

Year 3

Children of this age need a great storyline, but should also be experiencing deep and rich books.



The Iron Man

READ & RESPOND

Ted Hughes (Faber)

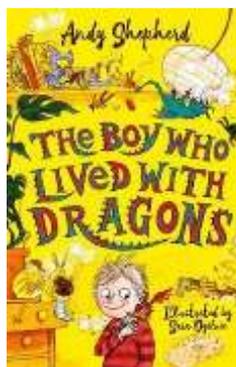
Notice and imitate the opening, using rhetorical questions to draw in the reader. With the class role play the family talking about the picnic or Hogarth telling his parents about what he had seen. Invite them to create a diary for Hogarth and news bulletins for both the Iron Man and space-bat-angel-dragon. Discuss which of the two tales is strongest and why? Ask them to draw parallels with other 'taming the monster' stories. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



The Christmasaurus

Tom Fletcher

The Christmasaurus is a story about a boy named William Trundle, and a dinosaur, the Christmasaurus. It's about how they meet one Christmas Eve and have a magical adventure. It's about friendship and families, sleigh bells and Santa, singing elves and flying reindeer, music and magic. It's about discovering your heart's true desire, and learning that the impossible might just be possible

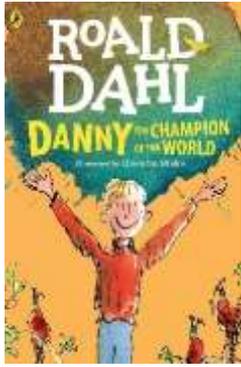


The Boy who lived with Dragons

Andy Shepherd

Transition book for Y2 to Y3

The second book in a wonderfully funny and sparky series illustrated by award-winning artist Sara Ogilvie 'My favourite sort of book - warm, funny, full of heart' Polly Faber Tomas has a secret - a big secret. He has his own tiny dragon, Flicker! A dragon which grew on a very special tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden. And not only that - his friends Ted, Kai and Kat have dragons too, all grown on the same dragon fruit tree .. Having your own dragon is magical - but Tomas is also about to find out what living with a dragon is REALLY like. When the fire-breathing kicks in and you get singed every five seconds, it's like having an unpredictable volcano in your pocket. Learning to train the dragons and keep them out of trouble at school and home will take all Tomas's creativity and patience ... What is more, the dragonfruit tree is starting to look droopy and unwell. Tomas and his friends have got to do all they can restore it to health and uncover its deepest mysteries, as well as trying to work out what big secret local bully Liam, 'King of Trouble', has got up his sleeve ... One thing is for sure, life is never dull when you have a dragon in your pocket.



Danny the Champion of the World

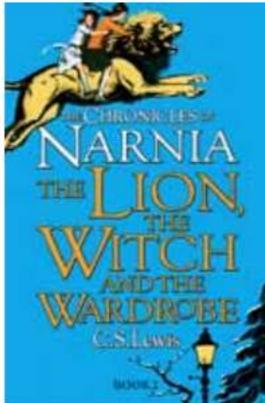
Roald Dahl

Transition book for Y2 to Y3

Written by Roald Dahl and illustrated by Quentin Blake, Danny the Champion of the World is a heart-warming story about a boy, his father and their ongoing battle with a rich snob. Danny lives in a gipsy caravan with his father, who is the most marvellous and exciting dad any boy has ever had. However, the land around them belongs to Mr Victor Hazell, an old blue-faced baboon with tiny piggy eyes.

After finally having enough, Danny and his father concoct a daring plot to give Victor the biggest shock of his life. They just have to make sure they don't get caught...

