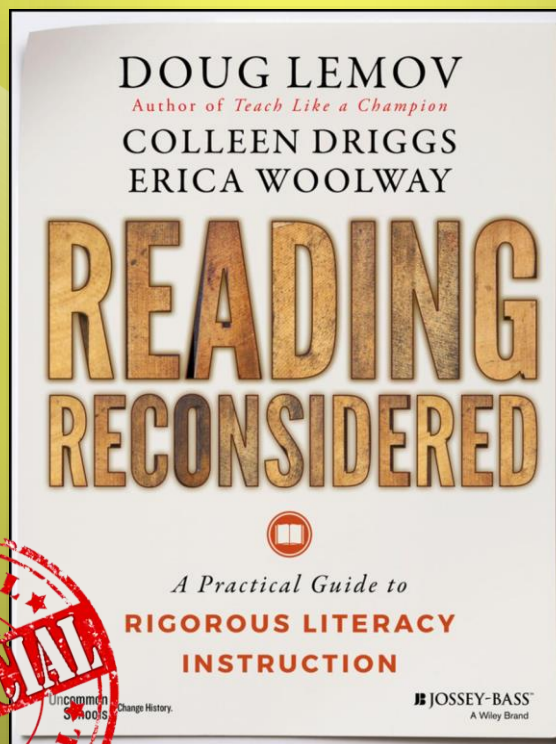


MR A, MR C AND MR D
PRESENT...

READING RECONSIDERED
READING SPINE
TEXT SELECTOR FOR PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Contents

The 5 Plagues of a Developing Reader	p3
Creation of the List & Application to Long Term Plans	p4
Years 1-2 List	p5-8
Years 3-4 List	p9-11
Years 5-6 List	p12-16
Other Books to Consider	p17-20
Other Resources	p21



THE 5 PLAGUES OF THE DEVELOPING READER

In his book 'Reading Reconsidered', Doug Lemov points out that there are five types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence. These are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

Read his blog article here: <http://teachlikeachampion.com/blog/on-text-complexity-and-reading-part-1-the-five-plagues-of-the-developing-reader/>

Archaic Language

The vocabulary, usage, syntax and context for cultural reference of texts over 50 or 100 years old are vastly different and typically more complex than texts written today. Students need to be exposed to and develop proficiency with antiquated forms of expression to be able to hope to read James Madison, Frederick Douglass and Edmund Spenser when they get to college.

Non-Linear Time Sequences

In passages written exclusively for students—or more specifically for student assessments—time tends to unfold with consistency. A story is narrated in a given style with a given cadence and that cadence endures and remains consistent, but in the best books, books where every aspect of the narration is nuanced to create an exact image, time moves in fits and start. It doubles back. The only way to master such books is to have read them time and again and to be carefully introduced to them by a thoughtful teacher or parent.

Narratively Complex

Books are sometimes narrated by an unreliable narrator- Scout, for example, who doesn't understand and misperceives some of what happened to her. Or the narrator in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart" who is a madman out of touch with reality. Other books have multiple narrators such as Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*. Others have non-human narrators such as the horse that tells the story in *Black Beauty*. Some books have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines. These are far harder to read than books with a single plot line and students need to experience these as well.

Figurative/Symbolic Text

Texts which happen on an allegorical or symbolic level. Not reflected in Lexiles; critical forms of text complexity that students must experience.

Resistant Texts

Texts written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers. Perhaps half of the poems ever written fall into this category. You have to assemble meaning around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues.

CREATION OF THE LIST

This is an ever-evolving document which will take into account newly released books and other recommendations from the teaching profession.

This list has been amended, compiled and created by the following people or references:

- Aiden Severs @That BoyCanTeach
- Ashley Booth @MrBoothY6
- Doug Lemov
- Gareth Baker
- Matthew Dix (Mr A, Mr C and Mr D Present)
- Nottingham ELS Library Service
- Rob Smith (Literacy Shed)
- Scott Evans
- Staff at Forest Fields Primary School
- The Twitter community of UK teachers

To have an input into this project, please email mracdpresent@gmail.com with your recommendations. Please state the book name, the category and the year group it is most suitable for and it will be updated on a termly basis.

APPLICATION TO LONG TERM PLANS

- The aim of this list is to provide schools with an extensive list of books which they can apply to their own long-term plans.
- These are books to use as whole class reads, study books or extracts taken from them to look at in greater detail.
- The idea is that in each year, a child will cover all 5 plagues of reading so that, by the time they reach year 6 and beyond, they have a good understanding of all of them and are able to access the more complex books expected of them in secondary schools.

