldiers. One day she sees a little boy escaping from the back of a truck, only to be captured by the mayor and shoved back into it. Rose follows the truck to a desolate place out of town, where she discovers many other children, staring hungrily from behind an electric barbed wire fence.

- Picture book
- Detailed, poignant imagery of aspects of war in Germany during WWII
- Element of mystery- we don't know what happens to the main character. Superb writing opportunity.
- Worth investigating the protest group 'Rose Blanche' to discover significance of name.

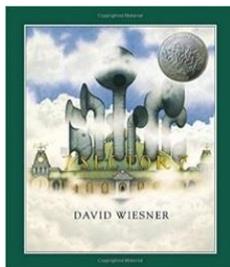


**Pax**

Sara Pennypacker

The moving story of the extraordinary friendship between a boy and his fox and their epic journey to be reunited. Pax was only a kit when his family was killed and he was rescued by 'his boy', Peter. Now the country is at war and when his father enlists, Peter has no choice but to move in with his grandfather. Far worse than leaving home is the fact that he has to leave Pax behind.

- Narrative
- Beautifully illustrated by multi-award winner, Jon Klassen.
- Touching story about the relationship between boy and animal
- Explore how foxes are presented in other stories. Compare.

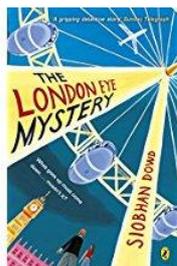


**Sector 7**

David Wiesner

Only the person who gave us Tuesday could have devised this fantastic Caldecott Honor-winning tale, which begins with a school trip to the Empire State Building. There, a boy on a school trip makes friends with a mischievous little cloud, who whisks him away to the Cloud Dispatch Center for Sector. The clouds are bored with their everyday shapes, so the boy obligingly starts to sketch some new ones. . . .

- Wordless picture book
- Sci-fi Adventure
- Begins with a school trip to Empire State Building- develops into a fantasy adventure in the clouds
- Funny and touching
- Unusual friendship
- Great for developing vocabulary



**London Eye Mystery**

Siobhan Dowd

11.32am. Ted and his sister Kat watch their cousin Salim get on board the London Eye.  
12.02am. The pod lands and the doors open. Everyone exits - everyone but Salim. Even the police are baffled - so it's up to Ted, whose brain runs on its own unique operating system, to solve this mystery and find Salim. Teaming up with Kat, Ted follows a trail of clues across London - while time ticks dangerously by...

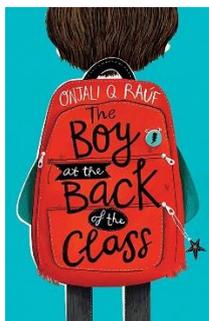
- Narrative- mystery
- An empowering book which tackles Autism
- Compare/contrast with 'The Goldfish Boy' by Lisa Thompson
- Also read 'The Guggenheim Mystery' concept created by Siobhan Dowd, written by Robin Stevens



**The Explorer**  
Katherine Rundell

From his seat in the tiny aeroplane, Fred watches as the mysteries of the Amazon jungle pass by below him. He has always dreamed of becoming an explorer. If only he could land and look about him. As the plane crashes into the canopy, Fred is suddenly left without a choice. He and the three other children may be alive, but the jungle is a vast, untamed place. With no hope of rescue, the chance of getting home feels impossibly small.

- Narrative- adventure
- Set in the Amazon rainforest
- Wonderful descriptions of the setting
- Themes including survival
- Link opening chapter with similar events in 'Kensuke's Kingdom'.



**The Boy at the Back of the Class**  
Onjali Rauf

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets. But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

- Narrative
- Told with heart and humour, this is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness.
- Develops empathy
- Raises awareness
- Jam-packed with themes to explore with the children



**Whistling in the Dark**  
Shirley Hughes

Liverpool, 1940: thirteen-year-old Joan's home is under threat from the Nazi's terrifying nightly air-raids. It is not an easy time to be a teenager, especially with the sweet rationing, strict curfews and blackouts. Joan and best friend Doreen love going to the cinema until the bombings intensify and then even that becomes too dangerous, especially when an army deserter is found lurking near their home...

- Narrative- set in Liverpool during WWII
- By author with local roots- who herself lived through WWII
- Detailed descriptions of daily life which really help the reader to visualise



**The Goldfish Boy**  
Lisa Thompson

Twelve-year-old Matthew is trapped in his bedroom by crippling OCD, spending most of his time staring out of his window. Until the day he is the last person to see his next door neighbour's toddler, Teddy, before he goes missing. Matthew must turn detective and unravel the mystery of Teddy's disappearance. Page-turning, heart-breaking, but ultimately life-affirming, it is a book that will make you laugh and cry.

- Narrative
- Link with 'The London Eye Mystery', 'Wonder' and 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time.'
- Powerful theme, amongst others, of celebrating differences

# Literary Heritage

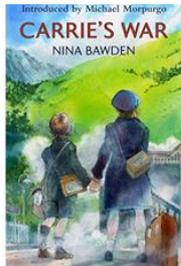


**Goodnight Mister Tom**  
Michelle Magorian

Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London

...  
Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award.

