

School Library Service

Group Readers - YEARS 5 & 6

P DENOTES POETRY

AGARD, John **Book** **4.4 MY**
 “My name is book. For centuries I’ve told other people’s stories, now it’s time to tell my own. The story of my adventures on the way to the shelf. I’ve been dog-eared. Laughed over. Cried over. Banned and burnt. Buried under the desert. I’ve seen civilisations rise and fall. Yet I’ve survived it all.” A wonderful autobiography of the life of books, interspersed with poems and quotations.

ALMOND David **Skellig** **Dark Red 3.5 MY**
 Michael’s baby sister is ill and while his parents spend their time at the hospital, he explores his new home. In the old, derelict garage he finds something sinister, a strange, winged creature. Is it something good or something evil? The author won the Carnegie Medal for this book, his first novel for children.

ALMOND David **Mouse bird snake wolf** **Dark Blue 3.5 MY**
 Three children start to fill in the gaps in creation which the lazy gods didn’t bother to finish. Dave McKean’s striking illustrations help to show that the power of their imaginations is greater than anything the children or the gods could have predicted. A short text but with great opportunities for discussion.

ARLON Penny **Weather** **Non fiction**
 Weather is packed with striking photographs and amazing facts about the world's extreme weather. Learn all about weather types and systems with case studies, eyewitness accounts and information on meteorologists and storm chasers. Varied page layouts and clever infographics make this an exciting book to explore.

BAKER-SMITH Grahame **FARThER** **Grey 2.6 LY**
 A young boy is captivated by his father’s ambition to fly. When the father is sent off to war and doesn’t return, the boy takes up that dream. The front cover and title alone are thought-provoking and will generate discussion and the illustrations are full of symbolism. This picture book won the Kate Greenaway medal for the quality of the illustrations.

BANKS Lynne Reid **Harry the poisonous centipede** **Dark Blue 3.7 MY**
 A witty and highly successful creepy-crawly adventure about inquisitive Harry who can't resist the lure of the Up-Pipe to the land of the Hu-Mins.

BLACKMAN Malorie **Cloud busting** **P** **Dark Red 3.3 MY**
 Poetic forms are used to tell this unusual, realistic story of bullying.

BLACKMAN Malorie **Pig heart boy** **Dark Red 4.3 MY**

Cameron is offered the chance to have a highly experimental and controversial operation which might save his life. Replacing his heart with one from a specially bred pig brings not only medical risks but places Cameron at the eye of a storm of media controversy.

BLACKMAN Malorie **Robot girl** **3.7 MY**

When your Father is a famous inventor and obsessed by his work life can get lonely so Claire is soon pouring out her heart to her new online pen pal. When he finally reveals his latest invention Claire is appalled, after all, how would you feel if your Father created a monster? A thought-provoking short novel in the dyslexia friendly series by Barrington Stoke

BOYCE Frank Cottrell **The un-forgotten coat** **Dark Red 4.4 MY**

Chingis and Nergui are two brothers from Mongolia and Julie is a pupil at their new school in Liverpool. The brothers appoint Julie as their good guide to all things British. It is Julie who writes down their story years later after visiting the old school. There she finds Chingis's coat still hanging on its peg and in the pocket finds lots of polaroid photos. This is a funny and moving tale of two cultures based on a true story.

BRESLIN Theresa **The dream master** **4.4 MY**

There are good dreams and bad dreams but once they're over, they're over. Or are they? One morning, as Cy is about to wake up from a terrific dream about ancient Egypt, he discovers that he can get back into his dream world.

BROWNE Anthony **Me and you** **1.6 LY**

This thought-provoking take on the Goldilocks story by the former Children's Laureate has dual style illustrations throughout. Modern day Goldilocks' viewpoint is shown in pictures alone, while the bears' story is told in a more traditional way, using text.

BURNETT Frances Hodgson **The secret garden** **Dark Red 6.3 UY**

This is a classic children's novel which has retained its appeal through the generations.

BYARS Betsy **The midnight fox** **Dark Red 4.9 MY**

A conventional novel with unexpected challenges in a narrative which repeatedly uses memory and speculation. One of the most successful and enduringly popular stories published for children in recent years.