This only takes into account narratives and poems so a good balance of topic-appropriate non-fiction should also be read to help further develop children's background knowledge of the subject they are studying.



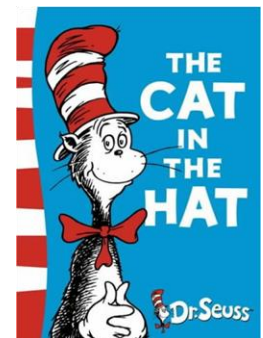
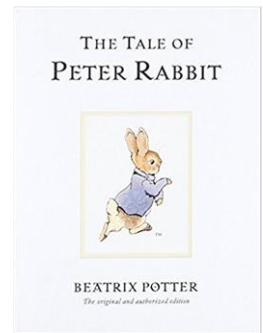
READING RECONSIDERED TEXT SELECTOR

Here is our selection of books for Years 1 and 2 carefully selected to cover the '5 Plagues of the Developing Reader'. There is a mixture of classics as well as lesser-known books to choose from.

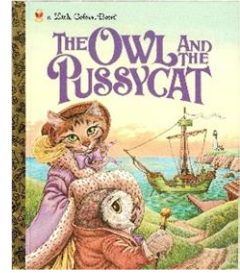


ARCHAIC TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Magic Faraway Tree (4 Book Series)	Enid Blyton	1943	224
The Three Billy Goats Gruff	Paul Galdone	1973	24
The Tale of Peter Rabbit (23 Book Series)	Beatrix Potter	1901	69
The Ugly Duckling	Hans Christian Anderson	1844	44
The Little House	Virginia Lee Burton	1942	40
The Cat in the Hat	Dr. Seuss	1957	64
Goodnight Moon	Margaret Wise Brown	1947	32
The Little Prince	Antoine de Saint-Exupery	1943	96
Aesop's Fables (e.g. The Hare and the Tortoise, The Boy Who Cries Wolf, The Monkey as King etc.)	Aesop	N/A	N/A
Traditional Stories (e.g. Sleeping Beauty, Rumpelstiltskin, Rapunzel, Puss-in-Boots, The Princess and the Pea, Pinocchio, The Pied Piper of Hamelin, Jack and the Beanstalk)	Various Authors	N/A	N/A
The Frog Prince	Brothers Grimm	1812	90
Traditional Nursery Rhymes	Various Authors	N/A	N/A
The Frog (poem)	Hilarie Belloc	1896	N/A
A Good Play, The Swing and My Shadow (poems)	Robert Louis Stevenson	1888	N/A
The Owl and the Pussycat	Edward Lear	1871	24

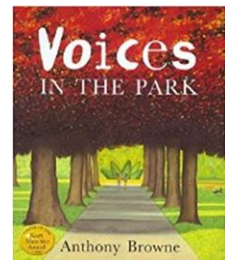


Where the Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak	1963	48
The More it Snows (poem)	A.A. Milne	1928	N/A
Who Has Seen the Wind (poem)	Christina Rossetti	1872	N/A
The Three Little Kittens (poem)	Eliza Lee Follen	1860	N/A
Make Way for Little Ducklings	Robert McCloskey	1941	76
The Night Before Christmas (poem)	Clement Clarke Moore	1823	32



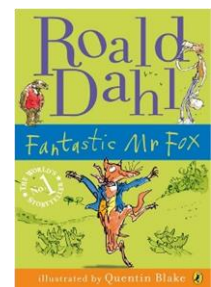
NON-LINEAR TIME SEQUENCES

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Voices in the Park	Anthony Brown	1998	32
The Trouble with Trolls	Jan Brett	1992	32
Black and White	David Macaulay	1990	32
Grandpa	John Burningham	2003	32
One Candle	Eve Bunting	2002	40
The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales	Jon Scieszka	1993	56
When the Rains Come	Tom Pow	2012	48
Three Brave Women	C.L.G. Martin	1991	32
The Summer My Father Was Ten	Pat Brisson	1998	32

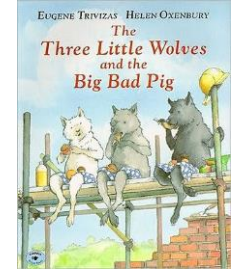
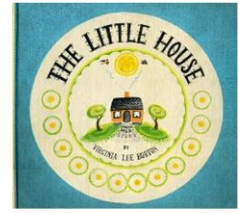


