

Year 4 Guiding Readers Book List

Many of the selected books address interesting themes, play with text structure and encourage the development of visual literacy							
Titles	Authors	Illustrators	Description	Key points	Number of pages	ISBN	Publisher
Ancient Egypt	Williams, Marcia	Williams, Marcia	These are nine stories of Ancient Egypt, wittily retold in comic-strip style. Full of mystery and adventure, the stories of the Egyptian Pharaohs and their ancient gods are steeped in thousands of years of history. From the creation myth to the curse of Tutankhamen and the fall of Cleopatra, Marcia Williams' classic comic strip retellings bring new life to the myths and wonders of this ancient civilisation.	Comic stye format. Myths and legends	48	9781406338324	Walker Books
Archie's War	Williams, Marcia	Williams, Marcia	Marcia Williams' <i>Archie's War</i> is a fictionalised autobiographical scrapbook charting the fortunes of the Albright family during the War years 1914 – 1918. In the classroom context, Archie's War might be used to support a unit on Biography/Autobiography. It is well suited to guided reading, providing opportunities to develop inference about character feelings and events as well as stimulating discussion about the universal themes of war, peace, tolerance, conflict, resolution, family, patriotism and pacifism.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Scrapbook format includes many different forms of writing Detailed illustration - could select a couple of double page spreads for in-depth study during guided reading	48	9781406352689	Walker Books
Belonging	Baker, Jeannie	Baker, Jeannie	Observed through the window of a house in a typical urban neighbourhood, each picture shows the developments of the land being reclaimed from built up concrete to a gradual greening, shown through the artist's collage illustrations. This is a hopeful environmental message. Discussion notes available on this website.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk. Worldess picture book. Themes: environment, urban regeneration. Could be read alongside Nicola Davies' <i>The Promise</i> . Could be compared to Jeannie Baker's companion book, <i>Window</i> .	32	9781406305487	Walker Books
Conquerors, The	McKee, David	McKee, David	There once was a large country that was ruled by a General. The General would take his army and attack all the countries around him until they were conquered. Eventually, there was only one small country left to conquer. However, this one did not resist but welcomed the soldiers - leading to a quite unexpected result!	Deceptively simple fable. Themes: resistance, assimilation, conflict, peace, appeasement, culture and stories. Accessible text. Although this text is very simple and could be read with younger children, the sophisticated themes make this a good choice for year 4	32	9781842704684	Andersen Press
Fly Eagle, Fly	Gregorowski, Christopher	Daly, Niki	After a stormy night a farmer finds a baby eagle that has been blown out of its nest. He takes it home and raises it. But one day a friend tells him the eagle should be learning how to fly not scrabbling around for seed like a chicken.	Selected by Diverse Voices as one of the top 50 books promoting cultural diversity. Themes: captivity & freedom, wildlife conservation.	32	9780711217300	Frances Lincoln
Greenling	Pinfold, Levi	Pinfold, Levi	Mr Barleycorn picks a green baby growing on his land, letting loose the incredible power of nature. When melons grow in the kitchen and apples sprout out of their television, Mrs Barleycorn says the Greenling has to go. But the bounty and beauty of nature has a strange power - the power to bring a whole community together.	Environmental tale. Richly allusive. Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk	32	9781783701872	Templar

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Green Ship, The	Blake, Quentin	Blake, Quentin	Two children find the Green Ship when they climb over the wall into what is more like a forest than a garden. The ship has bushes for bows and stern and its funnels are trees; a small garden shed on an ancient stump is the wheel house and in command of the ship is the owner of the garden, old Mrs Tredegar. Throughout the summer she and the Bosun and the two children sail the Seven Seas visiting exotic faraway places and having wonderful adventures.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Themes include change, remembrance, memories, love, inter-generational relationships, imagination, play.	32	9780099253327	Random House
How Pirates Really Work	Snow, Alan	Snow, Alan	Arollicking exploration of all things piratical from the brilliant mind of acclaimed author/illustrator Alan Snow.	Humorous explanation text.	32	9780857079565	Simon & Schuster
How Dinosaurs Really Work	Snow, Alan	Snow, Alan	Have you ever wondered what colour dinosaurs really were, what they had for breakfast or even whether you could beat one in a running race? You have! Then this is the book for you. Crammed full of interesting dino-facts and bursting with detailed illustrations, How Dinosaurs Really Work covers everything you need to know about these roaring beasts.	Humorous explanation text.	40	9780857073143	Simon & Schuster
Jack and the Baked Beanstalk	Stimpson, Colin	Stimpson, Colin	Jack and his mum run a little burger van cafe. The cafe is close to broke because of the new flyover, so when Jack comes home with only an old can of baked beans in return for their last few pennies, his mother throws it out of the window. Overnight it grows into a gigantic baked beanstalk, which takes Jack to the castle of a giant who spends his life counting his huge fortune. Jack helps the giant to find something more fun to do - namely becoming the celebrity chef at Jack's new world-famous cafe.	Retelling of traditional tale. Depression-era inspired setting. Themes: redemption, work pays. Straightforward text. The unusual setting and twist on this well known story provide interest for year 4 readers and the possibility of comparison.	32	9781848772373	Templar
