## Weston-on-Trent



## Reading Spine

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 fives types of complex text that children should encounter in order to read with rigor, independence, precision and insight. 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.

I. (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
The Day the Crayons Quit (2013) and The Day the Crayons Came Home (2015), both by Drew Daywalt	Persuasive Complaint Friendship Adventure Empathy	Awarded the E.B. White Read- Aloud Award and voted a 2014 Book of the Year by Children's Choice Book Awards.
for the distriction of these and the state of the state o	Art and design  Literacy Shed resources: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en- gb/resource/the-day-the-crayons-quit- by-drew-daywalt-and-oliver-jeffers-5-7-	Picture book with lots of writing opportunities.
The Amazing Story of	World War Two	Shortlisted for Blue Peter Book
Adolphus Tips by Michael	Race Pets	Award 2006. A heart-warming
Morpurgo (2006)	Evacuees	tale of courage and warmth, set against the backdrop of the
michael morpurgo	Moving home	second world war, about an
The Amazing Story of	Friendship	abandoned village, a lifelong
Adolphus	•	friendship and one very
Tips	Teaching resources available:	adventurous cat!
"Classic Morpurgo brilliance."	https://www.michaelmorpurgo.com/resourc	Cianificant author bistorical
Badediriri Chana.  Philadag Nasi	es/the-amazing-story-of-adolphus-tips- teaching-resources	Significant author, historical fiction.
The Silver Sword by David Frankland (1956)  THE SILVER SWORD	World War Two Family Nature	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.
VINTAGE		Classic fiction - historical adventure.
Carrie's War by Nina Bawden	World War Two	Won the 1993 Phoenix
(1973)  THE CLASSIC DESTREELER.	Evacuees Adventure	Award from the Children's Literature Association, has been
	Family	adapted twice for television by
Carrie's War	Friendship	the BBC, first in 1974, and then
Nina Bawden	Flashback	again in 2004. One of the most
	DDC T	loved and enduring wartime
2	BBC Teach supported audio and visual	novels, Carrie's War is a modern classic.
	resources: https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-	ciussic.
	radio/english-kslks2-carries-	Classic fiction – historical
	war/zk7mcqt	adventure
	Literacy Shed resources available:	
	https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en-	

	us/resource/carrie-s-war-by-nina-	
	bowden-9-II-en-gb	
The Boy at the Back of the	Refugees	Winner of the Blue Peter Book
Class by Onjali Q. Rauf (2018)	Politics	Award 2019, winner of the
	Bereavement	Waterstones Children's Book
	War	Prize 2019.
	Determination	
ONJALI Q RAUF	Celebrating differences	Told with heart and humour,
P ML S	Diversity	The Boy at the Back of the
Dugo	Acceptance	Class is a child's perspective on
at the	Religion, faith	the refugee crisis, highlighting
Dack	Bullying	the importance of friendship
22090	Friendship	and kindness in a world that
(Caso)	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	doesn't always make sense.
	CLPE Teaching sequence available:	as some a unit age mante somes.
	https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/boy-back-	Contemporary fiction
	class	Contemporary nettors
The Explorer by Katherine	Amazon rainforest	Winner of the Costa Children's
Rundell (2017)	Native animals	Book Award 2018. From Boston
Winner of the Costa Children's Book Award	Survival	Globe-Horn Book Award
KATHERINE	Jungle	winner Katherine Rundell comes
RUNDELL	Jangie	an exciting new novel about a
	Literacy Leaf planning resources available:	group of kids who must survive
	https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a-	in the Amazon after their plane
TUDEARED	literary-leaf-for-the-explorer	crashes.
EXPLOREK	merary tear for the explorer	Crusites.
'A very exciting adventure story - I loved it' Jacqueline Wilson		Contemporary fiction –
		adventure.
		daventare.
Kensuke's Kingdom by	Pacific Ocean	Children's Book Award winner
Michael Morpurgo (1999)	Friendship	2000. A desert-island
intertact Morpargo (1111)	Survival	adventure, and a subtle
	Culture	observation of friendship, trust
Control of the contro	Language barriers	and humanity.
	Language partiers	and namaring.
W. Company	Curriculum links and teaching ideas:	Classic fiction – adventure.
MICHAEL MORPURGO	https://www.teachingideas.co.uk/books/ke	Classic riction advertible.
ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL FOREMAN	nsukes-kingdom	
The St.	risukes kiriguorii	
SPECIAL		
COLOUR		
A Disas Call LD Call	Community	Chamble and C. M. J.
A Place Called Perfect by	Community	Shortlisted for Waterstones
Helana Duggan (Fiction)	Individuality	Children's book 2018. A weird
	Conforming	and wonderful tale about a
	C	town where nothing is at it
	Supporting resources:	seems. A suspense-filled tale of
	https://authorfy.com/wp-	bravery and self-belief.
	content/uploads/2018/06/Authorfy-	
	Scheme-of-Work-A-Place-Called-Perfect-	Contemporary fiction –
	Compressed.pdf	mystery.