COMPLEXITY OF THE NARRATOR

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Chester	Melanie Watt	2007	32
Voices in the Park	Anthony Brown	1998	32
And the Dish Ran Away with the Spoon	Janet Stevens	2001	56
The Very Smart Pea and the Princess to Be	Mini Grey	2003	32
Fantastic Mr Fox	Roald Dahl	1970	112

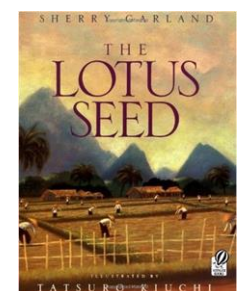
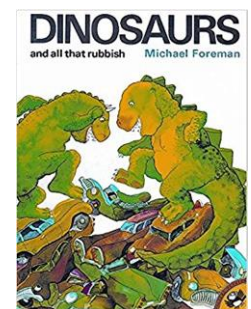


Hey Little Ant	Hannah and Phillip Hoose	1998	28
The Little House	Virginia Lee Burton	1942	40
I Doko, The Tale of a Basket	Ed Young	2004	32
Come Away From the Water, Shirley	John Burningham	1977	32
The Teddy Bear	David McPhail	2002	32
The Day the Crayons Quit	Drew Daywalt	2013	40
The Wolf Story: What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood	Toby Forward	2005	32
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs	John Scieszka	1989	32
The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig	Eugene Trivizas	1993	32



COMPLEXITY OF PLOT/SYMBOL

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Grandad's Island	Benji Davies	2015	32
Wanted: The Perfect Pet	Fiona Robertson	2009	32
Owl Babies	Martin Waddell	1992	32
The Tiger Who Came to Tea	Judith Kerr	1968	32
Slug Needs a Hug	Jeanne Willis	2015	32
Where the Wild Things Are	Maurice Sendak	1963	48
The Heart and the Bottle	Oliver Jeffers	2010	32
Dinosaurs and All That Rubbish	Michael Foreman	1993	32
Scissors (poem)	Allen Ahberg	1983	N/A
I Do Not Mind You Winter Wind (poem)	Jack Prelutsky	1984	N/A
The Red Tree	Shaun Tan	2001	32
The Chickens Build a Wall	Jean-François Dumont	2013	32
Red Kite, Blue Kite	Ji-li Jiang	2013	32
The Lotus Seed	Sherry Garland	1997	32
The Building Boy	Ross Montgomery	2016	32

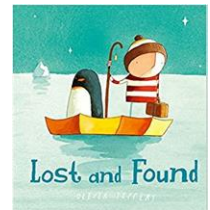


RESISTANT TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Book With No Pictures	B.J. Novak	2016	48
Lost and Found	Oliver Jeffers	2005	32
Tadpole's Promise	Jeanne Willis	2003	32
Wolves	Emily Gravett	2005	40
The Colour Monster	Anna Llenas	2012	48
Not Now Bernard	David McKee	1980	32
Ning Nang Nong (poem)	Spike Milligan	1959	N/A
The Red Tree	Shaun Tan	2001	32
Mirror	Jeanne Baker	2010	48

The
Book
With
No
Pictures

B.J. Novak





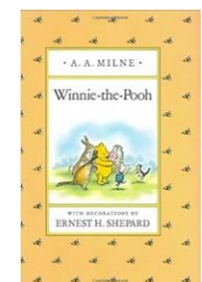
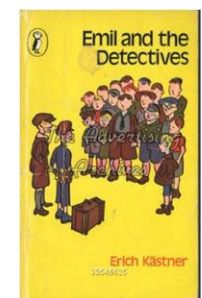
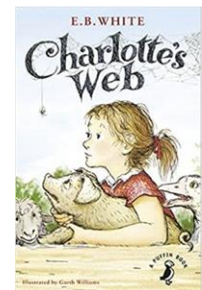
READING RECONSIDERED TEXT SELECTOR

Here is our selection of books for Years 3 and 4 carefully selected to cover the '5 Plagues of the Developing Reader'. There is a mixture of classics as well as lesser-known books to choose from.