Journey	Becker, Aaron	Becker, Aaron	Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination - and unexpected friendship. A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure and danger abound. Red marker pen in hand, she creates a boat, a balloon and a flying carpet which carry her on a spectacular journey...who knows where? When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free. Can it also guide her home and to happiness?	Wordlessbook. Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Themes: power of the imagination, creativity, journey. Sequels <i>Quest</i> and <i>The Return</i> are also suitable for guided reading.	40	9781406355345	Walker Books
King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table	Williams, Marcia	Williams, Marcia	Aided by the magician Merlin, Arthur draws the sword from the stone to become King of Britain, and Lord of the Knights of the Round Table. Read of their valiant deeds as King Arthur, Sir Lancelot, Sir Galahad and other heroic knights rescue maidens, defend Excalibur and search for the Grail.	Comic style format. Detailed illustration.	32	9781406318661	Walker Books
Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears	Gravett, Emily	Gravett, Emily	Many children will identify with the little mouse who uses the pages of this book to document his fears -- from loud noises and the dark, to being sucked down the plughole. Packed with details and novelty elements including flaps, die-cuts and even a hilarious fold-out map, this is an extraordinary picture book.	Free discussion guide www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Themes: overcoming anxiety. Word play. Dictionaries. Interesting design with 'found text' winner of the Kate Greenaway mmedal 2008.	32	9780230016194	Macmillan

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Lost Happy Endings, The	Duffy, Carol Ann	Ray, Jane	What would happen if we lost the happy endings to stories - imagine the tears at bedtime! A fantastic and magical tale about what happens when, one night, a wicked witch steals the happy endings to bedtime stories. It is up to Jub, the keeper of the happy endings, to save the day and ensure sweet dreams everywhere in this lyrical story about storytelling.	Classic storytelling. Lyrical text. Themes: power of stories	40	9780747581062	Bloomsbury
Major Glad, Major Dizzy	Oke, Jan	Oke, Jan	Major Glad, Major Dizzy is a story about two toy soldiers hidden beneath the floor of a London house in 1870, during the reign of Queen Victoria. As years go by, the children who once owned the toys grow up and have children of their own, and unknown to Major Glad and Major Dizzy, all kinds of changes happen above their heads until, when they are finally rescued 140 years later, the world they knew is almost unrecognisable.	Themes: continuity and change. Different narrative voices. Timeline. Archive photographs	32	9780954792121	Little Knowall
Mirror	Baker, Jeannie	Baker, Jeannie	This innovative picture book comprises two stories designed to be read simultaneously – one from the left, the other from the right. Page by page, we experience the lives of two little boys – one from an urban family in Sydney, Australia, the other from Morocco. From busy motorways to desert landscapes, these worlds couldn't be further apart. Yet with the journey of a home-made Moroccan carpet into the Australian boy's home, we can see how these separate lives become intertwined. At the book's conclusion, the family in Sydney can be seen enjoying their new purchase together while the Moroccan family are surfing the internet. A powerful book, Mirror illustrates how our lives reflect each other and that we are all, even in some small way, connected.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Wordless book. Themes: connectedness	48	9781406309140	Walker Books
Mr Wuffles	Wiesner, David	Wiesner, David	Mr Wuffles ignores all the toys people buy for him. He's not lazy, he's just very picky. Now Mr Wuffles has the perfect toy and he's ready to play. But it's not really a toy at all. It's something much more interesting ...A near wordless masterpiece that could only have been devised by Caldecott Medal-winning David Wiesner.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Near wordless book. Themes: teamwork, co-operation, friendship, otherworlds.	32	9781783441167	Andersen Press
Matchbox Diary, The	Fleischman, Paul	Ibatoulline, Bagram	When a little girl visits her great-grandfather at his curio-filled home, she chooses an unusual object to learn about: an old cigar box. What she finds inside surprises her: a collection of matchboxes making up her great-grandfather's diary, containing objects she can hold in her hand, each one evoking a memory.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Migration story. Intergenerational relationships. Memories.	40	9781406355352	Walker Books
Mousehole Cat, The	Barber, Antonia	Bayly, Nicola	This is the stunningly illustrated story of the seaside village of Mousehole Cornwall, where Mowzer the cat lives happily with old fisherman Tom - Tom who rocks the rocking chair just right, and catches fresh fish for dinner every night. Their life is a happy one - until one terrible winter, the Great Storm-Cat comes clawing and snarling and leaping at the harbour walls, so that no boat can go out to sea to fish. Soon, with Christmas coming, there is no food left in Mousehole.	Themes: bravery, sacrifice, companionship. Legend.	40	9781406360776	Walker Books

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Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters	Steptoe, John	Steptoe, John	This is the tale of Mufaro's two daughters, two beautiful girls who react in different ways to the king's search for a wife - one is aggressive and selfish, the other kind and dignified. The king takes on disguises to learn the true nature of both girls and of course chooses Nyasha, the kind and generous daughter, to be his queen.	African version of Cinderella. Highly realistic painted illustration.	32	9780140559460	Penguin