With a refreshed jacket to celebrate 100 years of Roald Dahl, this is a classic tale from the master storyteller full of all the traits that have made him so enduringly popular - villains getting their comeuppance, crazy tales and heroes that you instantly love.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

READ & RESPOND

CS Lewis (HarperCollins)

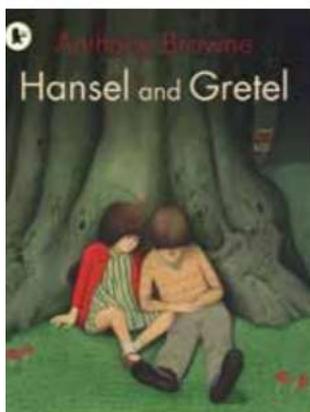
After reading, ask the class to write list poems 'through the magic door/ I saw...'. Re-read and discuss together the reaction of the Professor. Draw the lantern in the snow with the trees and ask them to write a description. In small groups recreate the meal in Mr Tumnus's house and describe it. Discuss together which is the key scene and what it means. Draw a Narnia map and invite children to draw in episodes. Encourage the children to write information reports about some of the magical creatures and design traps for the nasty ones! Together make character charts for each character to compare and contrast. With permission watch the film in lesson. Then use role play to explore conversations between the children about Edmund's behaviour. Explain his actions. Ask: *Why is he forgiven?* (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



The Creakers

Tom Fletcher

What silently waits in the shadows at night? What's under your bed, keeping just out of sight? Do you ever hear strange, creaking noises at night? Ever wonder what makes those noises? Lucy Dungston always did. Until, one morning, Lucy discovers that all the grown-ups have disappeared - as if into thin air. Chaos descends as the children in Lucy's town run riot. It's mayhem. It's madness. To most kids, it's amazing! But Lucy wants to find out the truth. Lucy lost her dad not long ago, and she's determined not to lose her mum too. She's going to get her back - and nothing is going to stop her . . . except maybe the Creakers.



Hansel and Gretel

Picture book

Anthony Browne (Walker Books)

Read a version of the original and compare it together with the class. Read the story without showing the pictures to the children, then read with the pictures. Spend time looking at each picture, so the children can notice the visual play and discuss the changes in mood the artist portrays. Encourage them to imagine being in the wood and ask: *What would you see, hear, feel, think?* Then create list poems from these ideas. Discuss the step-mother/witch and the visual imagery. Ask: *Are they just tricks? What should the father have done?* Discuss the role of poverty in the story.



Gorilla

Anthony Browne (Walker Books)

Hannah's favourite animals in the whole world are gorillas; she reads about them, watches programmes about them, and draws pictures of them. But all she really wants to do is see a gorilla in real life. Hannah's dad is always too busy to take her to the zoo, so on her birthday, Hannah decides to ask for a gorilla of her own.

This fantastical picture book from 2009-2011 Children's Laureate and Hans Christian Andersen Award winner Anthony Browne is a warm and sensitive story. With its beautiful, slightly surreal illustrations, it is a magical story to treasure and share again and again.

Flanimals



Flanimals

Ricky Gervais

The world of Flanimals, madcap creation of comedian and actor Ricky Gervais, is perfectly realized in this lavish pop-up book. From Flanimal evolution and behaviour to Flanimals of the air and of the deep, all aspects of Flanimal life are open to exploration through huge pop-ups and intricate flaps. Perfect for all ages, "Flanimals Pop-Up" is the ideal introduction to the Flanimal kingdom and the perfect gift for Flanimal lovers everywhere.

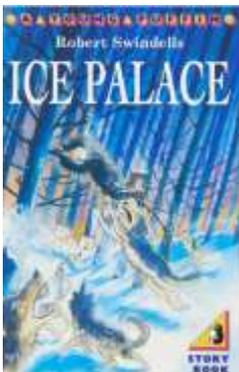


Poetry Spine

- Paint a Poem
- The World's Greatest Space Cadet
- The Puffin Book of Brilliant Poetry
- Quick! Let's Get Out of Here!

Year 4

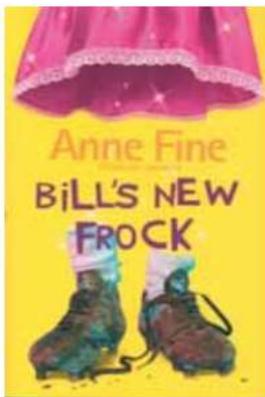
This selection covers a range of stories that extends to fantasy as well as introducing Anne Fine's wonderful books. It includes Perry Angel's Suitcase by Glenda Millard in Australia. It is a deeply moving book, both sad, but also full of hope – a lovely book. Read it yourself before reading it with the children to judge whether it is right for your class.