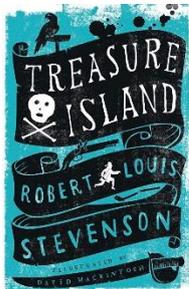
- Deals with deep issues and themes- read ahead to ensure not too upsetting for individuals
- Evacuation during WWII



**Carrie's War**  
Nina Bawden

It is wartime and Carrie and her little brother Nick have been evacuated from their London home to the Welsh hills. In an unfamiliar place, among strangers, the children feel alone and find little comfort with the family they are billeted with. When Carrie and Nick visit Albert, another evacuee, they are welcomed into Hepzibah Green's warm kitchen. With Albert, Hepzibah and Mister Johnny, they begin to settle into their new surroundings. But before long, their loyalties are tested: will they be persuaded to betray their new friends?

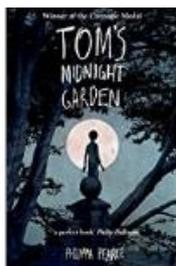
- Opening with a flashback
- Set during WWII- evacuation story
- Compare/contrast with Goodnight Mr Tom- particularly Mr Evans and Mr Tom
- Classic language good for developing vocabulary



**Treasure Island**  
Robert Louis Stevenson

Peg-legged pirates, colourful parrots, and plundered riches—they're all here in Robert Louis Stevenson's original seafaring adventure. When young Jim Hawkins decides to follow a map to buried treasure, he must befriend or outsmart memorable characters such as pirate Long John Silver, captain Billy Bones, and island man Ben Gunn. Mutinous plans, mysterious deaths, and a tangle of double crosses keep Jim guessing all the way to the prize.

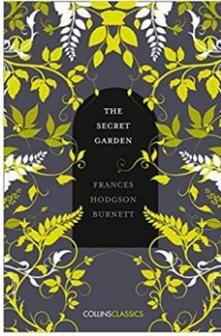
- Essential classic read
- Rich, challenging language- good for widening literary vocabulary
- Wonderful pirate adventure that will appeal to all



**Tom's Midnight Garden**  
Philippa Pearce

When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . . eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and out the back door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there. In this enchanted thirteenth hour, the garden comes alive - but Tom is never sure whether the children he meets there are real or ghosts . . .

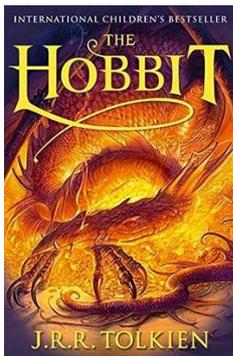
- Won The Carnegie Medal when it was first published in 1958.
- Classic time slip story
- Strong description
- Lots of unfamiliar vocab for children to explore
- Twist at the end
- [SIL 'Reading Reasoning Question Pack' available](#)



**The Secret Garden**  
Frances Hodgson Burnett

When spoiled child Mary Lennox loses her family to a cholera outbreak, she moves to her uncle's manor surrounded by a massive garden. Within, Mary discovers a whole new outlook on life thanks to a supportive household and the garden's power of healing.

- Rich description
- Superb for widening literary vocabulary
- Good for developing empathy and comparing how characters change and grow within a text



**The Hobbit**  
J.R.R. Tolkien

The Hobbit is a tale of high adventure, undertaken by a company of dwarves in search of dragon-guarded gold. A reluctant partner in this perilous quest is Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving unambitious hobbit, who surprises even himself by his resourcefulness and skill as a burglar. Encounters with trolls, goblins, dwarves, elves and giant spiders, conversations with the dragon, Smaug, and a rather unwilling presence at the Battle of Five Armies are just some of the adventures that befall Bilbo.

- Obvious choice for modelling fantasy adventure
- Graphic novel available (abridged version of original) and film, which could be interspersed with the written text if time an issue



**Alice in Wonderland**  
Lewis Carroll

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. The tale plays with logic, giving the story lasting popularity with adults as well as with children. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre.

- Useful for exploring themes
- Plot, structure, characters and imagery have been very influential in literature, especially in the fantasy genre.



**The Call of the Wild, White Fang and Other Stories**  
Jack London

Both are world famous animal stories. Set in Alaska in the late 1890s, *The Call of the Wild* is about Buck, the magnificent cross-bred offspring of a St Bernard and a Scottish Collie. The story records the 'decivilisation' of Buck as he answers 'the call of the wild'. In contrast, *White Fang* relates the tale of a wolf born and bred in the wild which is civilised by the master he comes to trust and love.

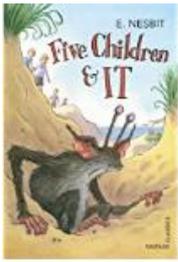
- Compare and contrast both stories
- Could make links to evolution unit in Science



**Swallows and Amazons**  
Arthur Ransome

John, Susan, Titty and Roger sail their boat, *Swallow*, to a deserted island for a summer camping trip. Exploring and playing sailors is an adventure in itself but the island holds more excitement in store. Two fierce Amazon pirates, Nancy and Peggy, challenge them to war and a summer of battles and alliances ensues.

