

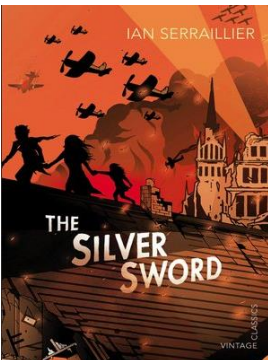


The Weston-on-Trent Reading Spine is a selection of books that teachers choose from and add to as exciting new titles and world-recommended authors emerge. Books are selected to ensure a broad, balanced choice, including classic and contemporary authors, prize-winning books, diversity, inclusivity and cultural capital.

Also featured in our Reading Spine are the five types of complex text that children should encounter in order to read with rigor, independence, precision and insight.⁽¹⁾ The five text types include: archaic language, non-linear time sequences, complex narratives (e.g. non-human narrators or more than one narrator); complex stories (e.g. interwoven plots or figurative/symbolic); resistant texts (where hints, uncertainties or clues need to be found).

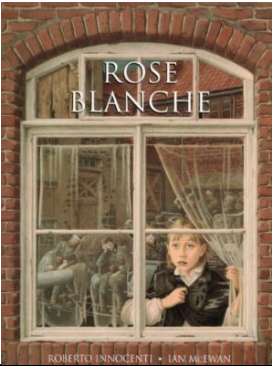
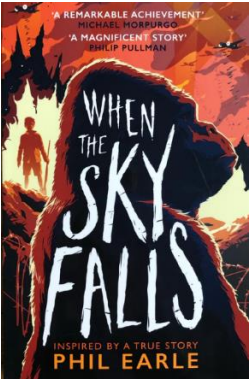
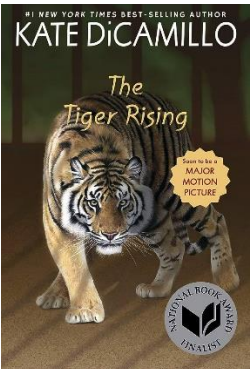
Our books are used for sharing as class novels, core texts for writing, exploring as part of whole-class reading lessons, reading to make links with other areas of the curriculum, and additional texts for children to read for enjoyment.

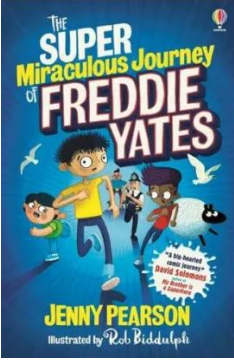
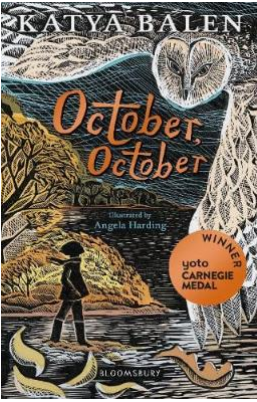
1. (Lemov, D., Driggs, C., Woolway, E. (2016), *Reading Reconsidered: a practical guide to rigorous literacy instruction*, Jossey-Bass, New Jersey.