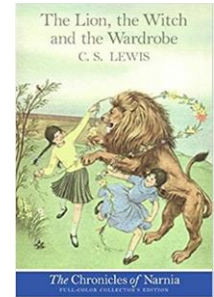


ARCHAIC TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Charlotte's Web	E.B. White	1952	272
The Children of Green Knowe	Lucy M. Boston	1954	128
The Railway Children	Edith Nesbit	1905	230
Five Children and It	Edith Nesbit	1902	272
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	1865	108
Mary Poppins	P.L. Travers	1934	192
Just William	Richmal Crompton	1922	272
Emil and the Detectives	Erich Kastner	1929	224
The Little House on the Prairie	Laura Ingalls Wilder	1935	352
Peter Pan	J.M. Barrie	1911	208
Pippi Longstocking	Astrid Lindgren	1945	144
Heidi	Johanna Spyri	1880	240
Winnie-the-Pooh	A.A. Milne	1926	160
The House at Pooh Corner	A.A. Milne	1928	192
The Little Match Girl	Hans Christian Anderson	1845	54
Beauty and the Beast	Abridged version	1740	48
The Emperor's New Clothes	Hans Christian Anderson	1837	26
The Fishermen and his Wife	Brothers Grimm	1812	32
How the Camel got his Hump	Rudyard Kipling	1902	24

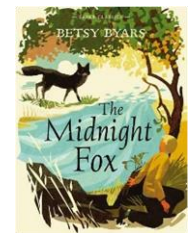


How Doth the Little Crocodile (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1865	N/A
You Are Old Father William (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1865	N/A
Topsy Turvy World (poem)	William Brightly Rands	1871	N/A
There Was a Young Lady Whose Nose and There Was an Old Man With a Beard (poems)	Edward Lear	1920	N/A
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe	C.S. Lewis	1950	208
The Velveteen Rabbit	Margery Williams	1922	48
A Bear Called Paddington	Michael Bond	1958	160



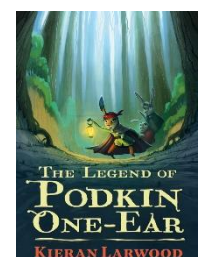
NON-LINEAR TIME SEQUENCES

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Midnight Fox	Betsy Byars	1968	208
The Firework Maker's Daughter	Phillip Pullman	1995	144
The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth	Eoin Culfer	2005	112
Fortunately the Milk	Neil Gaiman	2013	160
The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo	1996	128
Farm Boy	Michael Morpurgo	1997	112
Walk Two Moons	Sharon Creech	1994	304
Dominic Grows Sweetcorn	Mandy Ross	2014	32

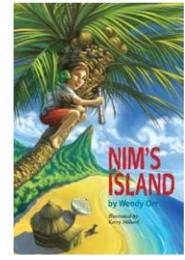


COMPLEXITY OF THE NARRATOR

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Witches	Roald Dahl	1983	224
The Five Realms: The Legend of Podkin One-Ear	Keiran Larwood	2016	288
Max and the Millions	Ross Montgomery	2018	272
Toys Go Out	Emily Jenkins	2006	117
The World According to Humphrey	Betty G. Bimey	2004	160

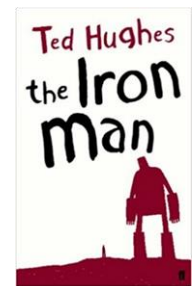


Woof	Allan Ahlberg	1987	160
Nim's Island	Wendy Orr	1999	128
The Case of the Lost Boy	Dori Hillestad Butler	2010	124



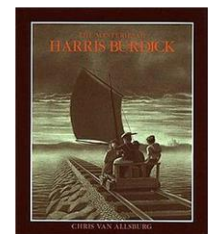
COMPLEXITY OF PLOT/SYMBOL

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Revoltin' Rhymes (poems)	Roald Dahl	1982	80
Love That Dog	Sharon Creech	2001	112
The Tunnel	Anthony Browne	1989	32
The Molehouse Cat	Antonia Barber	1990	40
The Iron Man	Ted Hughes	1968	80
Catch a Little Rhyme (poem)	Eve Merriam	1999	N/A
Dream Variations (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A
Ducks Ditty (poem)	Kenneth Grahame	1908	N/A



RESISTANT TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Cloud Busting	Malorie Blackman	2004	176
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick	Chris Van Allsburg	1984	32
Topsy Turvy World (poem)	William Brighty Rands	1871	N/A
Something Told the Wild Geese (poem)	Rachel Field	1920	N/A