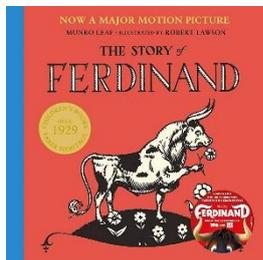
- The ultimate children’s classic
- Watch and compare to the film
- Book one of a series so encourages further reading



**Five Children and It**  
E. Nesbit

*Don't you know a sand-fairy when you see one?'* I dare say you have often thought about what you would do if you were granted three wishes. The five children - Cyril, Anthea, Robert, Jane and their baby brother - had often talked about it but when they are faced with the grumpy sand-fairy they find it difficult to make up their minds. And that is just the beginning of their dilemmas. As they discover, there is nothing quite like a wish for getting you into terrible trouble.

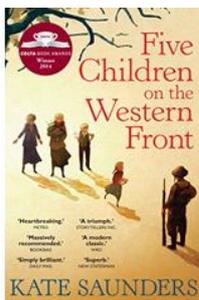
- A classic pre-read for Five Children on the Western Front
- Film version available to compare/contrast



**The Story of Ferdinand**  
Munro Leaf  
And Robert Lawson

Unlike all the other little bulls - who run, jump, and butt their heads together in fights - Ferdinand would rather sit under his favourite cork tree and smell the flowers. So what will happen when Ferdinand is picked for the bull fights in Madrid? Beloved all over the world for its timeless message of peace, tolerance and the courage to be yourself, this truly classic story has never been out of print in the US since its release in 1936.

- Young children’s picture book
- Limited text that could be developed
- The history of the text is fascinating and well worth researching- banned by Hitler- underlying messages.
- Compare and contrast with extracts of ‘Shadow of a Bull’ by Maia Wojciechowska



**Five Children on the Western Front**  
Kate Saunders

The five children have grown up and World War I has begun in earnest. Cyril is off to fight, Anthea is at art college, Robert is a Cambridge scholar and Jane is at high school. The Lamb is the grown up age of 11, and he has a little sister, Edith, in tow. The sand fairy has become a creature of stories ... until, for the first time in 10 years, he suddenly reappears. The siblings are pleased to have something to take their minds off the war, but this time the Psammead is here for a reason, and his magic might have a more serious purpose.

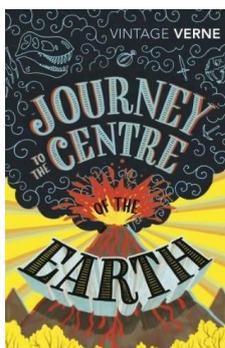
- Shortlisted for the CILIP Carnegie Medal 2016 and the the 2015 Guardian Children's Book prize. Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2014
- Children could write their own sequel or prequel
- Viewpoint
- Compare to stories on the same theme



**Kim**  
Rudyard Kipling

Kim is an orphan who earns his living begging on the streets of Lahore. One day he befriends an aged Tibetan Lama who, although content to live simply in India, is a rich and powerful abbot in his own country. When the Lama recruits Kim as a disciple and then funds his education at an English public school an adventure begins that will take the unlikely pair to the Himalayas on a thrilling journey of espionage and enlightenment.

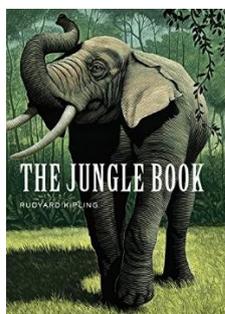
- Classic adventure and spy story in one- set in India
- Typical Kipling style of language-could compare to less challenging texts-‘The Just-So Stories’ or ‘Jungle Book’
- Suitable for more confident readers



**Journey to the Centre of the Earth**  
Jules Verne

Join the intrepid and eccentric Professor Liedenbrock and his companions on a thrilling and dramatic expedition as they travel down a secret tunnel in a volcano in Iceland on a journey which will lead them to the centre of the earth. Along the way they encounter various hazards and witness many incredible sights such as the underground forest, illuminated by electricity, the Great Geyser, the battle between prehistoric monsters, the strange whispering gallery, giant insects and the vast subterranean sea with its ferocious whirlpool.

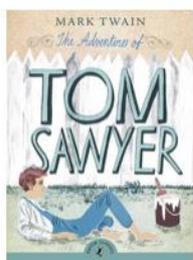
- Available in a comic version
- Read other Jules Verne Classics- Around the World in Eighty Days, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
- All 3 available as DVDs
- Graphic novel version available



**The Jungle Book**  
Rudyard Kipling  
Scott McKowen

Children will delight in this unabridged version of Rudyard Kipling’s classics, *Jungle Books One and Two!* Not only does this attractive volume feature the beloved tales of Mowgli, the “man cub” raised by wolves, and Rikki Tikki Tavi, but also the lesser-known but wonderful stories of Toomai, the boy who gets to see elephants dance; Quinquern, who saves his Eskimo people from starvation; and Kotick, the white seal.

