

School Library Service

Group Readers - YEAR 3 & YEAR 4

P DENOTES POETRY

AHLBERG Allan **Heard it in the playground** **P** **Grey**
Everyone's favourite collection of primary school poems, demanding to be read or sung aloud, peppered with revealing black & white line drawings.

AHLBERG Allan **It was a dark and stormy night** **Grey 4.9 LY**
A text with a complex narrative structure that cleverly uses a series of interrupted story tellings to relate Antonio's adventures. A story within a story, and the illustrations add yet another layer.

ANHOLT Lawrence **Daft Jack and the beanstack** **Lime 4.2 MY**
Daft Jack and his mother are so poor they live *under* a cow in a field. Humorous illustrations enliven this modern version.

ANHOLT Lawrence **Snow White and the seven aliens** **4.1 LY**
A clever combination of the old familiar fairy tale brought up to date with a swinging contemporary cast of characters. One to make you chuckle!

ARLON Penelope **Penguins** **Non fiction**
A wonderful opportunity to meet all the different penguin species in this non-chronological report. Uses an interesting layout and great photographs to explore the facts.

ASHLEY Chris **Wasim in the deep end** **4.0 LY**
A clever, sensitive and humorous tale, seemingly simple but skilfully woven with some of the complex issues surrounding ethnic minorities.

BECKER Aaron **Journey**
A wordless picture book about a lonely girl who one day draws a door on her wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure and danger abound. When she is captured by a sinister emperor, only an act of tremendous courage and kindness can set her free.

BRADMAN Tony **Arthur and the king's sword** **Gold 5.1 MY**
A lively retelling of how the boy Arthur pulls Excalibur from the stone and becomes King of England. This book, from the Orchard Crunchies series, is enriched by wonderful line drawings from favourite illustrator Tony Ross.

BROWNE Anthony

Tunnel

White 2.7 LY

An excellent book to develop inference and to discuss sibling rivalry which can be used at a range of levels. Classic Anthony Browne in which the pictures tell us more than the text.

BROWNE Anthony

Voices in the park

Dark Red

This visit to the park is told from the point of view of four characters. Their thoughts and feelings cleverly overlap and ask the reader questions about how we interact with each other, and who we include or exclude from our world. There are lots of visual clues to how the characters feel, including a typeface for each voice.

CHAMBERS John

The seven deadly Finns

"It all started with the snowman and ended with the snowman too. The stuff that happened in the middle wasn't Mickey's fault, whatever anybody said afterwards." Each chapter is told from the viewpoint of a different member of the family until the chaotic and farcical finale. The slapstick humour will particularly appeal to boys.

CHILD Lauren

Beware the storybook wolves

4.5 LY

Herb has to do some quick thinking when two wolves escape from his bedtime story intent on gobbling him up. This is a unique take on the traditional tale told in typical Lauren Child style with illustrations and text that are both lively and great fun.

CLARK Margaret

The very best of Aesop's fables

Eleven favourite fables are told clearly and amusingly in spare, up-to-date language. Beautifully illustrated by Charlotte Voake.

CLEMSON Wendy

Treasure in the jungle

4.1 LY

From the popular Using Maths series, this exciting non fiction title should hold appeal for both boys and girls. Packed full of puzzles, maps, charts and tables, as well as some excellent photos, this is a great text for group work and discussion.

CREBBIN June

Hal the highwayman

2.9 MY

Hal goes to Dick Turpin's school to improve his skills as a highwayman! Text types used in this fun early read include letters, adverts, maps and a school report. Could appeal to older, less able readers.

DAHL Roald

Charlie and the chocolate factory

Dark Blue 4.8 MY

Charlie Bucket can't believe his luck when he finds a Golden Ticket and wins the chance of a lifetime: a magical day witnessing the miraculous creation of the most delectable eatables ever made. A modern classic.

DAHL Roald

The magic finger

Grey 3.1 LY

Our heroine's magic, flashing finger wreaks vengeance on anyone who crosses her path with fantastic results. Good for discussion about the consequences of one's actions.

DOLAN Elys

Weasels

I bet you thought weasels were furry little creatures that hid in holes or frolicked in the leaves? Well you couldn't be more wrong! The weasels in this story are plotting to take over the world until their computer goes wrong. The illustrations provide endless details to pore over and require sophisticated visual literacy skills to follow the narrative.

