



Whitley Park School Writing and Reading Spine

To ensure every child is exposed to good quality literature, we have developed our own writing and reading spine. These books have been chosen as key texts and children will be introduced to these books throughout their time in primary at Whitley Park. As well as listening to the students read, we will also read to them to not only promote a love reading but also to share more complex texts than those they can read alone. This spine has been collated to deliberately expose the children to a range of authors, genres and key texts that we would want them to have encountered by the time they leave primary education. We also identify that non-fiction texts require a higher level of skill than when reading fiction and a good balance of topic-appropriate non-fiction will also be read to help further develop children's background knowledge of the subject they are studying. Across each academic year, each student will cover all 5 plagues of reading so that, by the time they reach year 6 and beyond, they have a good understanding of them and are able to access more complex books expected of them during their secondary education.

The reading spine should always remain a working document as new, exciting books are being written and published each year.

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. These are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

Archaic texts	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 in further education.
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



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	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.

ORT	Approx Age	Year	NC Level	Lexile Level
1	4-5	R	-	0-75
2	4-5	R	-	75-125
3	4-5	R	1	125-200
4	5-6	1	1	200-225
5	5-6	1	1	225-300
6	5-6	1	2	300-325
7	6-7	2	2	325-400
8	6-7	2	2	400-475
9	6-7	2	2	475-575
10	6-7	2	3	575-625
11	7-8	3	3	625-650
12	7-8	3	3	650-725
13	8-9	4	4	725-750
14	9-10	5	4	750-900
15	10-11	6	4	900-1000
16	10-11	6	4+	1000+

When planning to use a text, it is important to understand the lexile level.

You can search using: <https://hub.lexile.com/find-a-book/book-results>

Alternatively, you can often find this information on a search engine e.g. google

Other resources:

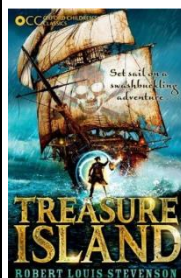
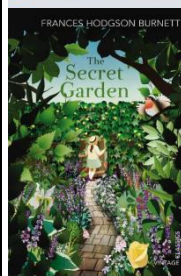
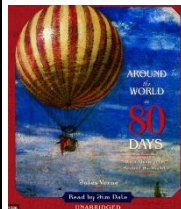
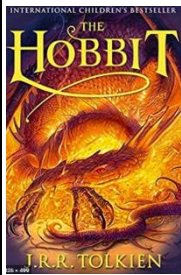
<https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-5>

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/year-6>



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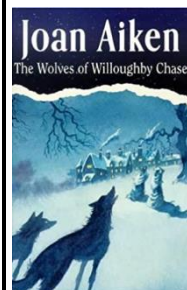
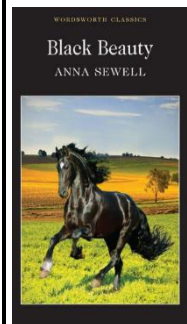
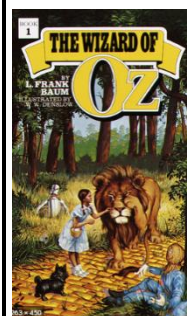
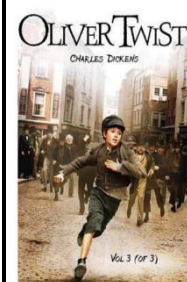
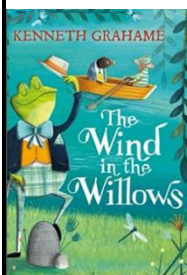
Archaic texts



NAME OF THE BOOK	AUTHOR	YEAR	Library
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce	1958	1 (18 in yr 5/6 cupboard)
The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien	1937	(3 in yr 5/6 cupboard)
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	4
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	1956	2
Tell-Tale Heart	Edgar Allen Poe	1843	-
The Highwayman	Alfred Noyes	1906	-
The Raven	Edgar Allen Poe	1845	-
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	1903	-
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle	1883	-
White Fang	Jack London	1906	-
Tales of Terror Series (archaic in style)	Chris Priestly	2007	1
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	1911	5
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome	1930	-
Swiss family Robinson	Johann David Wyss	1812	-
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	1876	2
Ballet Shoes	Noel Streatfeild	1936	1
Moonfleet	John Meade Faulkner	1898	1
Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Jules Verne	1864	1
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	1882	4