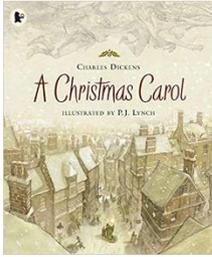
- Stunning illustrations- with a brief explanation at the end of the text on the technique that was used.
- Challenging vocabulary- particularly where Kipling has used ‘Thous’ to suggest the animals are using a language other than English



**The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**  
Mark Twain

Impish, daring young Tom Sawyer is a hero to his friends and a torment to his relations. For wherever there is mischief or adventure, Tom is at the heart of it. During one hot summer, Tom witnesses a murder, runs away to be a pirate, attends his own funeral, rescues an innocent man from the gallows, searches for treasure in a haunted house, foils a devilish plot and discovers a box of gold. But can he escape his nemesis, the villainous Injun Joe?

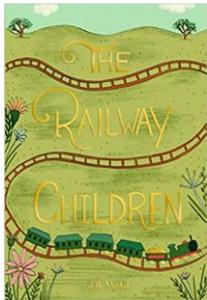
- Suitable for more confident readers if unabridged



**A Christmas Carol**  
Charles Dickens  
PJ Lynch

A mean-spirited, miserly old man named Ebenezer Scrooge receives a chilling visitation from the ghost of his dead business partner, Jacob Marley, who informs him that three spirits will visit him during each of the next three nights. Will the visits help Scrooge mend his greedy, self-serving ways?

- A classic novel with themes around greed, redemption, regret, family and love
- A challenging text, but can be supported through abridged versions and films/animations
- Historical context



**The Railway Children**  
E Nesbit

This is one of the best-loved family stories of all the classics. When Roberta, Peter and Phyllis' father is arrested their life changes dramatically. The children move to the country and the railway that runs nearby becomes their greatest source of adventure. Through the new friends that they make they come up with a plan to be reunited with their beloved father. Will their plan succeed?

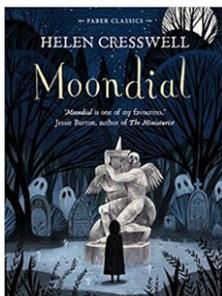
- A heart-warming novel with themes around friendship, loyalty, kindness and bravery
- Film version supports the novel
- Many opportunities for a wide variety of writing
- Great for character analysis
- Good for widening literary vocabulary



**Little Women**  
Louisa May Alcott

Christmas won't be the same this year for Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, as their father is away fighting in the Civil War, and the family has fallen on hard times. But though they may be poor, life for the four March sisters is rich with colour, as they play games, put on wild theatricals, make new friends, argue, grapple with their vices, learn from their mistakes, nurse each other through sickness and disappointments, and get into all sorts of trouble.

- Film versions also available

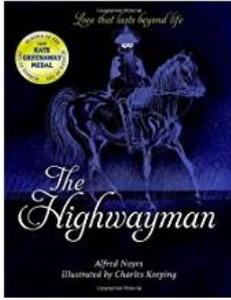


**Moondial**  
Helen Cresswell

Minty is the kind of girl who notices things. Pockets of cold air on a stairway. Cries on the wind. Ghosts. On night-time jaunts from the house where she's staying while her mother recovers from an accident, Minty stumbles upon a moondial which takes her back in time. She finds Tom, a sickly kitchen boy, and Sarah, a girl with a birthmark who is only allowed out at night because her family think she has the mark of the devil... Can Minty save her friends, or will she get stuck in the past...?

- Links very well with 'Tom's Midnight Garden' by Phillipa Pearce

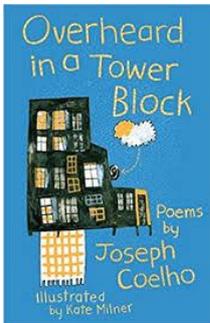
# Poetry and Playscripts



**The Highway Man**  
Alfred Noyes

Alfred Noyes's thrilling poem is charged with drama and tension. Ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter. The vivid imagery of the writing is matched by Charles Keeping's haunting illustrations which won him the Kate Greenaway Medal.

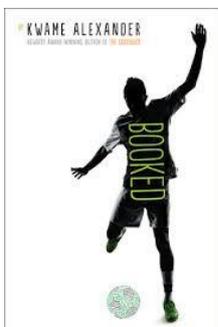
- Poetry
- Picture book
- Recommended by Aidan Chambers
- Classic narrative poem



**Overheard in a Tower Block**  
Joseph Coelho

Gazing at the stars from five storeys up, smelling the bins from five storeys below. Overheard arguments, overheard laughter. A disappearing father and a Mermaid-Queen mother; statues that sing for flesh and blood; bullies who kick you under the table; perfect red trainers - and the things that lurk in the library...Award-winning poet Joseph Coelho's astonishing new collection is a powerful and moving poetic narrative about growing up in the city.

