



LITERATURE SPINE 2023/24

Our Literature Spine has been developed so that pupils gain a rich literary canon and help them access the best of what has been written for children throughout their primary school years. In collating this document, we have referred to “The Five Plagues of the Developing Reader” by Doug Lemov, in order to give pupils access to a range of texts which help them navigate reading with confidence. Pie Corbett’s Reading Spine also influences our book choices, as it helps gradually increase emotional or plot complexity through modern and classic texts.

The 5 Plagues of the Developing Reader

(source: *Reading Reconsidered* by Doug Lemov)

There are five types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence.

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 <i>As I Lay Dying</i> . Others have non-human narrators such as the horse that tells the story in <i>Black Beauty</i> . 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.

Reception	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Topic	All About Me	Light and Dark	Once Upon a Time	Fantastic Food	Pets and Vets	Journeys
Examples of some of the books to be read for pleasure to the class, and linked to topic learning and PSHE.	<p>The Invisible String Owl's First Day Elmer, Room on the Broom, Stick Man Meg and Mog, The Squirrels Who Squabbled, A Bit Lost, Super Duper You! Superworm, Winnie the Witch Poetry - Michael Rosen</p> <p>Non fiction - books about animals/harvest</p>	<p>One Stormy Night, Oscar and the Moth, After the Storm, Fly By Night, Owl Babies Night Monkey, Day Monkey, Peace at Last The Christmas Story</p> <p>Non fiction - Space, planets, nocturnal animals</p>	<p>Reading fairy tales eg. Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Three Little Pigs, Little Red Riding Hood, Hansel and Gretel, Jack and the Beanstalk</p> <p>Aboriginal stories Animal Zodiac story (Chinese New Year)</p>	<p>Oliver's Vegetables, The Hungry Caterpillar, Mama Panya's Pancakes, Mr Wolf's Pancakes, Handa's Surprise, The Tiger Who Came to Tea Celebrating book week Food poems</p> <p>Non fiction - recipe books</p>	<p>Jaspers Beanstalk, Dear Zoo, What Pet Should I Get, The Perfect Pet, Mog and the V-E-T, Charlotte and the Rock</p> <p>Non fiction books and poems about animals Animal poems</p>	<p>Harold and the Purple Crayon, The Little Red Train, Naughty Bus, Jack and the Flumflum Tree, The Hundred Decker Bus, Three Billy Goats Gruff</p> <p>Non fiction - maps, books about transport, vehicles</p>

Year 1	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	Dinosaurs in the supermarket Dear Zoo <i>Dinosaurs Wear Underpants.</i>	Owl Babies by Martin Waddell Brown Bear, Brown, Bear What Do you see? By Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle <i>Polar Bear, Polar Bear by Eric Carle</i> <i>The Tiger who came to Tea by Judith Kerr</i>	The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson <i>Superworm</i> The Way Back Home Super Me	Dougal's Deep Sea Diary <i>The Man in the Moon</i> Aesop's Fables - Traditional Tales Little Red Riding Hood	<i>The Jolly Postman</i> <i>Peepo</i> The Train Ride	The Ugly Duckling by Hans Christian Anderson Jack and the Beanstalk - Traditional Tale. The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/LSA.	Selection of high quality picture books including traditional tales Main authors featured : Julia Donaldson, Eric Carle, Oliver Jeffers					
Books to support knowledge organisers.	Non-fiction dinosaur books and animal books <i>Stone Girl Bone Girl: The Story of Mary Anning by Laurence Anholt</i> <i>Her Story by Katherine Halligan</i>	The Hungry Caterpillar By Eric Carle. <i>The Bad-tempered Ladybird - art</i> Non-fiction animal books	Non-fiction books on different materials		Non-fiction books on plants	Maps and atlases