EDWARDS Gareth **The disgusting sandwich** **3.1 LY**
A hungry badger finds a discarded sandwich but fate keeps conspiring against him whenever he tries to eat it. Plenty of opportunities to explore sentence construction but within a cumulative story which will have wide appeal, not least because of Hannah Shaw's illustrations.

FARDELL John **Manfred the baddie**
Manfred is the baddest baddie of all but can he ever change his ways? A humorous picture book with a strong message which will have particular appeal to boys. A good model of complex sentences and the power of three.

FINE Anne **Bill's new frock** **Grey 4.3 MY**
A stylishly-written and very funny book about gender issues, sure to stimulate a lot of discussion.

FINE Anne **The diary of a killer cat** **Brown 3.3 MY**
Tuffy the cat narrates this hilarious tale in his own inimitable style. The essence of feline mischief is captured in short sentences, good dialogue and witty illustrations.

FINE Anne **The nag club** **Lime 3.0 MY**
Boggle hats are the 'in thing'. Lola, an expert parent nagger, tries to teach her friends how to beg, wheedle and tantrum their way into getting one too! A hilarious book that begs to be read aloud.

FOREMAN, Michael **Mia's story** **3.4 LY**
Subtitled "A sketchbook of hopes and dreams", this beautifully told and illustrated story is based on a real life encounter by the author with a young South American child. A lovely read as well as a great picture book for discussion.

FUNKE Cornelia **Moonshine dragon** **3.7 MY**
When the moonlight hits the pages of the book Patrick has left open by his bed he is woken by a dragon emerging from between the pages. Soon a knight on a white horse is hot on his heels. It isn't long before Patrick is under attack as well as his new fire-breathing friend. This title is in the Little Gems series by Barrington Stoke designed to be dyslexia friendly.

GRAHAM Bob **A bus called heaven** **3.1 LY**
One morning it appeared out of nowhere, a broken down bus! The normally shy Stella spots the potential of the bus and announces "This bus could be ours". This is the start of a community working together and what happens when that community is threatened. A picture book with rich opportunities for discussion.

GRAVETT Emily **Meerkat mail**
Sunny the Meerkat decides he wants to try a different home and way of life so goes on his travels, but soon discovers that home is best! Full of humorous illustrations which incorporate Sunny's postcards home. Good for exploring points of view.

GREATHEAD Helen **Spooky Devon**
Prepare to be scared by these six ghost stories set in and around Devon.

GREEN Julie

Beowulf the brave

Brown 4.4 LY

A great, short retelling of this classic Anglo-Saxon legend. Told in the first person using rich language which engages the reader and provides an excellent model for children's own writing.

GREY Mini

Hermelin

3.8 LY

Offley Street is a hive of activity amongst its population of eccentric characters. Suddenly everybody is losing things from teddy bears to diamond bracelets and it isn't long before the local noticeboard is full of scribbled notes from owners seeking their lost property. When Hermelin the mouse wakes up in his cheesebox in the attic he soon discovers he has some rather remarkable talents and puts them to good use as a detective. Lots of visual clues to spot in the detailed illustrations.

GREY Mini

The pea and the princess

Lime

This is an alternative version of the traditional tale told by the pea (hence the title). There is a lot to look at and discuss in this beautifully produced picture book, including a very familiar looking queen!

GREY Mini

Traction man is here

White 3.6 LY

Traction man is the ultimate cool superhero until Granny knits him a green woollen romper suit for Christmas. Can he overcome his humiliation and rediscover the action man within? This book is packed with wonderfully detailed illustrations to talk about and to stimulate imaginative writing.

HENDERSON Kathy

The dragon with the big nose

P

The settings and themes for these poems will all be familiar to children but the poet plays with language, form and style to create a rich and varied collection to explore.

HUGHES Shirley

The lion and the unicorn

Dark Red

A longer picture book dealing with the realities of evacuation during World War II. The description of the period is detailed, using powerful vocabulary, and is complemented by the atmospheric illustrations.

JACKSON Tom

A fierce lion

Non fiction

4.4 LY

Follow the lifecycle of a lion from birth to finding a mate to old age. Vibrant photographs bring the book alive with a varied layout, fact boxes and a quiz at the end. Speech bubbles and text boxes are written in first person narrative.