Classic poems to read aloud **P**
(edited J Berry)

Classic poems from around the world, spanning centuries and continents.

COSTER Patience **Animal rights** **Non fiction**

This challenging book provides arguments for both sides of the animal welfare debate. Text boxes have quotes from a range of organisations and individuals, including philosophers, scientists and historians. Endless stimulus for discussion.

Crack another yolk (edited J Foster) **P**

Different types of poems with an emphasis on word play, riddling and form. An important anthology of contemporary writers.

June 2015

CROSSLEY-HOLLAND Kevin **Short! : a book of very short stories** **Grey** **4.0 MY**

44 separate stories, all slightly odd, Grimm and Aesopish.

CROSSLEY-HOLLAND Kevin **Short too!: a second book of very short stories**

Another cornucopia of riches to explore but one or two of the stories are a touch macabre towards the end of the book.

DAHL Roald **James and the giant peach** **Grey** **4.8 MY**

Poor James has lived miserably with his two beastly aunts ever since his parents were eaten by an angry rhinoceros. Then something very peculiar happens, something so magical that it completely changes James's wretched existence and takes him on an amazing and unbelievable journey.

DAVIES Nicola **Rubbish town hero** **Dark Blue** **5.8 MY**

Chipo and his little sister Gentle have to flee the rubbish dump where they have eked out their meagre existence. Their journey brings danger, excitement and friendship and the chance of hope for a better future.

DAVIES Nicola **The whale who saved us**

Suki is sent to stay with relatives in Whale Bay after her older brother Levi tries to commit suicide. Expecting to be bored and miserable, Suki is surprised by how much she thrives in the natural world; ice fishing, dog-sledding and even witnessing a whale hunt. Lots to think about in the 100 pages of this novel and some useful background information from the author at the end.

DAVIES Nicola **What's eating you?** **Non fiction** **6.4 MY**

Did you know that almost every animal on the planet is "home" to some parasites and that includes us humans? A really good book for looking at how the organisation of a text supports meaning and for description in non-fiction, e.g. bodies like miniature salamis. There are also some lovely examples of wordplay amongst the facts that will make you squirm!

DAYWALT Drew **The day the crayons quit** **3.8 LY**

Duncan just wants to do some colouring but when he opens his box of crayons he finds a series of letters from his disgruntled crayons after they quit their jobs in a protest to get better treatment. Oliver Jeffers illustrations perfectly capture the tone of this highly amusing picture book.

DICKENS Charles **A Christmas carol (Eyewitness classics)** **5.9 MY**

This classic tale is told in the author's own words and the background to the story is explored in photographs, prints, diagrams and maps.

DUFFY Carol Ann **The tear thief** **4.3 LY**

The tear thief carries her silvery sack as she steals the tears of every crying child. However the tears of real sadness are the most precious. A dreamy and evocative story that has a thought provoking message with haunting illustrations to match.

FINE Anne **The chicken gave it me** **Grey** **3.8 MY**

Anne Fine discusses the challenging subject of factory farming in her own inimitable manner. This title is also in script format in the Playsets collection.

June 2015

FRENCH Vivian

Aesop's funky fables

This is a collection of ten of Aesop's best known fables in a handsome picture book format. It has strident cartoonish illustrations and lively, modern text.

GAIMAN Neil

The wolves in the walls

Dark Blue 3.9 MY

Illus. by Dave McKean

This is a delightfully scary picture book for older readers, given greater depth by truly original illustrations. Collage, and expressive use of different fonts and typefaces, scratchy pen drawings and sculptural faces all add to the tension of the fast moving plot.

GAVIN Jamila

Blackberry blue and other fairy tales

Dark Red 6.1 MY

Prepare to enter a world of magicians, enchanted forests, talking animals and wicked witches... Six original fairy tales by this award-winning author.

GRIFALCONI Ann

The village that vanished

Brown 4.6 LY

"Gather round, my people, gather round! And hear the voices of your ancestors..." The writer echoes the oral storytelling tradition in this inspiring tale of how the Yao tribe was saved from slavery by the bravery of an old, old woman and a very young girl. The illustrations perfectly capture the mixture of threat and hope within the story.