Promise, The	Davies, Nicola	Carlin, Laura	On a mean street in a mean city, a thief tries to snatch an old woman's bag. But she finds she can't have it without promising something in return - to plant them all . When it turns out the bag is full of acorns, the young thief embarks on a journey that changes her own life and the lives of others for generations to come. Inspired by the belief that a relationship with nature is essential to every human being, and that now, more than ever, we need to renew that relationship, this is a story with a strong green message. It features remarkable design and illustrations. It is lavishly produced with jacket.	Accessible text with mature themes. Themes: self discovery, human interaction with nature, urban regeneration	48	9781406355598	Walker Books
Selfish Giant, The	Deacon, Alexis	Deacon, Alexis	The classic Oscar Wilde story of the selfish giant who won't let anyone into his garden - until his heart is softened by one very special little boy.	Classic Oscar Wilde fairy tale retold. Moral issues for discussion.	32	9780099475866	Walker Books
Silver Swan, The	Morpurgo, Michael	Birmingham, Christian	A boy living by a Scottish loch sees a beautiful silver swan land on the water. She remains at the loch, mates and there are soon five cygnets too. The boy watches them in awe and pride. When snowy winter sets in, all the birds and animals around the loch must scavenge desperately for food. The fox also has cubs to feed...A remarkably dramatic and compassionate story about nature, magnificently told and stunningly illustrated with sweeping pastel landscapes.	Emotional themes: loss, death, bereavement, natural world	32	9780552546140	Random House
The Cat, the Dog, Little Red, the Exploding Eggs, the Wolf and Grandma's Wardrobe	Fox, Christyan	Fox, Diane	Cat is trying to read a much-loved classic children's fairy tale to Dog. Parents will sympathise with Cat as he suffers question after question from inquisitive Dog. Minimal words and pictures combine to create a powerfully funny book, with two new delightful, engaging and appealing characters in a perfect debut - a book with true appeal for all ages.	Retelling of Red Riding Hood. Distinctive narrative voice. Meta discussion about the nature of stories and reading comprehension. Could be read alongside other versions of Red Riding Hood for comparison.	32	9781910277133	Aurum Press
True Story of the Three Little Pigs, The	Scieszka, Jon	Smith, Lane	You may think you know the story of the Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf - but only one person knows the real story. And that person is A. Wolf. His tale starts with a birthday cake for his dear old granny, a bad head cold and a bad reputation. The rest (as they say) is history.	Retelling of the traditional tale from the wolf's point of view. Unreliable narrator.	32	9780140540567	Penguin
Tuesday	Wiesner, David	Wiesner, David	In this ingenious and imaginative - nearly wordless - picture book, frogs in a pond lift off on their lily pads and fly to a nearby town where they zoom through a woman's living room, encounter a dog playing in his yard, and distract a bathrobe-clad citizen from his midnight snack.	Near wordless book. Good for developing visual literacy	32	9781849394475	Andersen Press

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Vern and Lettuce	McIntyre, Sarah	McIntyre, Sarah	Welcome to Pickle Rye, home of best friends Lettuce the rabbit and Vern the sheep. Join them for baking, birthdays, bunny-sitting and a quest for fame in the big city! Vern and Lettuce reach for the stars, but danger is lurking just beneath their feet...	Graphic novel, Humour and word play. Challenging text for year 4 or more accessible for year 5.	48	9781849921749	David Fickling
When Jessie Came Across the Sea	Hest, Amy	Lynch, P J	Thirteen-year-old Jessie lives with her grandmother in an Eastern European <i>shtetl</i> , or village. The two are poor, like everyone else they know, but happy. Then one day the rabbi announces that his brother has died, leaving him one ticket to America. Since the rabbi feels he cannot abandon his people, he decides to give the ticket to someone who will truly benefit from it: Jessie	Themes: Immigration, belonging, determination, inter-generational relationships, could be read alongside <i>The Matchbox Diary</i>	40	9780744569636	Walker Books
Where the Forest Meets the Sea	Baker, Jeannie	Baker, Jeannie	When a young boy visits a tropical rain forest, he pretends it is a long time ago and that extinct and rare animals live in the forest, and aboriginal children play there. But how much longer will the rainforest remain, he wonders?	Near wordless book. Environmental theme.	32	9780744513059	Walker Books
Wolf's Story, The	Forward, Toby	Cohen, Izhar	Recounted in the confidential, conversational voice of a New York wheeler dealer, this funny version of the Grimm Brothers' Little Red Riding Hood is retold from a fresh perspective - the Wolf's! Full of humorous revelations and surprises, the story shows, as it unfolds, how a series of misunderstandings and accidents leads to his vilification.	Unreliable narrator. Could be compared with other versions of Red Riding Hood or The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs.	32	9781406301625	Walker Books
Window	Baker, Jeannie	Baker, Jeannie	A mother and baby look through a window at a view of wilderness and sky as far as the eye can see. With each page, the boy grows and the scene changes. At first, in a clear patch of forest, a single house appears. A few years pass and there is a village in the distance. By the time the boy is twenty, the village has developed into a city. The young man gets married, has a child of his own and moves to the country, where father and child look through the window of their new home at the undeveloped wilderness outside.	Wordless book. Free discussion guide on the Just Imagine website. Themes: environment, deforestation, change, human impact on the world.	32	9780744594867	Walker Books
FICTION	Although relatively short, these fiction books require sustained reading between sessions to maintain momentum and understanding of the narrative arc. This section also includes short story collections.						