Year 2	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	<i>Vlad and the Great Fire of London</i> <i>Toby and the Great fire of London</i> Handa's Surprise The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith	The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark	<i>The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton</i> Beegu	<i>Into the Forest by Anthony Browne</i> Building Boy -	Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl	<i>The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywatt Browne</i> The Marvellous Itty Bitty 'Just so' stories -Rudyard Kipling <i>Lila and the secret of Rain</i>
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/LSA.	A selection of high quality picture books Daisy and the trouble with zoos Enid Blyton Magical Fairy Tales		<i>The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton</i> Selection of high quality picture books		<i>Boy in the Jam Jar</i>	Imaginary Fred Vikings in the Supermarket (selection of poems)
Books to support knowledge organisers.	Vlad and the Great Fire of London Toby and the Great fire of London	Atlases	There's an ouch in my Pouch My Grandad sent me a postcard Recipe books Possum Magic Wombat Goes Walkabout- Michael Morpurgo	Fantastically Great Women Who Changed The World by Kate Pankhurst Brunel the Great Engineer	Above and Below The World beneath my feet. Selection of Non-fiction nature books	Non-fiction texts about big cats

Year 3	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	Flat Stanley	Bill's New Frock	Ottoline and the Yellow Cat	The BFG	The Firework Maker's Daughter	Charlotte's Web
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/LSA.	Charlie Changes into a Chicken Inspirational people series	The Wind in the Willows. Inspirational people series	The Egyptian Cinderella Inspirational people series	Roald Dahl collection Inspirational people Flat Stanley the great Egyptian grave robbery	Leonora Bolt Inspirational people	The Boy who grew dragons Inspirational people
Books to support knowledge organisers.	<i>The Stone Age Boy</i> The first drawing The secrets of the stonehenge Atlas of the ancient world. Horrible History	<i>The Secret of Black Rock</i> World Atlases. Particular focus on rivers. Amazing rivers Rhythm of the rain Bloom	<i>The Star in the Jar</i> Atlas of the ancient world. Selection of non-fiction books on ancient Greece to be available in the reading corner.	Flood Ancient Egypt tales of gods and Pharaohs	The Magic Paintbrush Atlases The wonderful workings of planet earth.	The True Story of the Three Little Pigs The tale of a toothbrush The pebble in my pocket

Year 4	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe The Journey	Varjak Paw Eliona's diary	The Spiderwick Chronicles	Cloud Busting	The Iron Man	Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/LSA.	Beetleboy Wombat Goes walk about - Michael Morpurgo Asha and the Spirit Bird - Jasbinder Bilan- Inspirational people	The Christmas Mystery J Gaarder Inspirational	A poem a Day Inspirational people	Inspirational people	Inspirational people	Inspirational people
Books to support knowledge organisers.	What is it like to be a Hindu?	Atlases Mediterranean Italy, Greece and Bath people Recipe Books	Making Toys How things Work DK		What is it like to be a Humanist?	Antarctica - See topic box Atlases

Year 5	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	Viking Boy Gorilla	Kensuke's Kingdom	Orange's In Nomansland	The Switch	Street Child	Girl of Ink and Stars
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/LSA.	Individual reading books Arthur and the Golden Rope	Individual reading books The Last Wolf	Individual reading books	Individual reading books	Individual reading books The Story of Tutankhamun	Individual reading books
Books to support knowledge organisers.	Vikings and Anglo Saxons	Atlases World Kitchen - Fairtrade	Mayans & Central American History What happened when in the world	Mediterranean Italy, Greece and Bath Atlases What happened where in the world	Selection of Non fiction books about Ancient Egypt What happened when in the world	Our European Neighbours Atlases What happened where in the world

Year 6	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Core books to refer to in English lessons and whole class guided reading.	Holes	Goodnight Mr Tom (WW11)	Pigheart Boy	Wonder		
Book to be read for pleasure to class by CT/TA.	Individual reading books Inspirational people	Individual reading books Inspirational people Moon Juice	Individual reading books Inspirational people	Individual reading books Inspirational people Overheard in a Toweblock	Individual reading books Inspirational people	Individual reading books Inspirational people
Books to support knowledge organisers.	Greek History Ancient Greeks Myths and Legends Earth and Space	Atlases Misty Mountains Sierra Light WW2 non fiction books	WW2 non fiction books	Atlases	Where in the World Non fiction books about health	Evolution and Inheritance Humanism