KELLY Susan

A tale of two wolves

Purple

The Big Bad Wolf is on trial and everyone's convinced that he's guilty. After all he looks just like the wolf who blew down the Three Little Pigs' houses. Who's telling the truth? A story that encourages good citizenship and keen observation from the Flying Foxes series.

KOJO KP

The parade

This is a lively collection of 7 short stories set in Ghana based on the adventures of Ananse the trickster spider. The first story The Parade tells why Ananse became a trickster in the first place and the collection includes other well known stories. Ananse stories have been used for centuries in Ghana and the Caribbean to entertain children and to teach them good behaviour!

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KURTZ Jane & Lewis E.B. Mamo on the mountain 4.2 LY

Mamo and his devoted sister are servants in a rich man's house, but when their master challenges Mamo to spend a night alone in the bitter cold, quick wits as well as courage are called for....A heartwarming and beautifully illustrated retelling of a traditional Ethiopian tale.

LACEY Josh The dragonsitter Brown 4.3 MY

When Edward and his family agree to look after Uncle Morton's pet dragon for a week whilst he is on holiday they don't realise quite what they are letting themselves in for! This humorous story is told in emails between Edward and his Uncle.

LAIRD Elizabeth The ogress and the snake 4.2 MY

A fascinating collection of short stories from Somalia.

MCKAY Hilary Charlie and the great escape 4.0 LY

Charlie decides to teach his family a lesson by running away from home. However, he didn't know that it would be so "boringly, impossibly quiet"! A lively, humorous and accessible read.

MADDERN Eric Rainbow bird

The World is being born and Bird Woman steals fire to give heat and light to the land. Vivid colour illustrations add atmosphere to this Aboriginal folk tale from northern Australia.

---- **Madtail, miniwhale and other shape poems P**

In this collection, pictures become poems and poems become pictures. It will provide endless inspiration for children to try their hand at creating their own word paintings.

MANNING Mick Stonehenge Non fiction

The fascinating history of this World Heritage site is explored through words and drawings, mixing narrative with explanation. The book attempts to answer questions like "How did our Stone-age ancestors bring such massive stones to the site from so far away?" and "What was Stonehenge used for?"

MASON Paul Rainforest rough guide Non fiction

Letters and diary entries are used to explain the many sights, sounds and wonders discovered on this amazing trip through the Amazon rainforest.

MATTHEWS Andrew Favourite stories from Hans Christian Andersen

Fresh retellings of some favourite tales, with jolly illustrations.

MAYO Margaret First fairytales

Well-illustrated, well written and clearly-printed collection of traditional tales that most children of this age can read for themselves.

MEDEARIS Angela **Too much talk** **2.7 MY**
A Ghanaian tale, simply told and stunningly illustrated. The softly-coloured pictures look as if they have been engraved on wood.

MITCHELL Pratima **Bamba beach** **Dark Blue 4.6 MY**
Hari is a warm hearted boy and is helpful to both his family and feuding neighbours. This charming, contemporary story set in India, follows his efforts to raise enough money to save his family from poverty.

MORPURGO Michael **The butterfly lion** **Grey 4.6 MY**
Morpurgo at his best. A magical, sensitive story of the wonderful relationship of a boy and a lion cub, with a superb twist at the end. Smarties Gold Medal winner 1996.

NICHOLSON, Sue **World art** **Non fiction**
Step-by-step photographs and useful website addresses for children to research examples of the art techniques mentioned in the text. Clear, simple examples of an instructional text for children to use as models for their own writing. The text provides examples of sequenced imperative statements and presentational features such as numbering.

NIMMO Jenny **The night of the unicorn** **4.1 MY**
Amber's class have to write a project about their pets – she's delighted as she has a very special pet hen, but why is the new boy Luke so set on finding a unicorn?
Jenny Nimmo's wonderful use of evocative language draws the reader into this charming, fantasy tale.

NIMMO Jenny **The owl tree** **Grey 4.0 MY**
Atmospheric and haunting story of a very special tree and young Joe's efforts to save it from his grandma's nasty-seeming neighbour.

