

Barley Fields Primary School

Reading Spine

Upper Key Stage 2 - Year 5



These are romping reads as well as stories that touch deeply. Some are the first books in a sequence which may encourage children to read on.

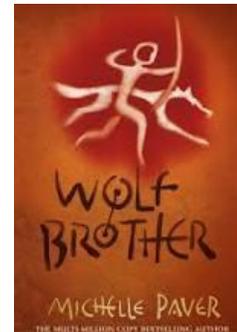


Secrets of the Sun King

Emma Carroll

London, 1922. A discovery from ancient Egypt . . .
A cursed package . . .
The untold story of a young pharaoh . . .

When Lilian Kaye finds a parcel on her grandad's doorstep, she is shocked to see who sent it: a famous Egyptologist, found dead that very morning, according to every newspaper in England! The mysterious package holds the key to a story . . . about a king whose tomb archaeologists are desperately hunting for. Lil and her friends must embark on an incredible journey - to return the package to its resting place, to protect those they love, and to break the deadly pharaoh's curse . . .

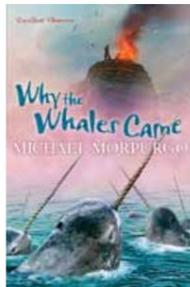


Wolf Brother

Michael Paver

A boy. A wolf. A legend for all time. The first book in the internationally bestselling WOLF BROTHER (Chronicles of Ancient Darkness) series
Thousands of years ago, a powerful and malevolent force conjured a demon: a demon so evil that it could only be contained in the body of a ferocious bear, a demon determined to destroy the world. Only one boy can stop it ...
Twelve-year-old Torak sees his father murdered by the bear. With his dying breath, he asks his son to make him a promise. Alone, wounded, terrified and on the run, Torak must now lead the bear to the Mountain of the World Spirit - a mountain that no one has ever found before. But can Torak keep his promise? A terrifying quest commences in a world of wolves, tree spirits and Hidden

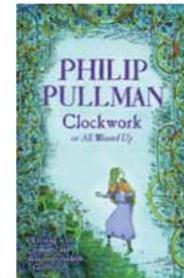
People, a world in which trusting a friend means risking your life.



Why the Whales Came

Michael Morpurgo (Egmont)

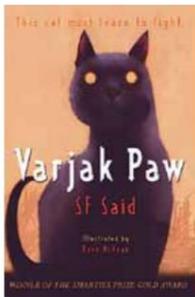
Provide the children with some information about Narwhals as they feature in the story. Also, check out Bryher on the Isles of Scilly, and Rushy Bay – which is a key setting – and research on the internet why families left Samson Island. On the board draw a map of Bryher and together label with events.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



Clockwork

Philip Pullman (Random House)

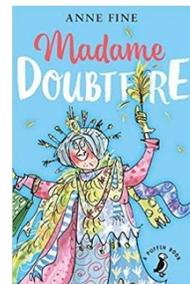
Before reading, ask: *What does the cover suggest the book will be about?* While reading it in class create a story map of the story and show how the main events and characters interconnect. Ask: *Which are the good/bad characters? Where is your evidence?* Together compare Karl and Gretl using evidence from the text. Ask: *In what way is the book like 'clockwork'?* *How are our lives like clockwork?* *In what ways do we 'wind up the future like clockwork'?* Re-read the book and pause at the places where there is the most suspense. Ask: *How does Philip Pullman create suspense? What techniques does he use? How does he keep the reader 'all wound up'?*



Varjak Paw

SF Said (Random House)

After reading the book, ask children to paint dark city landscapes and skylines. Then together draw role-on-the-wall for Varjak, collecting clues and quotes about his developing character. Ask: *Why is Varjak rejected and yet why does he return?* Explain the difference between Varjak, the Elder Paw and the other cats. Can the children contrast the inside of the house with outside in the city? Together invent a 'Jalal tale' and explain 'the way'. Invite the children to write a night adventure for Varjak – for example, a story in which he nearly gets caught by Sally Bones. Encourage them to write a sequel adventure and then read *The Outlaw Varjak Paw* (Random House).

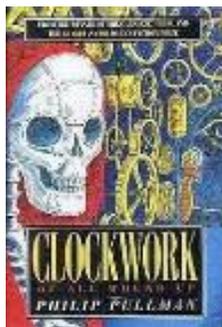


Madam Doubtfire

Anne Fine

Daniel and Miranda Hillard are separated and Miranda, a successful businesswoman, severely limits the amount of time Daniel, an impractical, out-of-work actor, is allowed to spend with their three children Lydia, Christopher and Natalie. When Miranda decides to hire a nanny, however, Daniel disguises himself as a woman and gets the job. The two eldest children immediately know who "Madame Doubtfire" is, but the youngest and Miranda are fooled. Daniel uses his disguise to spend time with his children. Miranda comments that the house has never been run better. After Miranda discovers Daniel's secret — and after one more terrible fight — both parents admit to mistakes and make arrangements for

Daniel to see his children more often



Clockwork

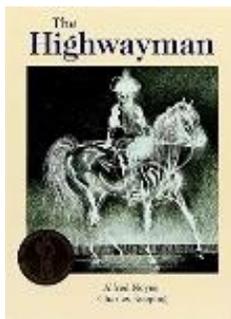
Philip Pullman

Tick, tick, tick, tock. Once you've wound some things up nothing can stop them . . .