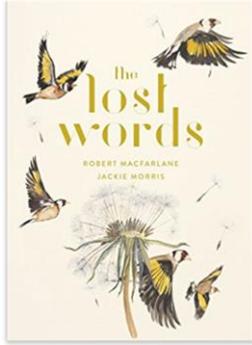
- Series of poems that together tell the overarching narrative of a young boy's coming of age from adolescence to fatherhood
- Hard-hitting in places but beautiful
- Deals with bullying, parental breakdown, absent parents
- Could be studied separately in guided reading/whole class sessions or could explore the whole collection
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



**Booked**  
Kwame Alexander

Twelve-year-old Nick is a football-mad boy who absolutely hates books. In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *The Crossover*, football, family, love, and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges – which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal – change his life, as well as his best friend's. This energetic novel-in-verse by the poet Kwame Alexander captures all the thrills and setbacks, the action and emotion of a World Cup match.

- Novel in free verse
- Would appeal to football fans but deals with 'bigger' issues such as family breakup, bullying, racism
- Inventive use of poetic form that means it would be a great focus text for guided reading/whole class reading or targeted reading clubs/intervention
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



**The Lost Words**  
Robert Macfarlane & Jackie Morris

Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed-until one day, they were gone.

The author has compiled a list of nature words that have recently been excised from the Oxford Junior Dictionary and written beautiful poetry for each. Exquisitely illustrated by Jackie Morris. Liverpool are now on the Lost Words Map, which you can view [here](#). Our symbol is rapid wren.

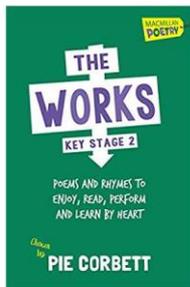
- Oversized hardback book
- Explores through poetry-words (nouns) from nature that are no longer commonly used and the living things they name are often not recognised by adults and children.
- Vocabulary development
- Explore a free supporting resource pack [here](#)



**100 Best Poems for Children**  
Chosen by Children. Edited by Roger McGough

From the hundreds of poems originally chosen by children themselves, Roger McGough has selected a top 100 no child should be without.

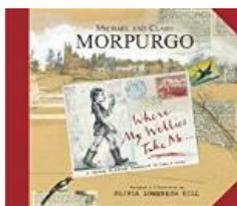
- Poetry
- Wide range of poems to choose from covering classic and contemporary verse.
- Will have at least one model of the type of poetry you are looking for



**The Works-Key Stage 2**  
Chosen by Pie Corbett

This contains poems which cover every form and theme, an index of poem types, advice for writing poems, advice for reading poems, lots of poetry activities and some workshop ideas and lesson plans.

- Poetry
- A staple to have in your classroom
- It will have at least one model of the type of poetry you are looking for

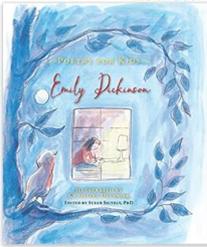
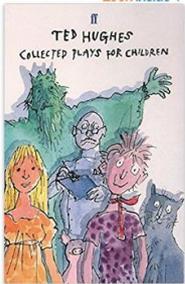
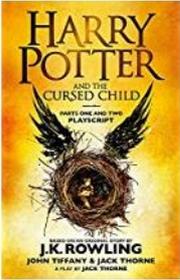


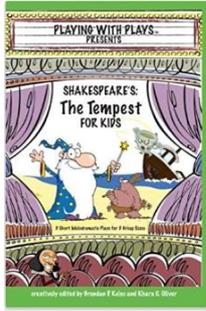
**Where My Wellies Take Me**  
Clare and Michael Morpurgo

In their first ever book together, Clare and Michael Morpurgo have created a classic for children, told with the help of their most beloved poets including Shakespeare, William Blake and Ted Hughes.

Pippa goes for a walk in the countryside, her head full of the poems she loves.

- Poetry
- Good range of classic poems chosen by the Morpurgos
- Beautifully designed and illustrated- an interesting way to present the poems