Titles	Authors	Illustrators	Description	Key points	Number of pages	ISBN	Publisher
Akimbo Adventures, The	Smith, Alexander McCall		Akimbo and his parents live on the edge of an African game reserve, home to thousands of amazing animals, from leopards and rhinos to crocodiles and zebra. In these three adventures he protects elephants from poachers, saves a lion cub from a trap and rescues a man from a crocodile.	Three individual stories. Animal adventure	288	9781405265348	Bloomsbury
Angel of Nitshill Road, The	Fine, Anne		When an angel appears in Nitshill Road, three previously unhappy children have their lives transformed. A comic fable.	Themes: bullying	96	9781405233200	Egmont

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Christmas Carol, A	Williams, Marcia	Williams, Marcia	Meet Scrooge, Bob Cratchit and the Ghosts of Christmas in this accessible adaptation of <i>A Christmas Carol</i> , illustrated throughout in Marcia's lively style.	Could be read alongside Mich Manning and Brita Granstrom's Charles Dickens, Michael Rosen's What's so Special about Dickens.	64	9781406356946	Walker
Hen in the Wardrobe, A	Meddour, wendy		Ramzi's dad is acting very strangely. He climbs trees in the middle of the night and even goes into Ramzi's wardrobe looking for a hen. The trouble is, he's sleepwalking and homesick for Algeria.	Selected by Diverse Voices as one of the top 50 books showing cultural diversity.	160	9781847802255	Frances Lincoln
Beaver Towers	Hinton, Nigel		A magic spell whisks Philip away on his new kite to a far-off island where he meets the beavers - Mr Edgar and his grandson, Baby B. They tell him of the terrible danger that threatens them. The wicked witch Oyin has imprisoned most of the island's inhabitants in Beaver Towers, and when her powers are complete she will put them to death and rule the island. Philip has to get her spell book in order to save them.	Fantasy adventure	112	9780140370607	Penguin
Boy with the Magic Numbers	Gardner, Sally		When Billy Pickles' Dad leaves home to go to new York, he gives Billy a money box. Billy isn't sure why his Dad has left home or how to use the money box. It takes a trip to new York to sort things out.	Thoughtful, empowering story	128	9781444011661	Hachette
Butterfly Lion, The	Morpurgo, Michael	Birmingham, Christian	A young boy rescues an orphaned white lion cub from the African bush. They remain inseparable until Bertie has to go away to boarding school and the lion is sold to a circus. Years later they are reunited, until the lion gently dies of old age.	Themes: separation, human/animal winner of the Smarties Book Award	128	9780006751038	HarperCollins
Captain Cat	Moore, Inga	Moore, Inga	Captain Cat is a trader. However, his eye is not for gold but for ...CATS! So much so, that his ship - the Carlotta - is populated by all kinds of felines! But one day, Captain Cat decides that it's time to give up his trading and, with his beloved cats in tow, visit all the places he has always dreamed of.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Short illustrated fiction. Full colour throughout. Some challenging language.	48	9781406355574	Walker Books
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory	Dahl, Roald	Blake, Quentin	The famous story of Charlie Bucket and his Golden Ticket, and Willy Wonka and his amazing chocolate factory.	Modern classic. Black and white line illustrations. Longer text requires sustained reading between sessions.	208	9780141365374	Penguin
Chicken Gave It to Me, The	Fine, Anne		Gemma doesn't believe a chicken could have written a book - chickens can't even read! But here in front of them is <i>The True Story of Harrowing Farm</i> , and its scratchy pages definitely look, well, chickeny. It is an epic tale of cruelty and bravery, the story of a chicken who flies trillions of miles, reaching the heights of intergalactic superstardom, to try to save us humans ...	Short nove;, Dilemmas	112	9781405233217	Egmont
Cloud Tea Monkeys	Peet, Mal & Graham, Elspeth	Wijngaard, Juan	When Tashi's mother falls ill she is no longer able to earn a living by picking tea. Tashi is faced with the impossible situation of needing to earn money for the doctor to come but not being able to reach the tender shoots and is sent away by the cruel overseer.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Classic storytelling. Some challenging language. Could be read as a more accessible text in year 5.	56	9781406333862	Walker Books

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Dinner Ladies Don't Count	Ashley, Bernard		Jason storms around the school in a temper and then gets the blame for something he didn't do. Linda tells a lie, just a little one, and is horrified to see how big it grows. Just as it seems that things can't possibly get worse, help comes for both of them in surprising ways.	Short novel that raises issues. Black and white line illustrations.	96	9780140315936	Penguin
Dragons at Crumbling Castle	Pratchett, Terry		Wizards, witches, mayors, a monster in a lake all appear in this collection of magical short stories by Terry Pratchett.	Short Story collection. Fantasy stories. Select the stories that best suit the interests and reading level of your group.	352	9780552572804	Random House
Famous Adventures of Jack	Doherty, Berlie		Jill finds herself in a story-world of magicians and dragons and floating castles, apples of immortality and the most gruesome giant of all time. She meets Old Feller Storyteller, with his raggedy tangle of a beard, who sends her to find Jack. She finds brave Jacks, cowardly Jacks, daft Jacks, clever Jacks and good-for-nothing Jacks but not the one she is looking for.	Free discussion note www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Black and white illustrations.	128	9781846471421	Catnip