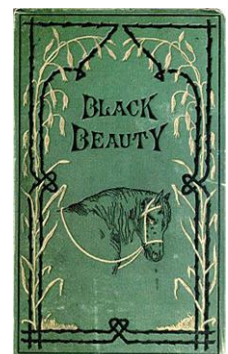
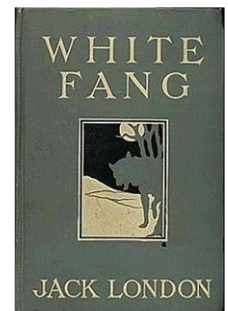
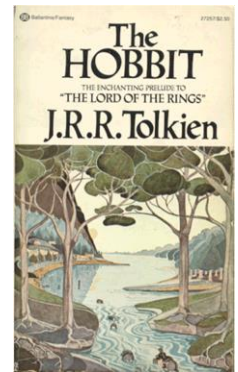
READING RECONSIDERED TEXT SELECTOR

Here is our selection of books for Years 5 and 6 carefully selected to cover the '5 Plagues of the Developing Reader'. There is a mixture of classics as well as lesser-known books to choose from.

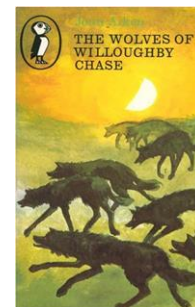


ARCHAIC TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien	1937	368
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce	1958	240
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	108
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	1956	304
Tell-Tale Heart	Edgar Allen Poe	1843	64
The Highwayman	Alfred Noyes	1906	32
The Raven	Edgar Allen Poe	1845	46
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	1903	66
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle	1883	194
White Fang	Jack London	1906	272
Tales of Terror Series <i>(archaic in style)</i>	Chris Priestly	2007	256
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	1911	224
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome	1930	528
Swiss family Robinson	Johann David Wyss	1812	496
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	1876	288
Ballet Shoes	Noel Streatfeild	1936	352
Moonfleet	John Meade Faulkner	1898	256
Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Jules Verne	1864	208



Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	1882	250
Anne of Green Gables	Lucy Maud Montgomery	1908	416
Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame	1908	288
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum	1900	304
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	1838	374
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	1877	208
The Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling	1894	256
Just So Stories	Rudyard Kipling	1902	240
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	1962	256
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	1719	108
The Happy Prince and Other Tales	Oscar Wilde	1888	182
Charge of the Light Brigade (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1854	N/A
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	N/A
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	N/A
If (poem)	Rudyard Kipling	1910	N/A
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	N/A
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	N/A
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A
Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	N/A
A Tragic Story (poem)	William Makepeace Thackeray	1840	N/A

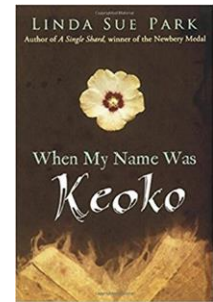


NON-LINEAR TIME SEQUENCES

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
An Eagle in the Snow	Michael Morpurgo	2015	272
Holes	Louis Sachar	1998	240
The Eye of the North	Sinead O'Hart	2017	352
A Long Walk to the Water	Linda Sue Park	2010	121
Time Travelling with a Hamster	Ross Welford	2015	400
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	108

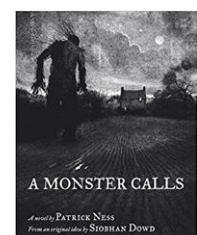
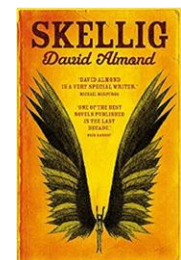
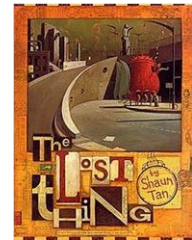


Because of Mr Terupt	Rob Buyea	2010	304
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge	2018	176
1000 Year Old Boy	Ross Welford	2018	400
The Pebble in My Pocket	Meredith Hooper	1996	40
Below Zero	Dan Smith	2018	304
Watership Down	Richard Adams	1972	528
When My Name Was Keoko	Linda Sue Park	2002	208
The Wanderer	Sharon Creech	2000	240
How to Fly With Broken Wings	Jane Elson	2015	304
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	1982	190

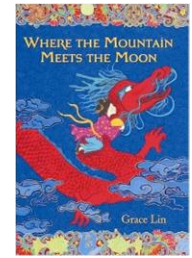


COMPLEXITY OF PLOT/SYMBOL

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	2000	32
The Giver	Lois Lowry	1993	256
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman	1995	448
Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans	2017	368
Skellig	David Almond	1998	176
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	240
Harry Potter	J.K. Rowling	1997	352
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	2009	288
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	2009	208
Silver (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1907	N/A
Daffodils (poem)	William Wordsworth	1807	N/A
In Flanders Fields (poem)	John McCrae	1915	N/A
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	N/A
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	N/A
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	N/A
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A

