

Barley Fields Primary School

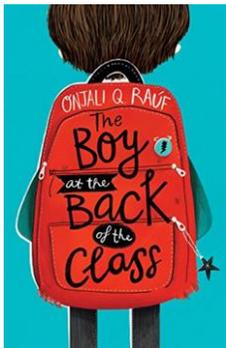
Reading Spine

Lower Key Stage 2 - Year 4



This selection covers a range of true to life stories and 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.

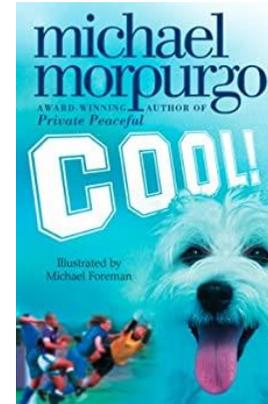


The boy at the back of the class

Onjali Q. Rauf

Told with heart and humour, The Boy at the Back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite! But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help. That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .



Cool

Michael Morpurgo

Michael Morpurgo's inspiring story of Robbie, a boy in a coma – victim of a car accident. Locked inside his own head, able to hear but not move or speak, Robbie tries to keep himself from slipping ever deeper into unconsciousness.

Robbie, football fan and animal lover, runs after his dog Lucky one day when he chases a cat and is hit by a car. Unconscious, Robbie lies in hospital, unable to speak, move or eat. But he can hear; he is aware, even though his family and friends don't know this. Inside his head, we hear Robbie's thoughts; on his Mum and sister, why his parents are separated. His friends and family try desperately to reach him – even Zola, his favourite Chelsea footballer, comes to see him. And still Robbie can't 'wake up'. Until one day, against hospital rules, Dad brings Lucky into the hospital. Can Lucky bring Robbie back to life?





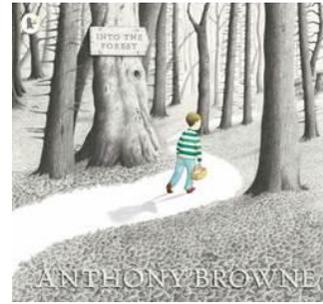
The True Story of the 3 little pigs

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.

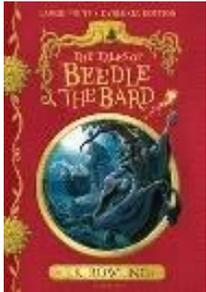


Into the Forest

Anthony Brown

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 fairy tale 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!

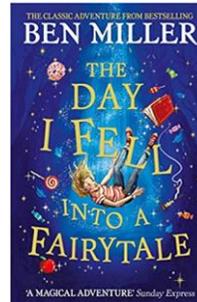


The tales of Beedle the Bard

J K Rowling

As every fan of the Harry Potter stories knows, the shelves of the Hogwarts Library are home to all sorts of fascinating books. There are three in particular you might have heard mentioned by certain Hogwarts students, and that you can add to your reading list too, including *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*.

As familiar to Hogwarts students as Cinderella and Sleeping Beauty are to Muggle children, Beedle's stories are a collection of popular fairy tales written for young witches and wizards. So, if you're wondering what's in store... well, you're in for a treat!



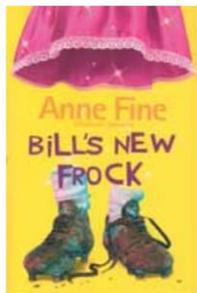
The day I fell onto a Fairy Tale

Ben Miller

Lana loves stories. Especially the ones she and her brother, Harrison, share in their make-believe games. But when Harrison decides he's too grown-up to play with Lana she finds herself feeling lonely. Until something magical happens . . .

Hidden in the strange new supermarket in town, Lana discovers a portal to a fairy-tale world! But these aren't the happy-ever-after fairy tales that Lana knows, they are darker and more dangerous, and the characters need Lana's

help to defeat an evil witch. But she can't do it alone. Can she convince Harrison to believe in stories again and journey to the world with her . . . before it's too late?



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.)

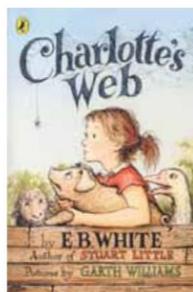


The Ice Palace

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.



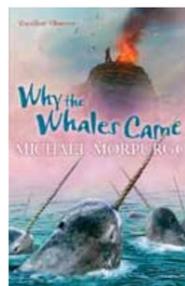


Charlotte's Web

READ & RESPOND

EB White (Puffin)

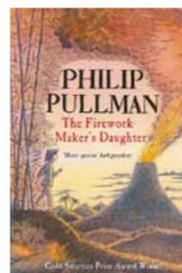
It is 63 years on, but it is still a great read, starting with such a startling opening: "Where's Papa going with that axe?" With the class track the different characters, gathering clues about their different natures. Also, chart with a character graph how Wilbur's character develops. Produce a class 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)

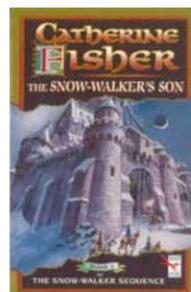
Provide the children with some information about Narwhals as they feature in the story. Also, check out Bryher on the Isles of Scilly, and Rushy Bay – which is a key setting – and research on the internet why families left Samson Island. On the board draw a map of Bryher and together label with events. 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)

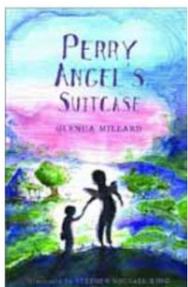
As a class invent names for new fireworks and draw designs for amazing explosive fireworks! Encourage children to write a letter from Lachand back to Lila (Chapter 2). Ask: What is the big challenge that Lila faces? Then in groups they can act out the scene where Lila meets Razvani. ask: How does the 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)

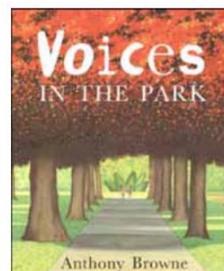
From a 'Fire' daughter to a 'Snow' son, this is the first part of a powerful trilogy involving 'magic' written by the Welsh novelist and poet, Catherine Fisher. Track the two main characters, Kari and Jessa, perhaps using a class timeline to show the main events and their developing characters. With 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.



Poetry Spine

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

