



Hester's Way Primary School Reading Spine

January 2020

Our Reading Spine

"Imagine a school where, over seven or eight years, children are read to, enjoy, discuss and work with a core of around 80 books. These 'essential reads' would be a store of classics, creating a living library inside a child's mind. Schools with a reading spine build a common story bank, binding the community together". Pie Corbett

Our reading spine is a school-wide canon of "best books" that all teachers can refer back to, with "best" defined as a rich, diverse sampling of engaging and useful books that serve students over time. These great stories build our language because 75% of our vocabulary comes from our reading, as well as developing the ability to think in the abstract. This common bank of stories helps to bind our school community together through shared experiences. Teachers and students can reliably refer to a body of other texts and know that others in the room will have read them.

Whilst we feel that this common base of books that all children read for shared reference must be diverse and representative, we also believe that this selection should include classics. Classic texts help us to develop our children's cultural knowledge and give them cultural touchstones which will develop a feeling of belonging. These books are also often "pre-complex" texts which introduce children to syntax and language of complex texts that they will meet later. We would not want all of the books that a child encounters to be classics, but we do believe that one of the greatest gifts a teacher can give to their students is a book that they might never have considered themselves. We must not assume that the type of books that a child already knows that they like is all that they would like if they were given the opportunity.

It is our role to introduce children to a wider range of books than they may independently choose in order to develop a familiarity with broad range of texts.

Children may encounter these books during English lessons, “Whole Class Reading” or daily read-aloud sessions.

5 Plagues highlighted as below:

Archaic language

Non-linear time sequences

Narratively complex

Figurative / symbolic text

Resistant texts

Reception	<p>Owl Babies – Martin Waddell The Gruffalo – Julia Donaldson Handa’s Surprise – Eileen Browne Mr Gumpy’s Outing – John Burningham Rosie’s Walk – Pat Hutchins Six Dinner Sid – Inga Moore Mrs Armitage – Quentin Blake Whatever Next – Jill Murphy On the Way Home – Jill Murphy Farmer Duck – Martin Waddell Goodnight Moon – Margaret Wise-Brown Shhh! – Sally Grindley</p>
Year 1	<p>Peace at Last – Jill Murphy Can’t You Sleep Little Bear? – Martin Waddell Where the Wild Things Are – Maurice Sendak The Elephant and the Bad Baby – Elfrida Vipont and Raymond Briggs Avocado Baby – John Burningham The Tiger Who Came to Tea – Judith Kerr Lost and Found – Oliver Jeffers Knuffle Bunny – Mo Willems Beegu – Alexis Deacon Dogger – Shirley Hughes Cops and Robbers – Alan and Janet Ahlberg Elmer – David McKee The Three Billy Goats Gruff – Paul Galdone Grandpa – John Burningham The Very Smart Pea and the Princess to be – Mini Grey</p>
Year 2	<p>Traction Man is Here - Mini Grey Meerkat Mail – Emily Gravett Amazing Grace – Mary Hoffman Pumpkin Soup – Helen Cooper Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Book? – Lauren Child Dr Xargle’s Book of Earthlets – Tony Ross Not Now Bernard – David McKee Tuesday – David Wiesner The Flower – John Light</p>

	<p>Gorilla – Anthony Browne Emily Brown and The Thing – Cressida Cowell Frog and Toad Together – Arnold Lobel The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark – Jill Tomlinson Fantastic Mr Fox – Roald Dahl The Hodgeheg – Dick King-Smith Flat Stanley – Jeff Brown Willa and Old Miss Annie – Berlie Dohearty The Magic Faraway Tree – Enid Blyton The Stinky Cheeseman and Other Fairly Stupid Tales – Jon Szieszk The Red Tree – Shaun Tan Wolves – Emily Gravett</p>
Year 3	<p>The Iron Man – Ted Hughes Cat Tales: Ice Cat – Linda Newberry The Sheep-pig – Dick King-Smith The Abominables- Dick King-Smith The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – CS Lewis The Battle of Bubble and Squeak – Philippa Pearce The Witches – Roald Dahl Topsy Turvy World – William Brighty Rands The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth – Eoin Culfer</p>
Year 4	<p>Bill's New Frock – Anne Fine Charlotte's Web – EB White Why the Whales Came – Michael Morpurgo The Firework Maker's Daughter – Phillip Pullman The Snow Walker's Son – Catherine Fisher Perry Angel's Suitcase – Glenda Millard Voices in the Park – Anthony Browne Cloud Busting – Malorie Blackman The Five Realms: The Legend of Podkin One-Ear Revolting Rhymes – Roald Dahl The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars</p>
Year 5	<p>The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – Joan Aiken Varjak Paw – SF Said Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver Street Child – Berlie Doherty The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars Tom's Midnight Garden – Phillipa Pearce FARThER – Grahame Baker-Smith The Infinite Lives of Maisie day – Christopher Edge Who Let The Gods Out – Maz Evans The Tyger – William Blake</p>
Year 6	<p>Holes – Louis Sachar Clockwork – Phillip Pullman The Hobbit – JRR Tolkien Skellig – David Almond Fireweed – Jill Paton Walsh River Boy – Tim Bowler The Arrival – Shaun Tan Wonder – R. J. Palacio</p>