London Eye Mystery by Siobhan Dowd (2014)



Autism Mystery London Family

CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/system/files/2022-07/The%20London%20eye%20mystery.pdf

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.

Contemporary fiction – action adventure, mystery

The Secret of Haven Point by Lisette Auton (2022)



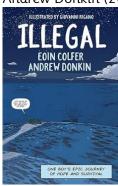
Disability Home Family

Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/the-secret-of-haven-point

CLPE Q&A with the author: https://clpe.org.uk/blog/qa-lisette-autonall-about-secret-haven-point Shortlisted for the Puffin
Diverse Book Awards. The Secret
of Haven Point is a heartwarming 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.

Contemporary fiction – adventure

Illegal: A graphic novel telling one boy's epic journey to Europe by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin (2017)



Family Loss Journey War Conflict Freedom Survival

Refugee

TES teaching resource: https://www.tes.com/teaching-

resource/refugee-week-illegal-teachersnotes-by-eoin-colfer-and-andrewdonkin-11928958 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.

Contemporary fiction - graphic novel.

Rose Blanche by Ian McEwan and Roberto Innocenti  ROSE BLANCHE  ROBERTO INNOCENTI IN MALIMAN	World War Two Holocaust Germany Jews	Ian McEwan is a critically acclaimed author. In Rose Blanche, 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.  Historical fiction — picture book.
When The Sky Falls by Phil Earle (2021)  A REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT HICHAEL POREUMGE A MAGNIFICH STORY HICHAEL POLLMAN  WHEN THE  SALL  INSERTED BY A TRUE STORY PHIL EARLE	World War Two Evacuation Bullying Dyslexia Family Friendship  Literacy Shed resources: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en- us/resource/when-the-sky-falls-by-phil- earle-9-II-en-gb  CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/when-sky- falls	Winner of the British Book Award for Children's Fiction Book of the Year. Inspired by a true story, When the Sky Falls 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.  Contemporary author — historical adventure.
Fly Me Home by Polly Ho Yen (2017)  A new country, A stronge city, A inidden wonder  POLLY HO-YEN	Migration Difference  Discussion guide available on Literacy Shed: https://www.literacyshedplus.com/en- us/resource/fly-me-home-by-polly-ho- yen-en-gb Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a- literary-leaf-for-fly-me-home	Fly Me Home 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 Boy in the Tower (shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the Blue Peter Book Award) and Where Monsters Lie, is a must-read for 9-12 readers.  Contemporary author – fantasy genre
The Tiger Rising by Kate DiCamillo (2001)  KATE DiCAMILLO  The Tiger Rising	Loss and bereavement Divorce Bullying Friendship  Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary-leaves/a- literary-leaf-for-the-tiger-rising	genre.  A National Book Award finalist by Newbery Medal winning author Kate DiCamillo, this book expresses loss wonderfully through the metaphor of a caged tiger.  Contemporary author — drama.