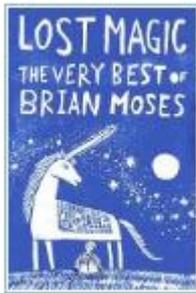
 <p><b>Poetry for Kids</b> Emily Dickinson</p>	<p>As the premier title in the Poetry for Kids series, <i>Emily Dickinson</i> introduces children to the works of poet Emily Dickinson. Poet, professor, and scholar Susan Snively has carefully chosen 35 poems of interest. Each poem is beautifully illustrated by Christine Davenier and thoroughly explained by an expert.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Includes explanations of the poems</li> <li>• Definitions of key words</li> <li>• Beautiful illustrations</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Rhythm and Poetry</b> Karl Nova</p>	<p>The first published collection from Hip Hop poet Karl Nova has a refreshing directness, honesty and authenticity. Many of the poems are drawn from the workshops he does with children and young people as well as from his performances. The poems capture the rap beat and tone, demonstrating the currency and significance of rap as a form, especially for young people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poetry</li> <li>• Shortlisted for the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education Poetry Award 2018</li> <li>• Teaching Sequence available to download from CLPE website (Y5)</li> <li>• Notes included to show the poet's process</li> </ul>
 <p><b>Collected Plays for Children</b> Ted Hughes</p>	<p>Hughes enters the timeless world of folklore and fable and brings home a wonderful haul, managing to produce comedy, tragedy and magic from the same net, and then to move effortlessly between them. He makes stories from familiar elements (the Nativity, or Beauty and the Beast or a quest to save a sickening king), but approaches them from unexpected angles and sets them off in different directions. What characterizes the pieces is the energy Hughes generates not only in the unfolding action but in the drama of the language itself, which is as robustly up-to-date as it is lyrical.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playscript</li> <li>• Contains six plays by Ted Hughes including <i>Orpheus</i>, <i>The Pig Organ</i> and <i>The Coming of The Kings</i></li> </ul>
 <p><b>Harry Potter and the Cursed Child</b> J.K. Rowling, John Tiffany &amp; Jack Thorne</p>	<p>It was always difficult being Harry Potter and it isn't much easier now that he is an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic, a husband, and father of three school-age children.</p> <p>While Harry grapples with a past that refuses to stay where it belongs, his youngest son Albus must struggle with the weight of a family legacy he never wanted. As past and present fuse ominously, both father and son learn the uncomfortable truth: sometimes, darkness comes from unexpected places.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Playscript</li> <li>• A sequel to the final Harry Potter book.</li> <li>• Also includes a conversation between director John Tiffany and writer Jack Thorne, who share stories and insights about reading playscripts</li> <li>• Timeline of events from the wizard world (prior to the playscript narrative) could be a stimulus for writing</li> </ul>



**Shakespeare's The Tempest For Kids**  
Brendan P Kelso

The Tempest like you have never read it before: quick, fun, and easy to understand. Written in a play format and designed for 7-18+ actors, kids of all ages, or anyone who wants to enjoy and loosely understand Shakespeare's play.

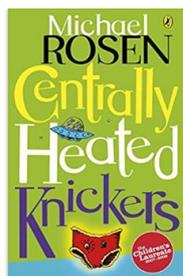
- Playscript
- Funny version of the play
- An American playwright so does include 'Americanisms' but this can be a teaching point
- Good way of encouraging reading of the original scripts, parts of which could be interspersed-a few lines from the original are included
- One of several of adaptations of Shakespeare's plays



**Lost Magic**  
Brian Moses

A beautiful collection of the very best poems by Brian Moses. Includes 'Walking with My Iguana', 'The Lost Angels', 'Aliens Stole My Underpants', 'Behind the Staffroom Door', 'Lost Magic', 'The Sssnake Hotel', 'A Feather from an Angel', 'Cakes in the Staffroom' and many, many more.

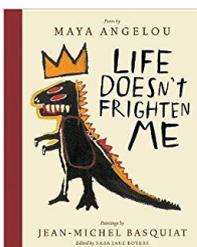
- Poetry
- Brian Moses is a long established and popular children's poet
- Includes over 100 of his best poems
- Mix of humorous and more thought provoking poems



**Centrally Heated Knickers**  
Michael Rosen

Discover the weird and wonderful world of martians, woolly saucepans and centrally heated knickers in 100 poems about science and technology from the delightfully irreverent, Michael Rosen.

- Poetry
- Great to promote reading poetry for pleasure

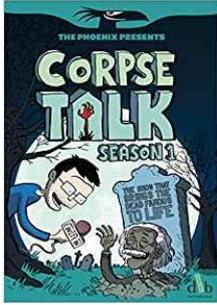


**Life Doesn't Frighten Me**  
Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou's brave, defiant poem celebrates the courage within each of us. From the scary thought of panthers in the park to the unsettling scene of a new classroom, fearsome images are dispelled by the power of faith within ourselves.

- Poetry
- Emotive, though-provoking illustrations support this poem
- A strong stimulus for writing
- Relatable for children – written in the first person from the point of view of a child

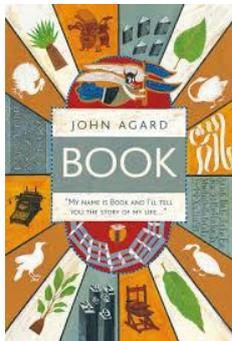
## Non-Fiction



**Corpse Talk: Season 1**  
Adam Murphy

The dead are rising! Up out of the mouldering pages of history comes the chat show that digs the dirt on some of history's most famous, infamous and downright incredible men and women. What was the secret of Cleopatra's irresistible personality? Why did Genghis Khan become obsessed with world domination? Which scientist is still radioactive, almost 100 years after her death? Join your host, ADAM MURPHY, as he gets the answers to these questions and many more, on CORPSE TALK, the show that brings the dead famous to life!

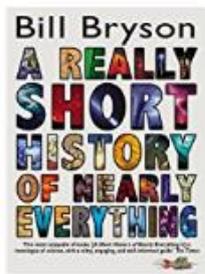
- Graphic novel based on a talk show format where all the guests happen to be zombies
- Great for reading areas- will appeal to those interested in history, comic fans and those with a taste for the gruesome
- First in a series so great for hooking readers
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



**Book**  
John Agard

Books are one of humankind's greatest forms of expression, and now Book, in a witty, idiosyncratic voice, tells us the inside story. A wonderfully eccentric character with strong opinions and a poetic turn of phrase, Book tells of a journey from papyrus scrolls to medieval manuscripts to printed paper and beyond--pondering, along the way, many bookish things, including the evolution of the alphabet, the library (known to Egyptians as "the healing place of the soul"), and even book burning. With bold, black-and-white illustrations by Neil Packer, *Book* is a captivating work of nonfiction by one of England's leading poets.