OKE Jan **Major Glad, Major Dizzy**
Photographic picture book based on the true story of two toy soldiers lost beneath the floorboards of an old house for over a hundred years. The detail and passage of the milestones of history will reward much exploration.

PINKNEY Jerry **The lion and mouse**
This classic Aesop fable is a wordless picture book that will allow children to create their own text. The detail in the pictures will support children who need to add more detail to their writing.

PURKISS Sue **Emily's surprising voyage** **4.3 LY**
Emily, her parents and nanny are sailing aboard the SS Great Britain bound for Australia where her father is looking to support his textile mill by setting up his own sheep farm. Emily is sure that the voyage will be very boring but then she meets Tom and his pet rat. This short read is not only a great adventure book, but with a wonderful lightness of touch, it is also a commentary on social history, the class divide in Victorian England and Victorian engineering.

RAYNER Shoo **How the leopard got his spots** **Gold 4.1 LY**
This retelling of one of Kipling's *Just so stories* captures the essence of the original text in an accessible format for young readers. The text is interspersed with lots of black and white illustrations and 4 separate pages of brief facts about elements mentioned in the story.

ROSENBERG Pam **Volcano explorers** **Non fiction Purple 3.8 LY**
An unusual career option which should capture children's interest. This non-chronological text is enhanced by fabulous photographs, labelled maps and diagrams.

ROYSTON Angela **Diary of a pilot** **Non fiction Purple 4.1 LY**
This book looks at a typical week in the life of a helicopter pilot. It is written in the form of a first-person diary and discusses how the narrator became a pilot and some of the key skills he needed. At the end of the book, a concluding chapter gives suggestions for how readers can start diaries of their own.

SMITH Emily **Shrimp** **Grey 3.4 LY**
A positive and uplifting tale of how shy Ben gains confidence when his teacher sets the class a wildlife project during the school holidays.

SOUNDAR Chitra **A dollop of ghee and a pot of wisdom**
In these four short stories follow young Prince Veera as he tries to help his father the king solve some of the problems he is having with his subjects. These trickster tales are based on traditional Indian folktales.

SOUHAMI Jessica **King Pom and the fox**
This colourful picture book tells the Chinese version of the story which later became famous in the West as Puss in Boots. Clever Fox helps Li Ming to change his fortune and live happily ever after.

STEWART Diane **The gift of the sun** **Gold 3.4 LY**
A colourful and vibrant tale from South Africa. Beautifully illustrated, it relates how Thulani exchanges his animals for some sunflower seeds resulting in him receiving good fortune – the gift of the sun!

SWINDELLS Robert **Ice palace** **Dark Blue 5.0 MY**
A gripping story, in the style of a traditional tale, which demonstrates the power of good over evil. Rich use of language.

Tongue twisters and tonsil twizzlers **P**
(ed P Cookson)
Poems that will tie tongues in knots and tire out tonsils. Beware - children may well be inspired to write lots of their own!

Twinkle twinkle chocolate bar (ed. J Foster) P
An attractive, accessible collection of rhymes, useful for whole class involvement as well as small group performance

TRIVIZAS Eugene The three little wolves and the big bad pig 4.6 LY

An excellent example of a well-known fairy tale turned on its head. Helen Oxenbury's wonderful illustrations add an extra dimension

Walking the bridge of your nose P
(ed M Rosen)

Wonderful games with language - wordplay, riddles, tongue-twisters, puns - enhanced by Chloe Cheese's exuberant, humorous artwork.

What's under your hat? And other P
mysteries and riddles;
selected by Myra Barrs and Sue Ellis

This is an accessible collection of mysteries and riddles from the popular 'Read me Poetry' series. The poems are an entertaining mixture of traditional and modern, with illustrations that complement the clearly laid out text.

WIESNER David The three pigs

With David Wiesner's picture books you need to keep your wits about you and this is no exception! When the wolf comes huffing and puffing along he blows the pigs clean out of their traditional story and into a whole other world of dragons and cats playing fiddles.

WILLIAMS Marcia Greek myths for young children

Comic strip pictures and a simple narrative - an attractive format that encourages shared reading and discussion.

WILLIAMS Marcia The Romans: gods, emperors and dormice Dark Blue 4.4 LY

A fascinating and humorous account of the rise and fall of the Roman empire told in comic strip pictures.