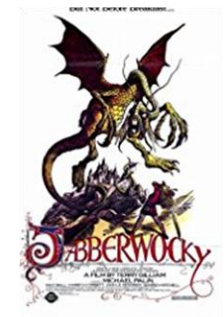
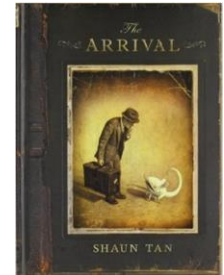


Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	N/A
The Lady of Shalott (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1832	N/A
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	2016	240
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2006	128



RESISTANT TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2010	128
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	2015	416
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	240
Jabberwocky (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1871	N/A
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	N/A
The Pobble Who Had No Toes (poem)	Edward Lear	1850	N/A
Sky in the Pie (poem)	Roger McGough	1983	N/A



OTHER BOOKS TO CONSIDER

[Pie Corbett's Free Scholastic Reading Spine \(link\)](#)

These books are strongly recommended by Pie Corbett due to the suitability for each year group and links to drama and storytelling. Each year group gradually increases in emotional or plot complexity and contains a mixture of modern books and classics.

Quick Reference Guide

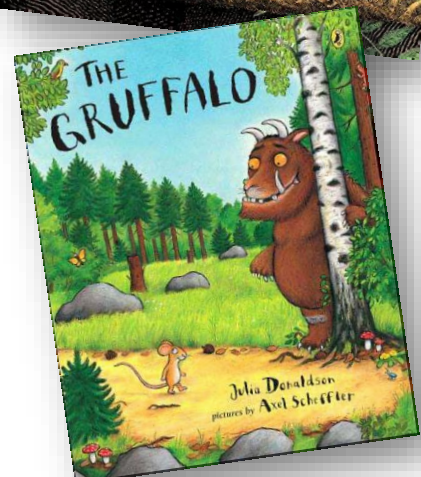
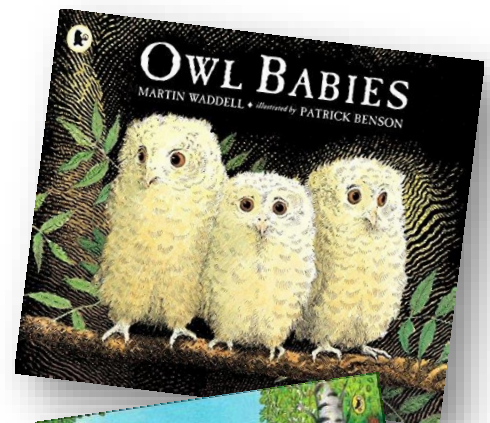
Nursery

- Where's Spot by Eric Hill
- Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell
- You Choose by Pippa Goodhart and Nick Sharratt
- Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth and Mick Inkpen
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen
- Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See? by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle
- Hairy Maclary From Donaldson's Diary by Lynley Dodd
- Each Peach Pear Plum by Allan and Janet Ahlberg
- Hug by Jez Alborough
- The Train Ride by June Crebbin
- Come on, Daisy by Jane Simmons



Reception

- Owl Babies by Martin Waddell
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson
- Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne
- Mr Gumpy's Outing by John Burningham
- Rosie's Walk by Pat Hutchins
- Six Dinner Sid by Inga Moore
- Mrs Armitage on Wheels by Quentin Blake
- Whatever Next by Jill Murphy
- On the Way Home by Jill Murphy
- Farmer Duck by Martin Waddell