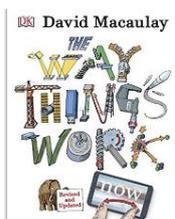
- Inventive 'autobiography' of the book
- Would be a beautiful addition to a reading corner due to the gorgeous stylised black/white illustrations
- Includes quotes/poems
- Would be a great focus for lessons on voice and tone and could inspire autobiographical writing from the point of view of other inanimate objects
- Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP



**A really Short History of Nearly Everything**  
Bill Bryson

Bill's story-telling skill makes the "How?" and, just as importantly, the "Who?" of scientific discovery entertaining and accessible for all ages. In this exciting edition for younger readers, he explores the mysteries of time and space and how, against all odds, life came to be on this wondrous planet we call home. Along the way we meet several bizarre scientists, crackpot theories which held sway for far too long, and some accidental discoveries which changed the way science developed.

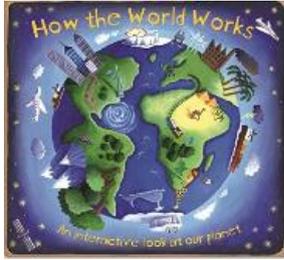
- A great non-fiction text to read for pleasure.
- Jam-packed full of facts
- Combination of text, diagrams, illustrations and photographs



**The Way Things Work Now**  
David Macaulay

Get to grips with how things work inside hundreds of machines with this extraordinary book that explains the science behind technologies and inventions. In this extensive encyclopaedia, packed full of simple science for kids, David Macaulay's beautiful illustrations show the inner workings of each machine from clocks and watches, to jet engines and the internet.

- Great illustrations and funny explanations
- Great for: reading for pleasure, Science, D.T and modelling explanations



**How the World Works**

Christiane Dorion & Beverley Young

How did life begin? Is the earth moving beneath our feet? Why does it rain? Find out the answers to these questions and many more in this hands-on exploration of our incredible planet.

- Engaging N-F text as it has many pop-ups, tabs to pull and flaps to lift
- Supports thinking and discussion on how human activity has an impact on the world
- Models a range of ways of reading and presenting N-F

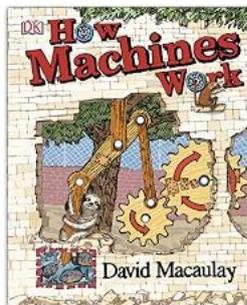


**How We Make Stuff**

Christiane Dorion & Beverley Young

Where do our clothes come from? What's the link between gorillas and mobile phones? Does chocolate grow on trees? Find out in this hands-on guide to how we make the things most of us take for granted.

- Engaging N-F text as it has many pop-ups, tabs to pull and flaps to lift
- Explores how we use the world's natural resources
- Models a range of ways of reading and presenting N-F
- Won the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize



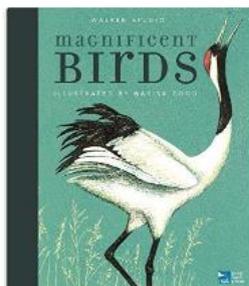
**How Machines Work**

David Macaulay

*How Machines Work* uses pop-ups and award-winning illustrations to demonstrate the technology of six simple machines. Follow the mad antics of Sloth and his side-kick Sengi as they try to break out of the zoo with the help of levers, pulleys, screws, inclined planes, wedges and wheels.

Brought to life through pop-ups and pull-outs meaning you can explore six simple machines, from bicycles and cranes to hammers and drills, through interactive science.

- Winner of the Royal Society's Young People's Book Prize 2016, which champions the best science books for under-14s
- A book the reader just wants to explore!
- Each section shows how the sloth designs an engineering solution so that he can escape
- Great for: reading for pleasure, Science, D.T and modelling explanations

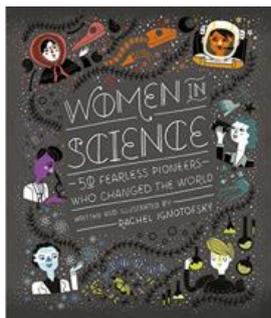


**Magnificent Birds**

Narisa Togo

Discover incredible birds from around the world with this exquisite picture book. From the bird-of-paradise that performs its extravagantly colourful courtship dance in the rainforest to the bar-tailed godwit that flies thousands of miles across the ocean without stopping, explore the world of magnificent birds in this beautiful book, created in association with the RSPB.