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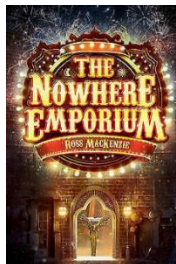
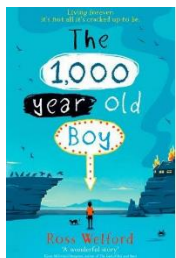
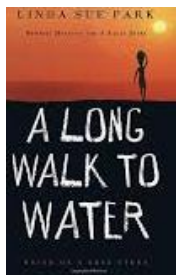


Anne of Green Gables	Lucy Maud Montgomery	1908	4
Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame	1908	3
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum	1900	4
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	1838	1
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	1877	2
The Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling	1894	3
Just So Stories	Rudyard Kipling	1902	-
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	1962	-
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	1719	1
The Happy Prince and Other Tales	Oscar Wilde	1888	7
Charge of the Light Brigade (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1854	
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	
If (poem)	Rudyard Kipling	1910	
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	
Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	
A Tragic Story (poem)	William Makepeace Thackeray	1840	



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Non-Linear Time Sequences

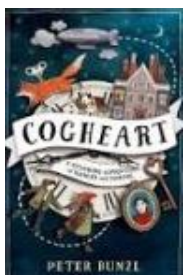


NAME OF THE BOOK	AUTHOR	YEAR	Library
An Eagle in the Snow	Michael Morpurgo	2015	1
Holes	Louis Sachar	1998	-
The Eye of the North	Sinead O'Hart	2017	1
A Long Walk to the Water	Linda Sue Park	2010	-
Time Travelling with a Hamster	Ross Welford	2015	-
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	4
SilverFin (Young Bond)	Charlie Higson	2005	-
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	1872	2
1000 Year Old Boy	Ross Welford	2018	-
Wolf in the White Van	John Darnielle	2014	-
Not the End of the World	Kate Atkinson	2002	-
The Light Jar	Lisa Thompson	2018	-
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge	2018	1
Below Zero	Dan Smith	2018	-
The Clockwork Sparrow	Katherine Woodfine	2015	1
The Nowhere Emporium	Ross Mackenzie	2015	-
Cosmic	Frank Cottrell-Boyce	2015	-
The Storm-Keepers Island	Catherine Doyle	2018	1



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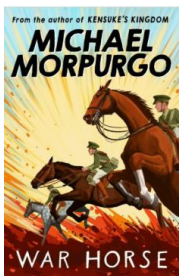
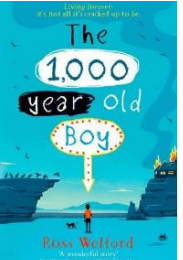
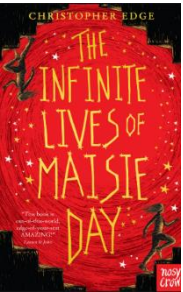
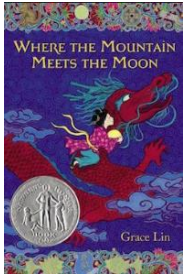
Narrative complexity



NAME OF THE BOOK	AUTHOR	YEAR	Library
Sky Song	Abi Elphinstone	2018	6
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	2012	1
All the Things That Could Go Wrong	Stewart Foster	2017	-
Cogheart	Peter Bunzl	2016	2
Tin	Padraig Kenny	2018	-
A Tale Dark and Grimm	Adam Gidwitz	2010	-
Once	Morris Gleitzman	2005	1
The Underneath	Kathi Appelt	2008	-
Clockwork	Philip Pullman	1996	-
Not the End of the World	Kate Atkinson	2002	-
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	1877	2
A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lemony Snicket	1999	6