GRIMM Brothers

Hansel and Gretel (illust. A. Browne)

Grey 4.4 LY

Traditional fairy tale made more sinister by Anthony Browne's surreal illustrations. Themes of rejection and abuse.

HADDON Mark

Boom!

Dark Red 4.1 MY

Two boys discover that their teachers are really aliens and set out on a cracking inter-galactic adventure, with plenty of mystery and intrigue along the way. Lots of things in this book could never happen, but who cares, it's a great story!

HATHORN Libby

Way home

Dark Blue 2.5 LY

Award-winning, powerful picture book concerned with the plight of the homeless. Dark and compelling illustrations by Greg Rogers.

HUGGINS-COOPER, Lyn

How to invent

Non fiction

This book breaks the process down into eight easy-to-follow stages and offers tips and examples for every stage with a particular focus on inventing toys and puzzle. Discover how and why the Rubik's cube was invented and the problems Erno Rubik encountered along the way. Throughout the book are inspirational case studies of young inventors.

HUGHES Ted

How the whale became

Dark Blue

A classic text comprising eleven creation fables, every one with a moral. Each tale looks at the development of a specific animal and its particular characteristics. The rich, evocative and lyrical language is enhanced with lavish illustrations by Jackie Morris.

JEFFERS Oliver

The heart and the bottle

2.5 LY

Within this deceptively simple picture book there are some big issues to explore around coming to terms with loss. Excellent to explore inference and deduction.

KIPLING Rudyard **Just so stories** **5.3 MY**
The stories draw upon fables Kipling heard as a child growing up in India and folktales he gathered from around the world. Each of the eight stories is brought to life by the work of a different artist.

LANGLEY Andrew **Space** **Non fiction** **Dark Blue**
Find out everything in the amazing universe, from stars and galaxies to comets and asteroids. Discover how we explore the depths of space. An interesting and appealing layout with “amazing fact” and “True or false” boxes, a quiz at the end and for light relief, a few jokes scattered throughout the book.

LAYTON George **The fib and other stories** **Dark Red 4.0 MY**
Humorous bittersweet stories about growing up in the fifties, which still strikes a chord with young people today.

LEWIS C.S. **The lion, the witch and the wardrobe** **Dark Blue 5.7 MY**
Peter, Edmund and Lucy are evacuated during the war to live with a vague professor. Left much to their own devices, they find their way into a fantastic land that lies behind an ordinary wardrobe door.

McALLISTER Angela **Winter’s child** **3.2 LY**
When Tom wishes winter would never end he meets Winter’s child who prolongs the season so that they can enjoy playing together. Tom doesn’t notice the impact this is having until he finally notices his grandmother’s suffering. He realises that for the cycle of life to continue he must sacrifice his friendship. The haunting illustrations add to the richness of this picture book.

***McEWAN Ian** **The daydreamer** **5.4 MY**
A beautifully written collection of episodes centring round the fertile imaginative life of ten year old Peter. Sometimes uncomfortably vivid, sometimes scary, sometimes very funny, these stories are made for reading aloud.

McKEE David **Six men**
The simplicity of the limited text and sparse black and white drawings belie the rich vein of opportunity for discussion in this picture book about the escalation of conflict.

McGOUGH Roger **Slapstick** **P**
An enticing array of humorous and thought provoking poems by this prestigious poet. This appealing collection stirs all the emotions and is complemented by lively, black and white illustrations.

**MANNING Mick &
GRANSTROM Brita** **Tail-end Charlie** **Non fiction** **3.8 LY**
This is an account of life for an air gunner in WWII. Written primarily as a diary and highly illustrated, it uses multiple text types and forms, including comic strip, postcards, posters and facsimile documents. There is an extensive glossary of period vocabulary.

MANNING Mick &**Granstrom, Brita****What Mr Darwin saw****Non fiction****5.4 LY**

This is a wonderful pictorial account of Darwin's epic voyage of scientific discovery aboard the HMS Beagle. The author has reflected the language of the period in Darwin's imagined recount of his experiences. A fascinating introduction to evolution.