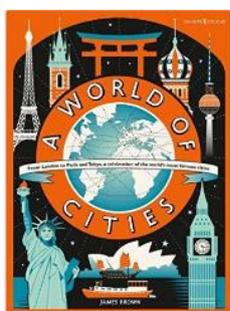
- Beautiful lino-cut prints
- Very interesting facts
- Great for: reading for pleasure and modelling information writing



**Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers who changed the world**

A gloriously illustrated celebration of trailblazing women. *Women in Science* highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from both the ancient and modern worlds. The book also contains fascinating infographics and an illustrated scientific glossary. The extraordinary women profiled include well-known figures like the physicist and chemist Marie Curie, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon.

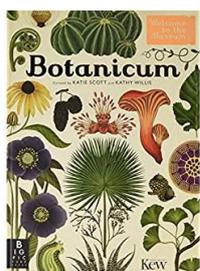
- An important book to raise the profile of often overlooked female scientists
- Other books available in the series: 'Women in Sport' and 'Women in Art'



**A World of Cities**  
James Brown

Climb Paris's Eiffel Tower, explore Cairo's ancient pyramids, wander the busy streets of New Delhi and see the lights of Shanghai in this whirlwind tour of the world's most beautiful cities. Print-maker James Brown, has rendered each city in bold, bright colours, with fascinating facts about the history and culture incorporated into the contemporary designs. London, New York and Tokyo have never looked so stylish – or so alive.

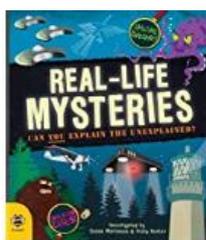
- Also *A World of Information* by the same author
- Great for: reading for pleasure, Geography and modelling information writing



**Botanicum**  
Kathy Willis and Katie Scott

Botanicum is a stunningly curated guide to plant life. With artwork from Katie Scott of Animalium fame, Botanicum gives readers the experience of a fascinating exhibition from the pages of a beautiful book. From perennials to bulbs to tropical exotica, Botanicum is a wonderful feast of botanical knowledge complete with superb cross sections of how plants work.

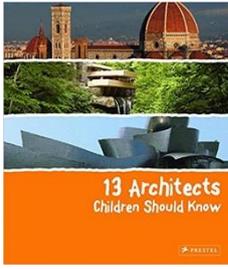
- Part of the 'Welcome to the Museum' series Reminiscent of field journals of naturalists



**Real-Life Mysteries**  
Susan Martineau & Vicky Barker

Have you ever wondered what exactly does go bump in the night? From mysteries like Shackleton's ghostly companion to the Loch Ness Monster and friends, read the amazing evidence about these mysterious cases and make up your own mind. Quench your curiosity with this new myth-busting (and sometimes, myth-confirming!) fascinating kids case study book.

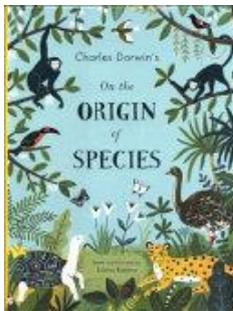
- Winner of the Blue Peter Awards - Best Book with Facts



**13 Architects Children Should Know**  
 Florian Heine  
 Prestel Publishing

Find out about 13 men and women who are responsible for famous buildings around the world. Learn how Christopher Wren built St Paul's Cathedral after the devastating Great Fire of London, and read how American President, Thomas Jefferson, found time to become a famous architect.

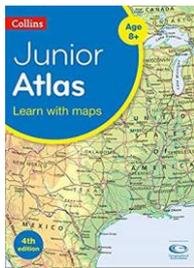
- One in a series of titles from Prestel publishing that supports learning in art and design
- Great for children with a passion for art and design and aspirational for future careers
- Good layout – the timeline running through the book supports the information in the context of history



**Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species**  
 Sabina Radeva

The first ever picture-book retelling of Charles Darwin's *On The Origin of Species*; this accessible work brings evolution to the younger generation through stylish illustrations and a simple, easy-to-understand text. *On The Origin of Species* has been the definitive explanation of the theory of evolution since it was first published in 1859. Now molecular biologist and illustrator Sabina Radeva unites her two passions to create a 48-page retelling of this seminal text.

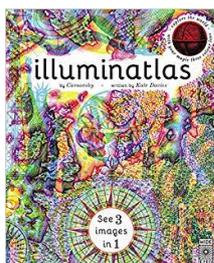
- Fits beautifully with evolution aspect of the Y6 Science Programme of Study



**Collins Junior Atlas**

An ideal world reference atlas for young primary school geographers aged 9-11 years at Key Stage 2. Published in association with the Geographical Association, enabling students to learn about the world today by exploring clear and engaging maps, study satellite imagery, understand key facts and statistics, and learn how maps and atlases work.

- Aimed at age 8+
- 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.



**Illuminatlas**  
 Dr Kate Davies and Carnovsky

Use your three-color lens to explore the continents: use your green lens to see the landscape, the red lens to see plants and animals, and the blue lens to see cultural highlights and famous buildings. Packed with facts and stunning illustrations, this is an atlas like no other from Milan-based design duo Carnovsky.

- We also recommend 'Illuminature' and 'Illuminatology' in the same series.
- A journey around the world with a difference.
- Great for exploring human and natural geographical features