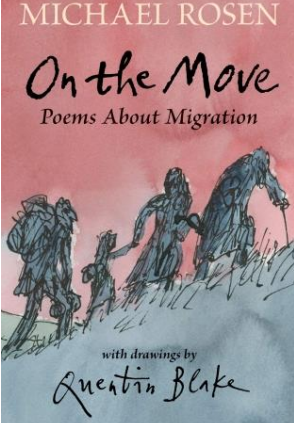
Year 6 Fiction		
Book, author, year published	Themes, curriculum links, resources	Why recommended
<p>The Day the Crayons Quit (2013) and The Day the Crayons Came Home (2015), both by Drew Daywalt</p> 	<p>Persuasive Complaint Friendship Adventure Empathy Art and design</p> <p>Literacy Shed resources: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-gb/resource/the-day-the-crayons-quit-by-drew-daywalt-and-oliver-jeffers-5-7- </p>	<p>Awarded the E.B. White Read-Aloud Award and voted a 2014 Book of the Year by Children's Choice Book Awards.</p> <p>Picture book with lots of writing opportunities.</p>
<p>The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips by Michael Morpurgo (2006)</p> 	<p>World War Two Race Pets Evacuees Moving home Friendship</p> <p>Teaching resources available: https://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/resources/the-amazing-story-of-adolphus-tips-teaching-resources </p>	<p>Shortlisted for Blue Peter Book Award 2006. A heart-warming tale of courage and warmth, set against the backdrop of the second world war, about an abandoned village, a lifelong friendship and one very adventurous cat!</p> <p>Significant author, historical fiction.</p>
<p>The Silver Sword by David Frankland (1956)</p> 	<p>World War Two Family Nature</p>	<p>Four children make their way across war torn Europe from their home in Warsaw, Poland to Switzerland, where they seek to be reunited with their parents. Their courage and resilience in each new situation that arises make this a gripping story.</p> <p>Classic fiction – historical adventure.</p>
<p>Carrie's War by Nina Bawden (1973)</p> 	<p>World War Two Evacuees Adventure Family Friendship Flashback</p> <p>BBC Teach supported audio and visual resources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks1--ks2-carries-war/zk7mcqt </p> <p>Literacy Shed resources available: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en- </p>	<p>Won the 1993 Phoenix Award from the Children's Literature Association, has been adapted twice for television by the BBC, first in 1974, and then again in 2004. One of the most loved and enduring wartime novels, Carrie's War is a modern classic.</p> <p>Classic fiction – historical adventure</p>

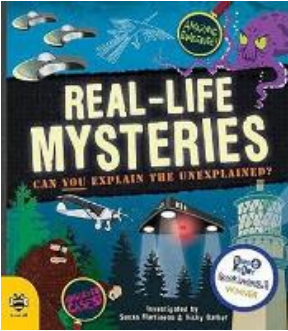

	us/resource/carrie-s-war-by-nina-bowden-9-11-en-gb	
<p>The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf (2018)</p> 	<p>Refugees Politics Bereavement War Determination Celebrating differences Diversity Acceptance Religion, faith Bullying Friendship</p> <p>CLPE Teaching sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/boy-back-class</p>	<p>Winner of the Blue Peter Book Award 2019, winner of the Waterstones Children's Book Prize 2019.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction</p>
<p>The Explorer by Katherine Rundell (2017)</p> 	<p>Amazon rainforest Native animals Survival Jungle</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a-literary-leaf-for-the-explorer</p>	<p>Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award 2018. From Boston Globe-Horn Book Award winner Katherine Rundell comes an exciting new novel about a group of kids who must survive in the Amazon after their plane crashes.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction – adventure.</p>
<p>Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo (1999)</p> 	<p>Pacific Ocean Friendship Survival Culture Language barriers</p> <p>Curriculum links and teaching ideas: https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/books/kensukes-kingdom</p>	<p>Children's Book Award winner 2000. A desert-island adventure, and a subtle observation of friendship, trust and humanity.</p> <p>Classic fiction – adventure.</p>
<p>A Place Called Perfect by Helana Duggan (Fiction)</p>	<p>Community Individuality Conforming</p> <p>Supporting resources: https://authorfy.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Authorfy-Scheme-of-Work-A-Place-Called-Perfect-Compressed.pdf</p>	<p>Shortlisted for Waterstones Children's book 2018. A weird and wonderful tale about a town where nothing is at it seems. A suspense-filled tale of bravery and self-belief.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction – mystery.</p>

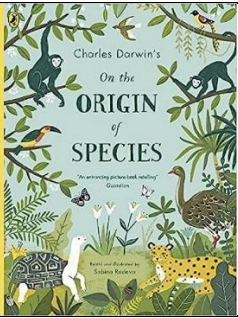
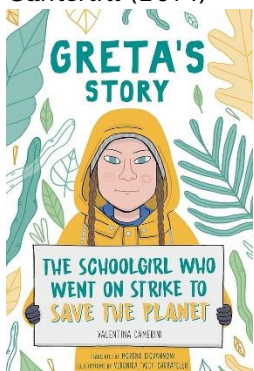
		