Fastest Boy in the World, The	Laird, Elizabeth		Eleven-year-old Solomon loves to run! The great athletes of the Ethiopian national team are his heroes and he dreams that one day he will be a gold-medal-winning athlete like them, in spite of his ragged shorts and bare feet. When his grandfather announces that he's going to take Solomon to Addis Ababa, Solomon cannot believe his ears. A trip to the capital? It's unfathomable. Solomon's joy is increased when he realizes that the Ethiopian running team will be doing a victory parade through the city that day. Maybe he'll get a glimpse of Haile Gebrselassie or Derartu Tulu?! But Solomon's grandfather has other plans.	Set in Ethiopia. Themes: bravery, trying your best, discipline, sport. Free discussion guide and author interview www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk	176	9781447267171	Macmillan
Freckle Juice	Blum, Judy	Gravett, Emily	Andrew decides that if he were covered in freckles like his classmate, Nicky, no one would notice whether he had washed his face or behind his ears. So it seems that freckle juice, for a price, is just the thing he needs.	Short fiction. Black and white illustrations	80	9781447262909	Macmillan
Girls, Goddesses and Giants	Don, Lari		A selection of brilliant folk tales about heroines from all around the world. In these stories it's the girls who save the day through their courage, cunning or kindness – whether they are facing up to wolves, demons, dragons, enemy tribes, or the sun itself!	Short story collection. Lively storytelling voice.144	144	9781408188224	Bloomsbury
Give Peas a chance	Gleitzman, Morris		A humorous collection of stories. The world is saved with a plate of vegetables, a family is rescued with a tomato and an auntie is upset by ten kilos of chocolate.	Short story collection.	208	9780141324111	Penguin
Graet Piratical Rumbustification, The	Mahy, Margaret	Blake, Quentin	Yo ho ho! All across the city, the pirates are getting restless and long for a party. So when a retired pirate comes to babysit for the Terrapin family, they are in for quite a surprise...	Humour. Black and white illustrations	80	9781444005448	Hachette
Harriet's Hare	King-Smith, Dick		This is the story about a girl called Harriet, who meets an alien in the form of a talking hare. Harriet names her new friend Wiz, and finds he can speak any language and transform himself into any shape.	Animal story. Winer of the Children's Book Award.	160	9780440863403	Random House

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I Believe in Unicorns	Morpurgo, Michael		A moving story about unity and inspiration in the face of destruction, by the 2003-2005 Children's Laureate and author of the internationally acclaimed War Horse. Tomas hates school, hates books and hates stories. Forced to visit the library, he stops to listen to magical tales that the Unicorn Lady spins. These tales draw him in and are about to change the course of his life for ever...	Set in war torn Europe. Power of stories to transform lives. Challenging themes to suit higher attaining readers.	80	9781406302042	Walker Books
I Was a Rat	Pullman, Phillip	Bailey, Peter	When a small boy turns up on Bob and Joan's doorstep unable to say much except 'I was a rat', the kindly couple adopt him. It seems strange but Bob reads about odder things every day in his newspaper. To them, the sunny little chap is Roger, and he's trying hard to adapt to human life.	Themes: truth, honesty, honour, manners & behaviour, fairy tales. Challenging themes for discussion with higher attaining readers.	176	9780440866398	Random House
Ice Palace	Swindell, Robert		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.	Quest adventure. Traditional plot, see Maurice Sendak <i>Outside Over There</i> and the film <i>Labyrinth</i> for comparison.	96	9780140349665	Penguin
Invisible Dog, The	King-Smith, Dick		This is the story of a girl who tries to satisfy her yearning for a dog by introducing an imaginary Great Dane called Henry to the house. Her wish comes true and she is allowed a real Henry - but there's more than a hint that old Mrs Garrow, with her cackling laugh and black cat, may have been involved.	Animal story. Could be compared to Eva Ibbotson's <i>One Dog and His Boy</i> .	112	9780141332376	Penguin
Krindlekrax	Ridley, Philip		Ruskin Splinter is small and thin, with knock-knees, thick glasses and a squeaky voice, and the idea of him taming a dragon makes the whole class laugh. Big, strong Elvis is stupid but he looks like a hero. So who is more likely to get the big part in the school play? But when the mysterious beast, Krindlekrax, threatens Lizard Street and everyone who lives there, it is Ruskin who saves the day and proves he is the stuff that heroes are made of after all.	Darkly humorous mystery. Themes: bullying, outsiders, friendship	144	9780141311531	Penguin
Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth	Colfer, Eoin		Will's brother Marty is always playing practical jokes. But when he tells the bloodcurdling story of the cutthroat pirate Captain Crow, Will is terrified. Is it another one of Marty's tricks, or could Captain Crow's ghost really be out to get him?	Discussion guide www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Deliciously spooky. Humour. Black and white illustrations	112	9780141318905	Penguin