- Goodnight Moon by Margaret Wise Browne
- Shhh! By Sally Grindley

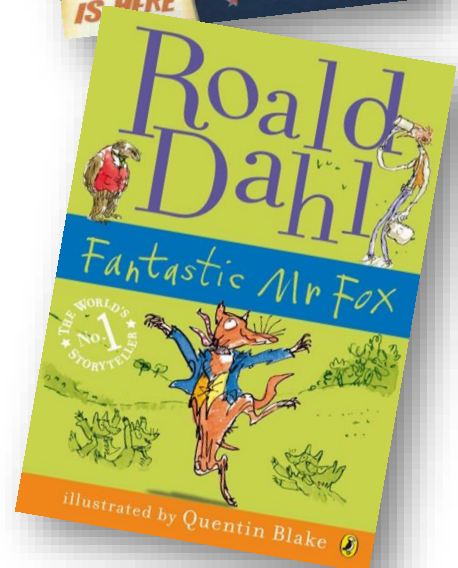
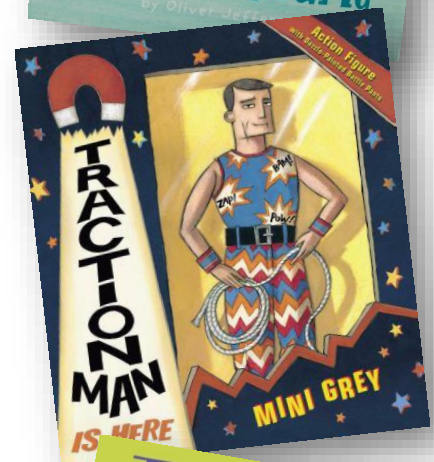
Year 1

- Peace at Last by Jill Murphy
- Can't You Sleep Little Bear by Martin Waddell
- Where the Wild Things Are? By Maurice Sendak
- The Elephant and the Bad Baby by Elfrida Vipont and Raymond Briggs
- Avacado Baby by John Burningham
- The Tiger Who Came to tea by Judith Kerr
- Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
- Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems
- Beegu by Alexis Deacon
- Dogger by Shirly Hughes
- Cops and Robbers by Allan and Janet Ahlberg
- Elmer by David McKee



Year 2

- Traction Man is Here by Mini Grey
- Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett
- Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman
- Pumpkin Soup by Helen Cooper
- Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book by Lauren Child
- Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets by Tony Ross
- Not Now Bernard by David McKee
- Tuesday by David Wiesner
- The Flower by John Light
- Gorilla by Anthony Browne
- Emily Browne and the Thing
- Frog and Toad Together by Arnold Lobel
- The Giraffe, The Pelly and Me by Roald Dahl
- The Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl
- The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith
- Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown
- Willa and Old Miss Annie by Burlie Doherty
- The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson



Year 3

- The Iron Man by Ted Hughes
- Cat Tales: Ice Cat by Linda Newberry
- The Sheep Pig by Dick King-Smith
- The Abominables by Eva Ibbotson
- The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis
- The Battle of Bubble and Squeak by Phillippa Pearce
- Hansel and Gretel by Anthony Browne

Year 4

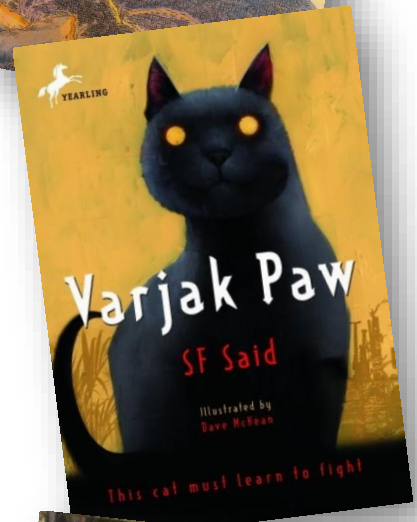
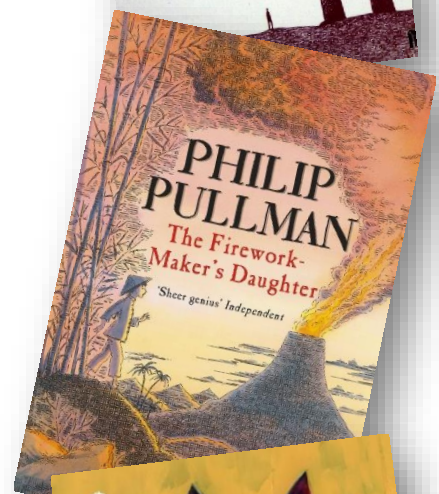
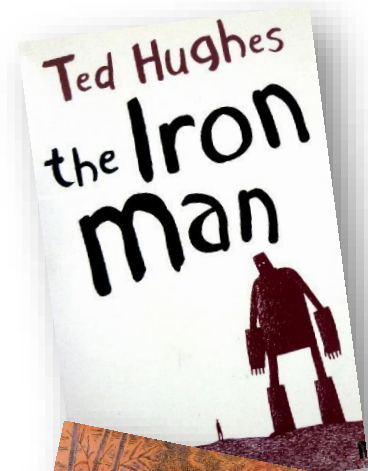
- Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine
- Charlotte's Web by EB White
- Why the Whales Came by Michael Morpurgo
- The Firework Maker's Daughter by Phillip Pullman
- The Snow Walker's Son by Catherine Fisher
- Perry Angel's Suitcase by Glenda Millard
- Voices in the Park by Anthony Browne