The Super Miraculous Journey of Freddie Yates by Jenny Pearson (2020)    Friendship   Belonging   Friendship   Belonging   Shortlisted for the Costa Children's Book Award 2020. A Sunday Times Children's Book Award 2020. A Sunday Times Children's Book of the Week. The super funny, heart-warring adventure of three boys, one summer holiday, and a few miracles along the way.    Contemporary author - comedy.   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.   Https://lope.org.uk/books/book/actober-october   Bloomsbury Publishing Educational   Resource: https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2027/03/CKG22_Shadow ing_Resources_October—October.pdf   Black History   Black History   Coming to England by Floella   Benjamin   Black History   WW2, holocaust   Poole   Po			
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Belonging  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.  Contemporary author — comedy.  October, October by Katya Balen (2020)  Nature, isolation, wilderness family urbanisation change, growing up moving home mental health friendship  CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/october-october  Bloomsbury Publishing Educational Resource: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/october-october  Bloomsbury Publishing Educational Resources and questions: https://carnegiegreenaway.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/CKG22_Shadow ing_Resources_October_October.pdf  Coming to England by Floella Benjamin  Windrush Child by Benjamin Zephaniah  Anne Frank by Josephine  Nature, isolation, wilderness family winderness along the way.  Contemporary author — contended a several properties 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.  Contemporary author — adventure/drama  Windrawsh Child by Benjamin Zephaniah  Nane Frank by Josephine  Shortlisted for the Yoto Cannegie Children's Book and 2020. A Sunday Times Children's Book and a few miracles along the way.  Contemporary author — contended a style is poetic and lyrical, expressive and vivid. A story of acceptance and seeing things from a different perspective.  Contemporary author — adventure/drama  Black History  Shortlisted for the Yoto Carnegie Phople along the way.  Contemporary author — adventure/drama  Black History  WW2, holocaust			out-loud book for 9-13 year
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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)		
MICHAEL ROSEN  On the Move  Poems About Migration  with drawings by  Lucitin Blake  On The Move: Poems About  Migration by Michael Rosen (2020)	Empathy Kindness Refugee experiences  CLPE planning sequence available: https://clpe.org.uk/books/book/move- poems-about-migration	A truly incredible collection of Michael Rosen's poetry, with illustrations by Sir Quentin Blake, focusing on the themes of migration, refugees and displacement.  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'.
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)		
Real-life Mysteries: Can you explain the unexplained by Susan Martineau and Vicky Barker (2017)  REAL-LIFE MYSTERIES  CAN YOU EXPLAIN THE UNEXPLAINTED  SEES HORIZON A SALE OF THE OFFICE OF THE OFFIC	Mystery Fake news Facts, opinions E-safety Science  Literacy Leaf planning sequence available: https://literacytree.com/literary- leaves/real-life-mysteries-can-you- explain-the-unexplained-l	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. Non-fiction — debunking myths and mysteries
Politics for Beginners by Louie Stowell (2018)  We can declare wo?  What do live to the land of the la	Politics: Political systems Elections Voting Democracy Government Feminism Human rights Freedom of speech Fake news  Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary- leaves/politics-for-beginners	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.
Charles Darwin's On the Origin of Species by Sabina Radeva	Science Evolution Inheritance  Literacy Leaf planning resources available: https://literacytree.com/literary- leaves/darwins-on-the-origin-of-species	Non-fiction infographics  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

Chorles Darwin's On the ORIGIN SPECIES		readers, and anyone who wants to learn about evolution.  Non-fiction science/biology
Greta's Story: The Schoolgirl	Climate change	The story of Greta Thunberg,
Who Went on Strike to Save	Activism	the schoolgirl who inspired a
the Planet by Valentina	Environmental issues	worldwide climate change
Camerini (2019)		movement.
THE SCHOOLGIRL WHO WENT ON STRIKE TO		Non-fiction biography
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