Lob	Newbery, Linda	Smy, Pam	Lucy longs to see the mysterious Lob, a legendary green man who lives in Grandpa Will's garden. Her belief eventually pays off and she is rewarded by a glimpse of him, proving that he does exist. Then her world is shattered by a terrible event. We follow Lucy on her quest to find Lob and to learn to live with loss.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk Themes: love, loss, natural magic, healing	224	9781780080833	Random House
Matilda	Dahl, Roald	Blake, Quentin	Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things. The truth is, she's a genius and they're the stupid ones. Matilda is determined to get her own back and soon discovers she has a very special power.	Themes: creativity & imagination, magic, bullying, just desserts	256	9780141365466	Penguin

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Midnight Fox	Byers, Betsy		And then, this afternoon,' Uncle Fred said to me, 'you and I'll go after the fox.' Tom, a town boy, is horrified when his parents tell him he has to stay on Aunt Millie's farm while they are away. He finds country life every bit as strange and uncomfortable as he feared. But soon, he discovers a rare black fox with green eyes, living with her cubs in the forest. Suddenly, the summer is full of excitement. That is, until Uncle Fred decides to go after the fox - will Tom save her and her family in time?	Animal story. Themes: change, new experiences, growing up, kindness, compassion	208	9780571310333	Faber
My Dad's a Birdman	Almond, David	Dunbar, Polly	Lizzie and Dad live in a rainy town in the north of England. It's just the two of them, and Auntie Doreen, who pops round to check Lizzie's spellings and tell Dad he's daft - and make them nice hot dumplings. But today there's something unusual going on: why is Dad building himself a pair of wings and studying the birds to see how they fly? The Great Human Bird Competition of course!	Themes: family, loyalty, love, loss. Illustrated throughout.	160	9781406354409	Walker Books
Mysterious Traveller	Peet, Mal & Graham, Elspeth	Lynch, P.J.	This is the second tale in a trilogy from acclaimed storytellers Mal Peet and Elspeth Graham. This one begins with a disgruntled camel, desperately trying to protect a little baby from a violent desert storm whipping up all around him. He is rescued by Issa - the desert guide - who takes the child in, naming her Mariama. She becomes Issa's family and, as he begins to lose his sight, his eyes. Many years later, a mysterious stranger arrives at their doorstep, a stranger who will change both their lives for ever...	Illustrated in full colour. Emotional story set against the backdrop of The Silk Road. Could be read as a more accessible text with year 5.	48	9781406354522	Walker Books
One Dog and His Boy	Ibbotson, Eva	Rentta, Sharon	But a dog would damage the expensive carpets in Hal's glamorous home, and his wealthy parents refuse to consider one. Then they discover Easy Pets, a convenient dog-rental agency. Terrier Fleck arrives on Hal's birthday, but when Hal discovers that his dog must be returned, he runs away. Hal and Fleck are joined by a group of pedigree breeds joyfully escaping from Easy Pets - among them is Otto, the wise and somber St Bernard, and the fierce and excitable Pekinese Li-Chee. A large reward is offered for the missing boy, and soon Hal and his dogs are being chased across the country by ruthless pursuers.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Themes: love, loss, natural magic, healing. Longer novel requires sustained reading between sessions.	288	9781407124247	Macmillan
Operation Bunny	Gardner, Sally	Roberts, David	Emily Vole makes headline news in the first weeks of her life, when she is found in an abandoned hatbox in Stansted Airport. Then, only a few years later, her neighbour Mrs String dies leaving Emily a mysterious inheritance: an old shop, a small bunch of golden keys and a cat called Fidget. It's the beginning of an adventure of a lifetime as the old Fairy Detective Agency comes back to life. It is up to Emily to reopen the shop, and recall the fairies to duty. Together they must embark on their first mystery and do battle with their great fairy-snatching enemy, Harpella.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Black and white illustrations throughout. Connections: <i>Matilda</i> , <i>Cinderella</i> . Distinctive narrative voice, rich language.	192	9781510101142	Hachette

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Oranges in No Man's Land	Laird, Elizabeth		Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. When Granny falls desperately ill Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey across no man's land to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.	Themes: conflict, heroism, bravery, family. Selected by Diverse Voices as one of the top 50 books promoting cultural diversity	128	9781509802920	Macmillan
Ottoline and the Yellow Cat	Riddell, Chris	Riddell, Chris	Ottoline lives in a stylish apartment in Big City with a small hairy creature called Mr. Munroe. Together they look after the Brown family's eclectic collections - and dabble in a spot of detective work. So they are the first to the scene of the crime when a string of high-society dog-nappings and jewel thefts hits Big City. Ottoline (who luckily has a diploma from the Who-R-U Academy of Disguise) and Mr. Munroe go undercover - and expose an ingenious scam masterminded by furry feline crook, the Yellow Cat.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Quirky mystery. Black and white illustration throughout.	176	9780330450287	Macmillan
Owl Tree, The	Nimmo, Jenny	Lewis, Anthony	The owl tree is not like any tree Joe has ever seen. It's huge and leafy and shivers at times like a person; it even seems to speak. Granny Diamond loves it. But her neighbour wants to cut it down. How can Joe save it?	Mystery. Themes: kindness and compassion, helping others, grandparents	80	9781406305180	Walker Books