It is a cold winter's night when Karl enters the White Horse Tavern looking like he's swallowed a thundercloud. His final task as a clockmaker apprentice is to make a new figure for the great clock of Glockenheim. He has not made the figure - or got any idea of what it could be, and the unveiling is tomorrow. Fritz is also in the tavern; there to read aloud his new spooky story. Like Karl, he hasn't finished. Well, he knows how the story starts and he knows it's

called *Clockwork* - so, with the snow swirling down outside, he sets his story going and just has to hope that the ending will come to him as he tells it.

Suddenly, Fritz's story and real life merge in a completely sinister way - and just like clockwork it can't be stopped . . .



The Highwayman

Alfred Noyes

*The road was a ribbon of moonlight over the purple moor,
And the highwayman came riding-
Riding-riding-
The highwayman came riding, up to the old inn-door.*

In Alfred Noyes's thrilling poem, charged with drama and tension, we ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter. The vivid imagery of the writing is matched by Charles Keeping's haunting illustrations which won him the Kate Greenaway Medal.

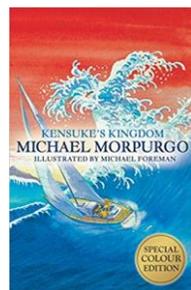


The Midnight Fox

READ & RESPOND

Betsy Byars (Faber)

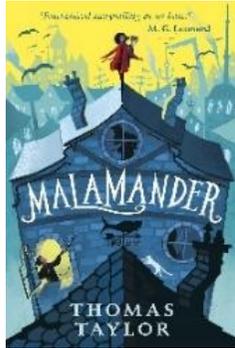
Read the first two paragraphs and discuss as a class what the story might be about. Tom says: *'I like the way I am'*. Discuss the tension between his father's and Uncle Fred's expectations and Tom's view. Ask the children to invent newspaper titles for key incidents and use these to label a class map of the story. Provide time to write letters to Petie Burkis about the main events. Ask: *Why did Uncle Fred and Aunt Millie 'never mention what I had done'?* At the end, Tom says *'it was as if it had happened to another boy'*. *What did happen? How did he change?* Then discuss who was right: Uncle Fred or Tom?



Kensuke's Kingdom

Michael Morpurgo

This is a treat for lovers of drama-filled stories. It tells of how a young boy named Michael mysteriously disappears the night before his twelfth birthday. The next morning, Michael finds himself washed up on a beach on a remote island with a bowl of water and some grilled fish next to him.



Malamander

Thomas Taylor

Nobody visits Eerie-on-Sea in the winter. Especially not when darkness falls and the wind howls around Maw Rocks and the wreck of the battleship Leviathan, where even now some swear they have seen the unctuous Malamander creep...

Herbert Lemon, Lost-and-Founder at the Grand Nautilus Hotel, knows that returning lost things to their rightful owners is not easy – especially when the lost thing is not a thing at all, but a girl. No one knows what happened to Violet Parma's parents twelve years ago, and when she engages Herbie to help her find them, the pair discover that their disappearance might have something to do with the legendary sea-monster, the Malamander. Eerie-on-Sea has always been a mysteriously chilling place, where strange stories seem to wash up. And it just got stranger...



A Christmas Carol

Charles Dickens

A captivating, rhyming picture book retelling of Charles Dickens' classic tale about the true meaning of Christmas.

Mean old Ebenezer Scrooge hates *everything*. Even Christmas! Until, one frosty Christmas Eve, Scrooge receives a visit from three ghostly spirits, who whisk him away on a magical journey through past, present and future... But can they melt his frozen heart before it's too late?

Introduce even the youngest of children to this classic story and share in the true spirit of Christmas. Retold in rhyme, with atmospheric illustrations, this will make the perfect Christmas gift.



Tom's Midnight Garden **READ&RESPOND**

Philippa Pearce (Oxford University Press)

This book demands a timeline of events so that the class can see the way in which the plot is constructed and how time shifts. (You can see the house that Philippa Pearce used as a basis for the book online: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2644779/Country-house-inspired-Philippa-Pearces-Toms-Midnight-Garden-goes-market-3-5million.html>) Mime moving as a ghost through a door into a different world. When reading Chapter 20 discuss *'time no longer'*. Before reading Chapter 26, discuss with the class how the tale will end. Invite them to draw the garden and write an extra episode for Tom and Hatty. Can they write their own midnight trip into another world, such as *Pie's Midnight Forest* and identify the link with time travel in *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* from Year 3? (See the *Read & Respond* title for further ideas.)



Poetry Spine

- The Works 4
- Lost Magic – The very best of Brian Moses
- Juggling with Gerbils
- The Magic Box