Year 5

- The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken
- Varjak Paw by SF Said
- Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver
- Street Child by Berlie Doherty
- The Midnight Fox by Betsy Byars
- Tom's Midnight Garden by Phillippa Pearce
- FArTHER by Grahame Baker-Smith

Year 6

- Holes by Louis Sacher
- Clockwork by Phillip Pullman
- The Hobbit by JRR Tolkein
- Skellig by David Almond
- Fireweed by Jill Paton Walsh
- River Boy by Tim Bowler



- The Arrival by Shuan Tan

[Ashley Booth's '100 Books to Read' \(link\)](#)

To promote reading for pleasure, @MrBoothY6 has created 100 books to read for KS1, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 and available to download for free.

www.schoolreadinglist.co.uk (link)

Many of the books in this list have already been covered but here is a very extensive list created by Tom Tolkien, an experienced teacher and education consultant.

[Carol Nightingale - TES \(link\)](#)

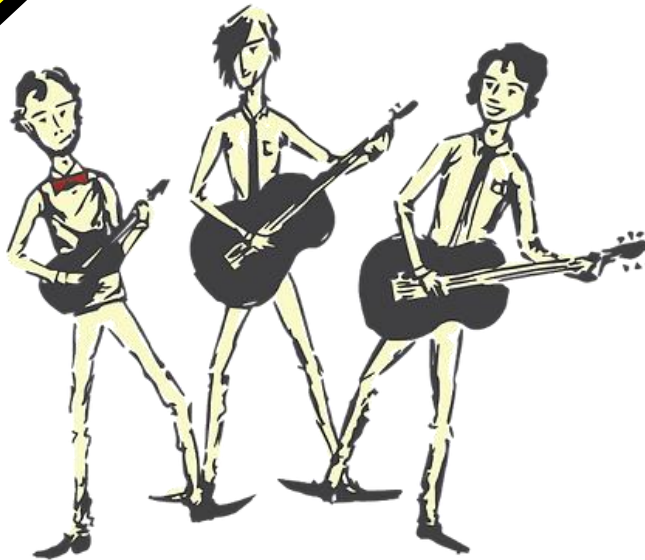
An extensive list of great books for every year group including lots from well-known authors such as Roald Dahl, Michael Morpurgo, Enid Blyton etc.

[Scott Evans - The Reader Teacher Blog \(link\)](#)

An avid reader of children's books reviewing latest releases. Well worth a read.

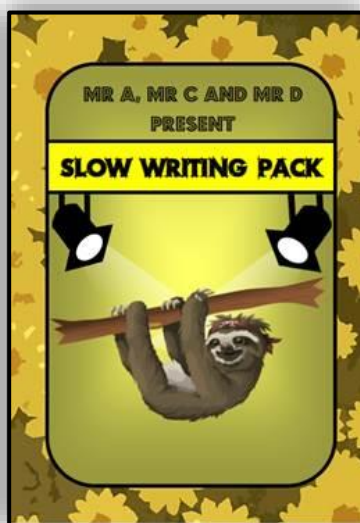
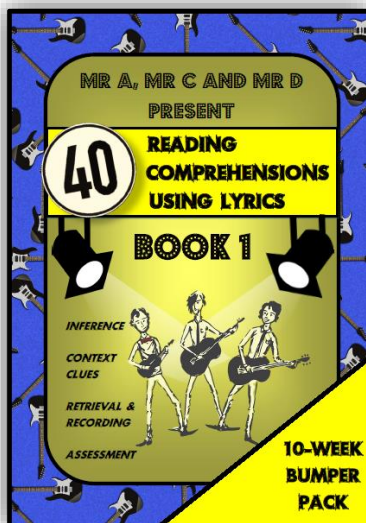


MORE



THE LITERACY JUKEBOX APP

- 20 modern literacy songs
- Karaoke switch
- Scrolling lyrics
- Vinyl jukebox animations
- In collaboration with Alan Peat Ltd



www.mracdpresent.com

[@MrACDPresent](https://www.instagram.com/MrACDPresent)

www.facebook.com/KS2songs

For more resources and products, visit our [TES](#) or [TPT](#) sites