The Ice Palace

Robert Swindells

Ivan lives in a land where the winter is dark and fearful. Starjik, King of Winter, steals Ivan's little brother and Ivan braves the bitter cold to find him.

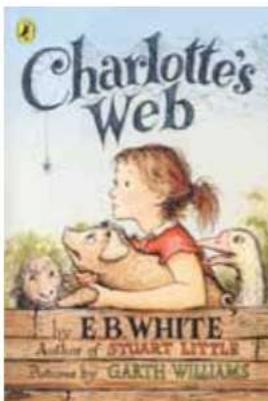


Bill's New Frock

READ & RESPOND

Anne Fine (Egmont)

Read the first sentence and then discuss how might things be different for Bill. With the class list and discuss the various things that happen to Bill as a girl. The book was written in 1989, so together consider if anything has changed since then. Act out the classroom scene in Chapter 2. Discuss the line 'I am a person' in Chapter 7. Encourage the children to write an extra scene for the book. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)

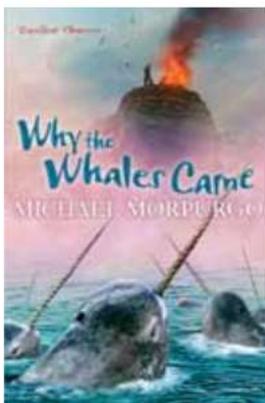


Charlotte's Web

READ & RESPOND

EB White (Puffin)

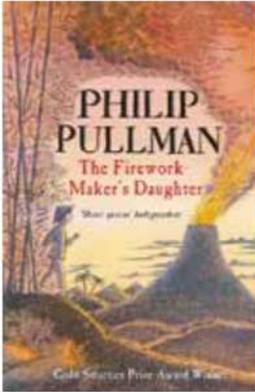
It is 63 years on, but it is still a great read, starting with such a startling opening: "Where's Papa going with that axe?" With the class track the different characters, gathering clues about their different natures. Also, chart with a character graph how Wilbur's character develops. Produce a class timeline to show the sequence of events, so the plot can be seen in one glance. Role play conversations between Fern and Avery about different events, revisiting what has happened and discuss the implications of the key events. (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



Why the Whales Came

Michael Morpurgo (Egmont)

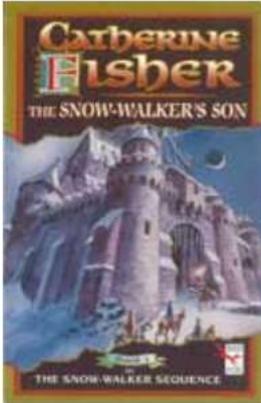
Provide the children with some information about Narwhals as they feature in the story. Also, check out Bryher on the Isles of Scilly, and Rushy Bay – which is a key setting – and research on the internet why families left Samson Island. On the board draw a map of Bryher and together label with events. Ask: *How do our views of the Birdman change and why?* Issues to discuss in class: fear, bullying, friendship and should whales be hunted. (See the *Read & Respond* series for further ideas.)



The Firework-Maker's Daughter

Phillip Pullman (Random House)

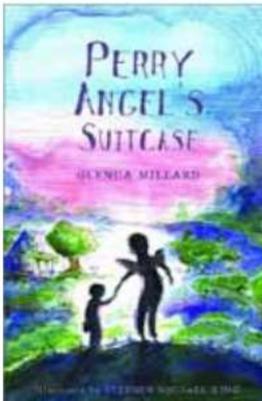
As a class invent names for new fireworks and draw designs for amazing explosive fireworks! Encourage children to write a letter from Lachand back to Lila (Chapter 2). Ask: *What is the big challenge that Lila faces?* Then in groups they can act out the scene where Lila meets Razvani. Ask: *How does the author show how Lila feels in Chapter 5? 'Illusions': what does this mean in Chapter 5? What sort of person is Lila?* Invite them to gather evidence. Provide time to create persuasive adverts for a firework show by Lila and Lachand. Also, read *The Scarecrow and his Servant* (Random House) by the same author.