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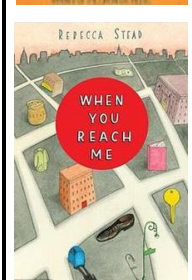
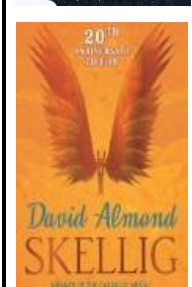
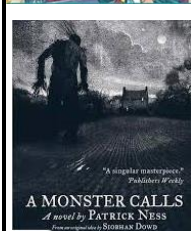
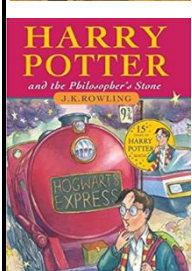
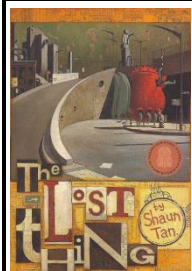
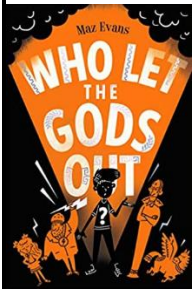


Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	2009	-
The Power of Five Series	Anthony Horowitz	2005	-
Pax	Sara Pennypacker	2016	5 (RG)
The Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler	E.L. Konigsburg	1967	-
Because of Mr Terupt	Rob Buyea	2010	-
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge	2018	1
1000 Year Old Boy	Ross Welford	2018	-
The Pebble in My Pocket	Meredith Hooper	1996	1
Below Zero	Dan Smith	2018	-
Watership Down	Richard Adams	1972	1
When My Name Was Keoko	Linda Sue Park	2002	-
The Wanderer	Sharon Creech	2000	-
How to Fly with Broken Wings	Jane Elson	2015	-
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	1982	2
Varjak Paw	S F Said	2014	1



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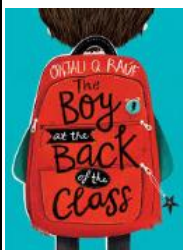
Complexity of Plot/Symbol



NAME OF BOOK	AUTHOR	YEAR	Library
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	2000	-
The Giver	Lois Lowry	1993	-
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman	1995	2
Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans	2017	1
Skellig	David Almond	1998	1
The House with Chicken Legs	Sophie Anderson	2018	1
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	-
Harry Potter	J.K. Rowling	1997	19
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	2009	-
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	2009	-
Silver (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1907	-
Daffodils (poem)	William Wordsworth	1807	-
In Flanders Fields (poem)	John McCrae	1915	-
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	-
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	-
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	-
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	-
Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	-
The Lady of Shalott (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1832	-
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	2016	-

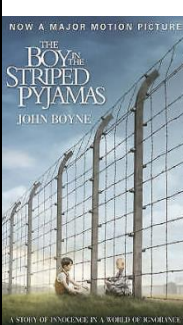
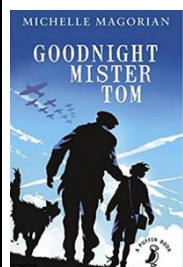
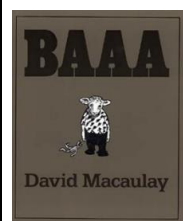
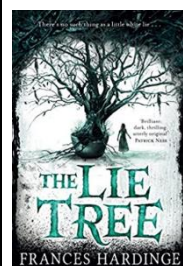


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The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2006	-
Clockwork	Phillip Pullman	1996	-
Shakespeare Stories	Leon Garfield	1998	-
The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Rauf	2018	2
Foul Play	Tom Palmer	2008	20

Resistant texts



NAME OF BOOK	AUTHOR	YEAR	Library
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2010	-
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	2015	-
Pseudonymous Bosch	The Secret Series	2012	-
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	-
Baaa	David MacCauley		-
Jabberwocky (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1871	-
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	-
The Pobble Who Had No Toes (poem)	Edward Lear	1850	-
Sky in the Pie (poem)	Roger McGough	1983	-
Ozymandias (poem)	Percy Bysshe	1818	-
Goodnight Mister Tom	Michelle Magorian	1981	40 in yr 5/6 cupboard
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	2006	26 in yr 5/6 cupboard

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