Pippi Longstocking	Lindgren, Astrid	Ross, Tony	Pippi is nine years old, lives alone with a horse and a monkey, and does exactly as she pleases. She has no mother and her father is king of a cannibal island, so she has learnt to look after herself. She gets up when she likes, never goes to school, talks a great deal, keeps a chest of gold coins under the bed, and is unexpectedly strong.	Themes: creativity, imagination, resourcefulness, independence, compassion, friendship	144	9780192793799	OUP
Reluctant Dragon, The	Grahame, Kenneth	Shepard, E.H.	Classic retelling of the George and the Dragon story by the author of <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> .	Themes: friendship, bravery, heroes. Challenging text	96	9781405237291	Egmont
Story Thief, The	Peters, Andrew		This retelling of a traditional African folktale explains how we came to have stories in the world. Nyame the sky god has a special treasure - in a big, brass chest are all the stories ever told. Anansi, the cleverest of spiders, sees that down on Earth, the people are bored. Unfortunately, she can't spin a tale, but she can spin a web. So she makes a ladder up into the sky, determined to bring back the stories, whatever it takes.	African Anancy story.	64	9780713684216	Bloomsbury
Swan Boy	Hendry, Diana		How did Caleb turn into a creature part boy and part swan, and come to live on the Isle of Nanna? A sequel to the Grimms' story 'The Six Swans'.	Four short chapters and large font for easy reading. Could be read alongside the original Grimms tale.	64	9780713668414	Bloomsbury
Whistling Monster, The	Gavin, Jamila	Barrett, Suzanne	Jamila Gavin draws stories from the four corners of the globe: The Whistling Monster, a cautionary tale from Brazil; The Coming of Raven, a creation myth from Canada; The Birth of Krishna, an ancient legend from India...Full of mystery, wit and wisdom, with enduring themes of good versus evil, these ten tales have survived hundreds of years of retelling to become favorites among children all around the world.	Short stories from around the world.	96	9781406319941	Walker Books

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Wolfie	Barnes, Emma	Chichester-Clark, Emma	A story about a girl who desperately wants a dog. Her uncle Joe gives her one as a present but this dog is different; it has pointed ears, sharp teeth and a silvery coat. Lucie realises her new pet is a wolf, but no one else seems to have picked this up.	Themes: bullying, treatment of endangered species. Black and white illustrations	160	9781905537273	Strident
NONFICTION	Nonfiction is selected partly to support teaching across the curriculum so that the features of nonfiction text can be taught in context. Nonfiction may also be selected for general interest. There's an opportunity to read subjects of personal interest to students, which may not have a curriculum focus.						
Titles	Authors	Illustrators	Description	Key points	Number of pages	ISBN	Publisher
Big Blue Whale	Davies, Nicola	Maland, Nick	Find out about the largest mammal on the planet in this fun, informative, award-winning picture book. The blue whale is the biggest animal that has ever lived on Earth. Curious young minds will love reading this sensuous exploration of what a blue whale feels, sounds and smells like, and learning facts about a whale's size, life-span, diet, babies and more.	Award-winning nonfiction. Authoritative text.	32	9780744578966	Walker Books
British Wildlife	Munson, Victoria		This animal spotting book introduces 50 of the most common mammals found in Britain today. There are full descriptions of the scientific name, size, food and habitat of each animal. Full colour photographs will help with easy identification. Includes advice on how to be a good nature detective, such as best places to see these mammals and how to take notes to aid recognition. Activities at the end of the book show how to make animal homes and identify footprints.	Scientific information. Photographs. Activities with instructions	64	9780750283427	Hachette
Charging About	Bailey, Jacqui		This book presents the story of how electrical energy is generated in a power station, how it travels through pylons, power cables and wires until it reaches towns and homes. We learn how electrical current is created and how it is made safe. T	Cartoon-style illustrations. Includes an experiment, fact books, website link and index	32	9780713662580	Bloomsbury
Drop in My Drink, The	Hooper, Meredith	Coady, Chris	This is the story of a drop of water, told by a gifted science writer and illustrated with remarkable paintings. Meredith Hooper takes us back thousands of years to see where the Earth's water came from, and how life began in the oceans and later moved onto land. She describes the water cycle, the relationship between water and living things and between water and erosion. She also discusses important environmental issues and provides a fascinating collection of water facts.	Explanation text. Full colour throughout.	36	9781847807144	Frances Lincoln
Explorers	Arlon, Penny		Exploration is far from over. There are vast areas of our oceans still undiscovered, and the whole universe to explore. There has never been a more exciting time in human space travel as we endeavour to land man on Mars and embark on an era of space tourism.	Highly engaging nonfiction. Interesting to compare with another book on the same subject.	80	9781407148991	Scholastic