The Snow Walker's Son

Catherine Fisher (Red Fox)

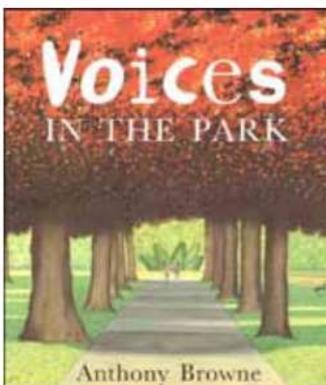
From a 'Fire' daughter to a 'Snow' son, this is the first part of a powerful trilogy involving 'magic' written by the Welsh novelist and poet, Catherine Fisher. Track the two main characters, Kari and Jessa, perhaps using a class timeline to show the main events and their developing characters. With the class make notes and discuss at the end the role of heat and cold in the story. Can they predict (or write) what might happen in the next story, *The Empty Hand* (Red Fox)?



Perry Angel's Suitcase

Glenda Millard (Phoenix Yard Books)

Read this book yourself before sharing it with the class. Discuss in lesson how everyone feels before Perry arrives and then discuss Perry's behaviour, thinking about why he acts as he does. Discuss the suitcase. Pause in Chapter 10 to discuss why Perry gets onto the raft. Ask: *What advice can be learned from Chapter 10?* Discuss the viewpoints of those involved at the end of each chapter. The themes run deep and it will help for children to talk about their feelings. There are other books in this series, all equally magical.

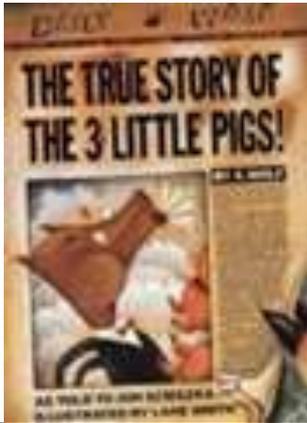


Voices in the Park

Picture book

Anthony Browne (Random House)

Read the book through several times. Ask the children to list 'things to talk about' or 'questions' then discuss. Ask: *How do you feel about each character and why? (Is the mother really a bad mother? Where is the dad? Why does she wear a bowler hat? Is it right that the girl makes the dad a cup of tea?)* Together place them in order of sympathy. Then discuss relationships. Ask: *Which is the most important picture? Why? How long did the story take to read? What is the story about? What is its theme?* Discuss the pictures, use of colour, playfulness, lines and the font used. Also, study *The Tunnel* (Walker Books) by the same author.

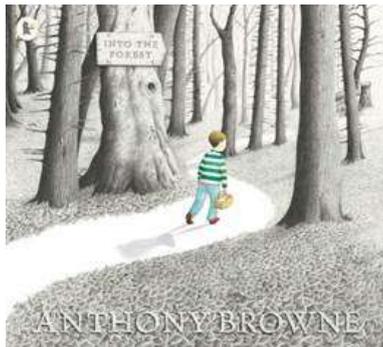


The True Story of the 3 little pigs

Jon Scieszka

What really happened to the three little pigs and the big bad wolf? Find out the truth in this hilarious picture book.

In revelatory newspaper style, this brilliant picture book exposes the truth about the three little porkers, and one A. Wolf. Putting a brilliantly inventive and very funny spin on fairy tales, Jon Scieszka and Lane Smith bring a refreshing contemporary twist to a familiar original.



Into the Forest

Anthony Browne

One night a young boy is awoken by a terrible noise. The next day he finds his father has disappeared and his mother doesn't know when he's coming back.

When she gives the boy a food basket to take to his sick Grandma, he sets off on a magical journey through a fairytale past, meeting many familiar characters on the way, including a boy with a cow, a girl with golden hair, two abandoned children and a red coat hanging from a tree.

Finally, when he reaches Granda's cottage he finds an unusual surprise waiting for him! This is another fabulous title from the deservedly popular Anthony Browne, with each illustration cleverly signposting references to popular fairy tales.



Poetry Spine

- Deep in the green Wood
- Hello H₂O
- Hot Like Fire
- Sensational!