MATTHEWS Andrew**Shakespeare's stories**

A simplified reworking of four of Shakespeare's tales, with plenty of Tony Ross illustrations to complement the text. The collection includes Macbeth, Twelfth night, Romeo and Juliet and Anthony and Cleopatra.

MITTON Tony**Tale of tales**

The tradition of oral story telling is brought to life by Elephant, Monkey and friends as they embark on an entertaining journey. Along the way they each tell their own special tale. A good example of different authorial voices. Imaginative language choices and dialogue is cleverly used to move the story along and the wonderful silhouettes perfectly complement the text.

MORPURGO Michael**Kensuke's kingdom****Dark Red 4.7 MY**

Based on the true story of a Japanese soldier who survived on his own on an island for forty years after the end of World War 2. The details of life at sea and on the island should appeal to those with even a mildly adventurous streak!

MORPURGO Michael**Where my wellies take me...****5.4 MY**

Pippa loves going for long, wandering walks exploring the countryside and recounting the wildlife, animals and people she meets along the way. Each of her meetings is accompanied by a poem from a wealth of famous names which make up part of our literary heritage. Richly illustrated by Olivia Lomenech Gill this is a glorious celebration of the English countryside.

MORPURGO Michael**The wreck of the Zanzibar****Dark Blue 4.1 MY**

The story is told in the form of a diary given to the author after the death of his great aunt Laura. Superb setting, true characterisation, excellent line illustrations....a special book.

MORRIS Jackie**Ice bear****4.3 LY**

Back in a time when people and animals lived together in harmony, a bear-child is stolen away from his mother. The evocative illustrations capture the stark landscape of the arctic but the rich language of the text creates even more powerful images in the mind of the reader.

MORRIS Jackie**The snow leopard**

The magical story of a girl and a powerful being that takes the shape of a snow leopard. Set in the Himalayan landscape this tale sends a deeper message about the need for the protection of Earth's wild places. Poetic and lyrical, the text weaves amidst stunning illustrations that capture the true spirit of nature.

MOSES Brian and STEVENS Roger **What are we fighting for?****P**

A collection of poetry on the theme of war which is fascinating and moving in equal measure. The collection begins with WWI and moves forward in time, including more general poems on the theme of conflict. A difficult subject handled well by two highly respected modern poets.

June 2015

NICHOLS Grace **Paint me a poem** **P**

As writer-in-residence at the Tate, Grace Nichols worked with children to create their own poems inspired by the many famous works of art on display. The book presents poems by Nichols and the children alongside a photograph of the painting that provided the source of inspiration.

ORME David **Boffin boy & the monsters from the deep** **Purple 2.3 MY**

Follow science lover Rick Shaw alias Boffin boy as he sets out with his friend Wu Pee to overcome giant mutant jellyfish that are stealing all the sweets and chocolates they can find. This simple, boy friendly title has wacky humour and an appealing, colourful, cartoon/comic style format.

ORME David **Pirates and smugglers**

A history of smuggling with excellent photographs and original drawings brought up to date to include modern piracy. The second half of the book is a story told in simple graphic novel format. This high interest book has a reading age of 6/7.

PAULSEN Gary **Hatchet** **5.7 MY**

An exciting, heart-stopping story about survival in a hostile environment, this is more than the average adventure story. *Hatchet: the return* and *Hatchet: winter* develop the story.

PAVER Michelle **Wolf brother** **Dark Red 4.5 MY**

Torak, a young warrior teams up with an orphaned wolf cub to defeat a demon which has taken the form of a great bear. This tense adventure successfully mixes historical and fantasy elements, resulting in an exciting and satisfying read.

PEARCE Philippa **The shadow cage and other tales of the supernatural**

Truly gripping ghost stories which are beautifully crafted. Any one of these tales could be used to examine narrative structure. The language used to create tension and build suspense is striking and the stories provide good models for writing.

Poems to perform chosen
by Julia Donaldson **P**

The collection has been carefully compiled to cover classic to contemporary and provides a range of poems for two voices through to a large group. There are suggestions for performance at the end of the book.