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Ice Bear	Davies, Nicola	Birmingham, Christian	Ice Bear is an outstanding narrative non-fiction book combining Nicola Davies' lyrical text with Christian Birmingham's evocative, impressionistic paintings, proving that non-fiction can be written to engage the emotions. This is an ideal text for children to think about discussing what a 'fact' is and looking at how facts are combined with other kinds of writing to create a portrait of the magnificent polar bear.	Free discussion notes www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk .	32	9781406364644	Walker Books
One Hen	Milway, Katie smith	Fernandes, Eugenie	This books uses the story of a young boy in an African village to introduce children to sustainable development. Striking artwork brings to life Kojo's progress from one hen to his own farm. At the end of the book, the story of a real-life Kojo is told.	Realife story. Glossary of Ghanian terms.	32	9781408109816	Bloomsbury
Pebble in My Pocket, The	Hooper, Meredith	Coady, Chris	Where do pebbles come from? How were they made? This book tells the story of a pebble, from its origins in a fiery volcano 480 million years ago to a busy, modern landscape. Readers follow the processes of rock formation and erosion that create new pebbles all over the world.	Explanation text	40	9781847807687	Frances Lincoln
Taff in the WAAF	Manning, Mick	Granstrom, Brita	Mick Manning's mother was a young woman in Wales at the outbreak of World War II. At the outbreak of war and the start of food rationing, she left school aged 14 to work in a local greengrocer's shop. Later joining the WAAF (the Women's Auxilliary Air Force), she became a wireless operator and eventually a Y service listener for the secret signal decoding operation at Bletchley Park where the famous German Enigma Code was cracked.	Engaging nonfiction. Speech bubbles and captioned illustration boxes. Winner of te English 4 - 11 Nonfiction Award.	32	9781847804150	Frances Lincoln
Tree of Life	Strauss, Rochelle		If every known species on Earth were a leaf on a tree, the tree would have almost 2 million leaves. Humans are just one leaf on this tree of life. Tree of Life is a dazzling introduction to the incredible variety of life on Earth.It shows how living things are classified and interconnected, and how a problem with just one part of the tree of life can have devastating consequences for the whole tree.	Free discussion guide www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Complex concept presented in an interesting way. Challenging text for year 4 or could be read as a more accessible text with year 5.	40	9780713689723	Bloomsbury
Until I Met Dudley	McGough, Roger	Riddell, Chris	Have you ever wondered how a toaster works? Or a fridge-freezer, or a washing-up machine? In this fun-filled book of how things work, Dudley, the techno-wizard dog, provides the answers. Roger McGough's delightfully ingenious text and Chris Riddell's striking illustrations take children from the furthest realms of fantasy into the fascinating world of technology to discover the workings of familiar machines, making it an exciting book which will delight again and again.	Free discussion guide www.justimaginestorycentre.co.uk . Interesting text on the secrets of technology. Runner up in the English 4 - 11 Awards	32	9781847803504	Frances Lincoln
POETRY	Poetry collections provide great value for money. Select the poems that suit the group rather than read the collection from cover to cover.						
Titles	Authors	Illustrators	Description	Key points	Number of pages	ISBN	Publisher

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An Imaginary Menagerie	McGough, Roger		From the anaconda in a Honda (don't ask him for a ride, you might end up inside), to the zonk (good for nothing and very rude), from the useful catapillow and the reliable teapet to he newt who plays the flute, and the wordfish - who's a swordfish in a state of undress, this is an A-Z of animal poems with a difference! Choose your own favourite from Roger McGough's witty and wicked menagerie of rare breeds real and imaginary.	Single poet collection. Pun, word play. Choose the poems that are most relevant to the interest and reading level of the children.	96	9781847801661	Frances Lincoln
Journey to the Centre of My Brain	Carter, James		Sneak a peek into James Carter's brain in this brilliant collection of poems. Join the party as he takes us on a trip to space, introduces us tigers, mammoths, clouds and bugs and that's just the start of the journey .	Single poet collection. Black and white line illustrations. Choose the poems that are most relevant to the interest and reading level of the children.	96	9780230751958	Macmillan
Plum	Mitton, Tony		Ranging from the haunting to the hilarious, <i>Plum</i> was the first collection from Tony Mitton, who has become a major voice in the world of poetry for children. With beautiful illustrations by acclaimed artist Peter Bailey, this is a poetry book which should be read by everyone who has ever laughed at the sound of a word, cried at the twist of a story or asked a question that has no answer.	Single poet collection. Winner of Signal Poetry Awards. Choose the poems that are most relevant to the interest and reading level of the children,	112	9781903015858	Barn Owl
You Wait Till I'm Older than You	Rosen, Michael	Blake, Quentin	YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA Get OFF, GET OFF, GET OFF! Well what would you say if your brother kept whacking you with a spoon, or the spider made it all the way up the toilet bowl or your mum made you wear that horrible shirt?	single poet pollection. Humour. Family relationships, siblings. Choose the poems that are most relevant to the interest and reading level of the children.	128	9780140380149	Penguin