

Reading Spine

Year 5

Our reading spine is designed using books written by inspirational authors, which we value and want the children to have read by the time they leave primary education. The texts are purposefully selected to take the reader on a journey, from sharing picture books, to sharing a range of chapter books that gradually expose the reader to beautifully crafted storylines with evermore intriguing and challenging themes. Some books also fit with the year group's Learning Quest and science topics.


Research shows that sharing quality narratives, which the children would not necessarily choose to read for themselves, develops not only a love of reading but improves vocabulary development and language skills, develops imagination and empathy, and enables children to learn about people, places and events outside of their own experience. In turn, this promotes achievement in all writing genres across the curriculum.

This pack contains your core texts, 1 per half term and a poetry anthology. The books should be kept in the zippy wallet and remain available in the classroom. Children should be read to for 15 minutes each day from the half termly text indicated on the reading spine. One reading session a week should be replaced with a poem from the year group poetry anthology.

<p>Autumn 1</p>		<p><u>Wonder by RJ Palacio</u></p> <p><i>My name is August. I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.'</i></p> <p>Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He <i>feels</i> 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.</p>
<p>Autumn 2</p>		<p><u>Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo</u></p> <p>Link: Striving Civilisations - Vikings</p> <p>In fifth-century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the night, and only the great prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, the foul fiend, a hideous sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.</p>
<p>Spring 1</p>		<p><u>Varjak Paw by S.F. Said</u></p> <p>Link: Striving Civilisations - Early Islamic Civilisations and English</p> <p>Varjak Paw is a Mesopotamian Blue kitten. He lives high up in an old house on a hill. He's never left home, but then his grandfather tells him about the Way - a secret martial art for cats. Now Varjak must use the Way to survive in a city full of dangerous dogs, cat gangs and, strangest of all the mysterious Vanishings.</p>
<p>Spring 2</p>		<p><u>Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman</u></p> <p>You're thirteen. All you want is a normal life. But most normal kids don't need heart transplants. So there's this doctor. He says there's a chance for you. But he also says it's experimental, controversial and risky. And it's never been done before.</p>

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<p>Summer 1</p>		<p><u>Lalani of the Distant Sea by Erin Entrada Kelly</u> Link: Reading</p> <p>When Lalani Sarita’s mother falls ill with an incurable disease, Lalani embarks on a dangerous journey across the sea in the hope of safeguarding her own future. Inspired by Filipino folklore, this engrossing fantasy is for readers who loved Grace Lin’s <i>Where the Mountain Meets the Moon</i> and Disney’s <i>Moana</i>.</p> <p>Life is difficult on the island of Sanlagita. To the west looms a vengeful mountain, one that threatens to collapse and bury the village at any moment. To the north, a dangerous fog swallows sailors who dare to venture out, looking for a more hospitable land. And what does the future hold for young girls? Chores and more chores.</p> <p>When Lalani Sarita’s mother falls gravely ill, twelve-year-old Lalani faces an impossible task—she must leave Sanlagita and find the riches of the legendary Mount Isa, which towers on an island to the north. But generations of men and boys have died on the same quest—how can an ordinary girl survive the epic tests of the archipelago? And how will she manage without Veyda, her best friend?</p>
<p>Summer 2</p>		<p><u>The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes</u> Link: Striving Civilisations - British Monarchy</p> <p>In Alfred Noyes's thrilling poem, charged with drama and tension, we ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter.</p>
<p>Poetry (Verse Novel)</p>		<p><u>The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow</u></p> <p>Ten-year-old Nate lives with his mum and two younger brothers, Jax aged eight and Dylan, who’s four and thinks he’s Spiderman. The brothers are a tight little unit and, as the eldest, Nate takes care of the younger two when Mum is out with Auntie San at bingo, enjoying a few ciders.</p> <p>When his best friend PS is put in a different Year 6 class, Nate is gutted, especially when PS starts to hang out with Nate’s nemesis, school bully Turner. New teacher Mr Joshua notices that Nate loves reading and writing, so encourages him to use words to help process his emotions, giving him a special notebook so he can write down his thoughts and manage his anger. However, Nate’s world is turned upside-down when Dylan is rushed into hospital. How will he cope if his little brother doesn’t pull through?</p>