

Literature Spine

Core texts for depth study

Academic year 2024-25

The principles

Each cohort will have a suite of core texts that will form the depth study for the academic year. These texts represent a promise from the school to every pupil that it serves of the literature that it is committed to studying throughout a pupil's school journey. These texts have been mapped carefully to ensure a breadth of experiences, authors, texts and themes is addressed across the Primary years. In addition to these texts, there are core poems that each year group will study in detail. Other texts that will be studied in part will be outlined within the curriculum. This spine represents the core texts for depth study only. The literature spine has been harmonised with the wider curriculum, where appropriate. Changes to the long term sequence have been reflected for the academic year 2023-24.

A development in CUSP Reading from 2022 is the inclusion of agile modules for each year group. This gives teachers the opportunity to switch a text that a school may decide not to study based on the needs of their particular context or cohort, without compromising the structure or quality of the Reading units. Teachers and leaders should carefully track any changes that are made to ensure that the curriculum retains balance over time and that any changes are reflected in whole school curriculum documentation. The expectation is that most schools will work with the original literature spine.



Year 1

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Beegu	Block 4: The Storm Whale	Block 7: The Tale of Peter Rabbit	Block 10: Here We Are	Block 13: There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom	Block 16: The Lion Inside
Block 2: Where the Wild Things Are	Block 5: The Owl and the Pussycat Edward Lear	Block 8: The Tale of Peter Rabbit	Block 11: Here We Are	Block 14: There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom	Block 17: Aesop's Fables – The Hare and the Tortoise
Block 3: Where the Wild Things Are	Block 6: Aesop's Fables – The Boy who Cried Wolf	Block 9: Look Up!	Block 12: Chocolate Cake Michael Rosen	Block 15: and tango makes three	Block 18: The Proudest Blue
Agile module: Rapunzel – Bethan Woolvin, Too Much Stuff – Emily Gravett and Peace on Earth – Smriti Halls					

Year 2

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Grandad's Island	Block 4: Paddington	Block 7: The Quangle Wangle's Hat Edward Lear	Block 10: The Rhythm of the Rain	Block 13: Fantastically Great Women who changed the World	Block 16: Fantastic Mr Fox
Block 2: Aesop's Fables – The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs	Block 5: Paddington	Block 8: Coming to England	Block 11: The Rhythm of the Rain	Block 14: Fantastically Great Women who changed the World	Block 17: Fantastic Mr Fox
Block 3: Mrs Noah's Pockets	Block 6: The Christmas Pine Julia Donaldson	Block 9: The Street Beneath My Feet	Block 12: Little People, Big Dreams David Attenborough	Block 15: Aesop's Fables – The Sun and the Wind	Block 18: Fantastic Mr Fox
Agile module: Somebody Crunched Colin – Sarah Roberts, A Planet Full Of Plastic And How You Can Help by Neal Layton and The Enormous Crocodile – Roald Dahl					

Year 3

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Greta and the Giants	Block 4: Leon and the Place Between	Block 7: Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark	Block 10: Operation Gadgetman	Block 13: The Dancing Bear	Block 16: The Magician's Nephew
Block 2: The Pebble in My Pocket	Block 5: Leon and the Place Between	Block 8: Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark	Block 11: Operation Gadgetman	Block 14: The Dancing Bear	Block 17: The Magician's Nephew
Block 3: The Pebble in My Pocket	Block 6: 'Twas the Night before Christmas Anon.	Block 9: Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark & My Shadow Robert Louis Stephenson	Block 12: Operation Gadgetman	Block 15: The Dancing Bear	Block 18: The Magician's Nephew
Agile modules: The Little Prince – Antoine De Saint-Exupéry, The Great Food Bank Heist – Onjali Q. Raúf and Wildsmith: Into the Dark Forest by Liz Flanagan					

Year 4

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: The Queen's Nose	Block 4: The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	Block 7: Varjak Paw	Block 10: The Boy at the Back of the class	Block 13: Young, Gifted and Black	Block 16: The Wind in the Willows
Block 2: The Queen's Nose	Block 5: The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	Block 8: Varjak Paw	Block 11: The Boy at the Back of the class	Block 14: Young, Gifted and Black & Caged Bird Maya Angelou	Block 17: The Wind in the Willows & The Walrus and the Carpenter Lewis Carroll
Block 3: The Raven Edgar Allen Poe	Block 6: The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	Block 9: Varjak Paw	Block 12: The Boy at the Back of the class	Block 15: Young, Gifted and Black	Block 18: The Wind in the Willows
Agile modules: The Borrowers – Mary Norton, What a Waste Rubbish, recycling and protecting our planet – Jess French and The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan					

Year 5

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Shackleton's Journey	Block 4: Secrets of a Sun King	Block 7: A Midsummer Night's Dream	Block 10: Boy in the Tower	Block 13: The Explorer	Block 16: Five Children and IT
Block 2: Shackleton's Journey	Block 5: Secrets of a Sun King	Block 8: I Am Not A Label	Block 11: Boy in the Tower	Block 14: The Explorer	Block 17: Five Children and IT
Block 3: Shackleton's Journey	Block 6: Secrets of a Sun King & If Rudyard Kipling	Block 9: I Am Not A Label	Block 12: Boy in the Tower & Daffodils William Wordsworth	Block 15: The Explorer	Block 18: Five Children and IT
Agile modules: A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine l'Engle, The Rabbits – John Marsden & Shaun Tan and Boy Giant by Michael Morpurgo					

Year 6

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Rooftoppers	Block 4: Pig Heart Boy	Block 7: All Aboard the Empire Windrush	Block 10: Skellig	Block 13: Dare to be You	Block 16: Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Block 2: Rooftoppers	Block 5: Pig Heart Boy	Block 8: All Aboard the Empire Windrush	Block 11: Skellig	Block 14: Dare to be You	Block 17: Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Block 3: Rooftoppers & The Listeners Walter de la Mare	Block 6: How to Live Forever	Block 9: The Island	Block 12: Skellig & A Carol From Flanders Frederick Niven	Block 15: Dare to be You	Block 18: Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Agile modules: Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stephenson, The Future is in our Hands Climate Action – Georgina Stevens & Katie Rewse and Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai					

For more information and examples please visit:

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