PULLMAN Philip **Clockwork** **Dark Red 5.7 MY**

A story within a story with lots of twists and turns to wind the reader up. Complex literary structure which includes windows of factual knowledge inserted to support the plot.

PULLMAN Philip **Springheeled Jack** **Dark Blue 5.2 MY**

An hilarious tale of bravery and evil set in Victorian London and told partly in strip-cartoon form. Three orphaned children are being pursued by Mack the Knife but Spring-heeled Jack is hot on his trail. Quotes from children's literature head each new chapter and provide an opportunity to discuss the reason for their inclusion.

RUNDELL Katherine

Rooftoppers

Dark Red 3.5 MY+

Sophie runs away to Paris with her guardian in search of the mother who everyone tells her died in the shipwreck from which she was rescued as a baby. Evading the French authorities, she meets Matteo and his network of rooftoppers. Together they scour the city for Sophie's mother before she is caught and sent back to London. An unusual and atmospheric story for able readers.

South and North, East and West (ed M Rosen)

A wide-ranging collection of authentic and original stories, from around the world, with authors and illustrators from 22 different countries.

STEVENSON Robert Louis

Treasure Island

3.0 MY

This classic novel is packed full of wonderful characters, pirates and adventure. The unabridged version is, however, quite a challenging read. In this group reader pack we have included one copy of an unabridged edition and six copies of a graphic version from the Raintree Graphic Revolve series. Told in graphic format they are a good retelling of the plot and contain notes on Stevenson and the book's background.

The sun is laughing (ed. Sue Ellis) P

The title of this collection takes its name from a poem by Grace Nichols but within only 18 poems provides a rich diversity to challenge all the emotions. Each poem is illustrated by a major picture book artist which makes it a visual delight.

TAN Shaun

The arrival

What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown? This wordless graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person and will challenge able pupils.

THOMPSON Colin

How to live forever

Dark Red

The starting point of the book is a library which contains a copy of every book published, but one book is missing – 'How to live forever'. Peter and his cat go on a journey through spectacular landscapes growing from the library books, until they meet the Ancient Child who sadly guards his tragic secret. The text is limited and contrasts with the complex and beautiful illustrations. This fascinating book will stimulate imaginative written and illustrative work, as well as discussion about how changes to our lives are ultimately to be cherished rather than feared.

THOMPSON Colin

The paperbag prince

Rich and detailed illustrations work beautifully with the no less intriguing narrative. There is lots to look at and discuss, both in the illustrations and the environmental theme and especially the unexpected twist where the Paperbag Prince turns out not to be quite what we had imagined.

THOMPSON Colin

The tower to the sun

Once upon a time, if you stood on the moon and looked down at earth you could see the Great Wall of China but 100 years later you can see nothing but clouds. Down below on lonely planet Earth, no one can see the sun. The detailed illustrations add depth to the story and need close observation to obtain their true riches.

THOMPSON Kate

Highway robbery

5.3 MY

The nameless beggar lad recounts how he comes to be selling Black Bess, the horse belonging to the legendary Dick Turpin. A wonderfully entertaining novella with delicious touches of humour.

WILLIAMS Marcia

The adventures of Robin Hood

Dark Blue

The well-known and much-loved story in comic strip format.

WILLIAMS Marcia

Mr William Shakespeare's plays

6.3 MY

Take your place in the Globe Theatre of Shakespeare's day to see seven of his best-loved plays brought vividly to life. This comic-strip version includes the bard's own dialogue not to mention the rowdy remarks of the audience!

WILLIAMS Marcia

My secret war diary

An invented diary account of WWII. Flossie Albright is nine years old in 1939 and her father leaves to join the army. She uses the diary to record everyday life and its hardships as well as news from abroad as the war continues. The entries are "handwritten" with letters, postcards and memorabilia stuck in to create the effect of a scrapbook.

World of poetry (edited M Rosen)

P

An extensive and exciting anthology arranged in alphabetical order by writer, not by theme, giving some happy and unusual juxtapositions.