<p>London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (2014)</p> 	<p>Autism Mystery London Family</p> <p>CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/system/files/2022-07/The%20London%20eye%20mystery.pdf </p>	<p>Bisto Book of the Year 2008. The reader is kept in suspense throughout this humorous adventure which centres around the capital's landmark visitor attraction.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction – action adventure, mystery</p>
<p>The Secret of Haven Point by Lisette Auton (2022)</p> 	<p>Disability Home Family</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/the-secret-of-haven-point </p> <p>CLPE Q&A with the author: https://clpe.org.uk/blog/qa-lisette-auton-all-about-secret-haven-point </p>	<p>Shortlisted for the Puffin Diverse Book Awards. The Secret of Haven Point is a heart-warming adventure story that charts the escapades of Alpha and her found family of Wrecklings: a motley crew of disabled children and adults who have found solace in a coastal location by creating their own mutually supportive community, away from meddling outsiders.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction – adventure</p>
<p>Illegal: A graphic novel telling one boy's epic journey to Europe by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin (2017)</p> 	<p>Refugee Family Loss Journey War Conflict Freedom Survival</p> <p>TES teaching resource: https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/refugee-week-illegal-teachers-notes-by-eoin-colfer-and-andrew-donkin-11928958 </p>	<p>Winner of the 2021 Red Book Award and shortlisted for the Children's Book of the Year at the Irish Book Awards. New York Times Best selling author Eoin Colfer. This is a powerful and timely story about one boy's epic journey across Africa to Europe, a graphic novel for all children with glorious colour artwork throughout. From Eoin Colfer, previously Irish Children's Laureate.</p> <p>Contemporary fiction – graphic novel.</p>

<p>Rose Blanche by Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti</p> 	<p>World War Two Holocaust Germany Jews</p>	<p>Ian McEwan is a critically acclaimed author. In <i>Rose Blanche</i>, a young German girl watches as the streets of her town fill with soldiers and tanks. Then, one day, she follows a truck into the woods and discovers a terrible secret.</p> <p>Historical fiction – picture book.</p>
<p>When The Sky Falls by Phil Earle (2021)</p> 	<p>World War Two Evacuation Bullying Dyslexia Family Friendship</p> <p>Literacy Shed resources: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-us/resource/when-the-sky-falls-by-phil-earle-9-11-en-gb</p> <p>CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/when-sky-falls</p>	<p>Winner of the British Book Award for Children's Fiction Book of the Year. Inspired by a true story, <i>When the Sky Falls</i> depicts a wartime setting that is frequently used in fiction for children and teens and yet this is at its heart a story about the struggles of one boy to make sense of his emotions and the blows life has dealt him.</p> <p>Contemporary author – historical adventure.</p>
<p>Fly Me Home by Polly Ho Yen (2017)</p> 	<p>Migration Difference</p> <p>Discussion guide available on Literacy Shed: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-us/resource/fly-me-home-by-polly-ho-yen-en-gb</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a-literary-leaf-for-fly-me-home</p>	<p><i>Fly Me Home</i> is an incredibly moving portrait of one family's struggle to adjust to life in a new country. Full of friendship, family and magic, this stunning novel by Polly Ho-Yen, author of <i>Boy in the Tower</i> (shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Book Award) and <i>Where Monsters Lie</i>, is a must-read for 9-12 readers.</p> <p>Contemporary author – fantasy genre.</p>
<p>The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo (2001)</p> 	<p>Loss and bereavement Divorce Bullying Friendship</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a-literary-leaf-for-the-tiger-rising</p>	<p>A National Book Award finalist by Newbery Medal winning author Kate DiCamillo, this book expresses loss wonderfully through the metaphor of a caged tiger.</p> <p>Contemporary author – drama.</p>

<p>The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson (2020)</p> 	<p>Grief Family break-ups Friendship Belonging</p>	<p>Winner of the 2022 best laugh-out-loud book for 9-13 year olds. Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2020. A Sunday Times Children's Book of the Week. The super funny, heart-warming adventure of three boys, one summer holiday, and a few miracles along the way.</p> <p>Contemporary author – comedy.</p>
<p>October, October by Katya Balen (2020)</p> 	<p>Nature, isolation, wilderness family urbanisation change, growing up moving home mental health friendship</p> <p>CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/october-october</p> <p>Bloomsbury Publishing Educational Resource: https://www.bloomsbury.com/media/gcibupvl/octoberoctober_teachersnotes_pb.pdf</p> <p>Carnegie resources and questions: https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CKG22_Shadowing_Resources_October-October.pdf</p>	<p>Winner of the Yoto Carnegie Medal 2022. The language style is poetic and lyrical, expressive and vivid. A story of acceptance and seeing things from a different perspective.</p> <p>Contemporary author – adventure/drama</p>
<p>Coming to England by Floella Benjamin</p>		<p>Black History</p>
<p>Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah</p>		<p>Black History</p>
<p>Anne Frank by Josephine Poole</p>		<p>WW2, holocaust</p>

Year 6 Poetry		
Overheard in a Tower Block by Joseph Coelho (Poetry)	Literacy Leaf	Joseph Coelho (modern 2017 poetry collection from award-winning poet)
Rhythm and Poetry by Karl Nova (Poetry)	'Change' and 'Seasons' by Karl Nova (Poetry)	Karl Nova (British hip hop artist and poet with Nigerian heritage – Shortlisted for the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education Poetry Award 2018)
The Final Year by Matt Goodfellow (Poetry)		
 <p>On The Move: Poems About Migration by Michael Rosen (2020)</p>	<p>Empathy Kindness Refugee experiences</p> <p>CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/move-poems-about-migration</p>	<p>A truly incredible collection of Michael Rosen's poetry, with illustrations by Sir Quentin Blake, focusing on the themes of migration, refugees and displacement.</p> <p>Many of the poems in this collection are linked to Michael Rosen's search for information about his own relatives and what happened to them in World War II. The book is illustrated by Quentin Blake with pictures of people who, as Michael Rosen says in his introduction, 'could be people throughout history – on the move through the Second World War, or on the move today'.</p>
Still I Rise by Maya Angelou		Black History
Where the Poppies Now Grow by Hilary Robinson (Poetry)		WWI
Match Day Sonnet by Nadryv (Poetry)		
It's a great time to be royal blue; Responsibility by Paul Cookson (poetry)		
Poems from the Second World War by Gaby Morgan (Poetry)		Poetry that reflects experiences of World War II from beginning to end, from the declaration of war to remembering and grieving for the dead. The collection is produced in partnership

		with the Imperial War Museum.
Year 6 Non-fiction		
All Aboard the Empire Windrush by Jillian Powell (Non-fiction)		Black History
D-Day by Agnieszka Biskup (Graphic novel – non-fiction based)		
Walter Tull's Scrapbook by Michael Morgan (Non-fiction)		
<p>Real-life Mysteries: Can you explain the unexplained by Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker (2017)</p> 	<p>Mystery Fake news Facts, opinions E-safety Science</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning sequence available: https://literacytree.com/literacy-leaves/real-life-mysteries-can-you-explain-the-unexplained-1</p>	<p>Winner of the blue peter Book Award 2018. From mysteries like Shackleton's ghostly companion to the Loch Ness Monster and friends, read the amazing evidence about these mysterious cases and make up your own mind.</p> <p>Non-fiction – debunking myths and mysteries</p>
<p>Politics for Beginners by Louie Stowell (2018)</p> 	<p>Politics: Political systems Elections Voting Democracy Government Feminism Human rights Freedom of speech Fake news</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literacy-leaves/politics-for-beginners</p>	<p>Shortlisted for Children's Illustrated/Non-Fiction Book of the Year at the British Book Awards 2019. A Sunday Times Children's Book of the Week. With Brexit and constant political uncertainty in the UK, people are more confused by politics than ever before. Politics for Beginners answers the questions that people are afraid to ask, offering a no-nonsense guide to what politics is all about.</p> <p>Non-fiction infographics</p>
Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species by Sabina Radeva	<p>Science Evolution Inheritance</p> <p>Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literacy-leaves/darwins-on-the-origin-of-species</p>	<p>Molecular biologist and illustrator Sabina Radeva has re-created Darwin's most famous work as a beautifully illustrated book for children and adults alike. The stunning pictures bring the theory of evolution to life for young</p>

		<p>readers, and anyone who wants to learn about evolution.</p> <p>Non-fiction science/biology</p>
<p>Greta's Story: The Schoolgirl Who Went on Strike to Save the Planet by Valentina Camerini (2019)</p> 	<p>Climate change Activism Environmental issues</p>	<p>The story of Greta Thunberg, the schoolgirl who inspired a worldwide climate change movement.</p> <p>Non-fiction biography</p>