

School Library Service

Devon School Library Service – Playsets

Following discussion with teachers, the Playsets and Group Readers initiatives have been integrated to give greater flexibility. This means that you can borrow either 5 sets of Plays from this list or select any 5 sets from the Playsets and Group Reader lists. You can mix and match to provide the combination which best suits your needs.

Some of the Plays are quite short so we have grouped together some titles to create one set.

Key Stage 1 and 2

The plays are listed first by publisher and then by age

Cambridge University Press

BROWN Richard

The midnight party

6 books in the set

BROWN Richard

Whisked away

6 books in the set

Poems for more than one voice, written especially for sharing in a pair or group.

Suitable for performance, with detailed suggestions included. Recommended for Year 4 and above.

Collins Pathways

- **The following three titles are packaged as ONE set**

RICE Chris and Melanie

Little Miss Muffet (2 books)

A hungry spider approaches the squeamish Miss Muffet. It might help the Year 1 children to take turns when reading dialogue.

WADE Ann

Red Riding Hood (4 books)

KS1 readers will enjoy the strong illustrations and can extend the dialogue themselves.

WARREN Celia

A fishy tale (2 books)

Mum's one sided conversation with Tom will appeal to KS1 children as will the lively, detailed illustrations in the style of Quentin Blake.

DOHERTY Berlie

Morgan's field

6 books in the set

For Year 5 confident readers. Although there are 20 speaking parts it is possible to double-up on parts making it suitable for group work.

Garth Publishing Service

Aimed at top juniors, each of these plays has a section of activities which encourage children to work on the script as if they were TV producers, writers, artists, casting directors, programme planners, etc.

JOHN Liz

Fishy business

6 books in the set

JOHN Liz

Grandad's in trouble

6 books in the set

JOHN Liz

A New leader

6 books in the set

JOHN Liz

A Wedding, a thief and a stolen car

6 books in the set

Ginn All Aboard

Most attractively presented and of a consistently high standard. Plays cover a wide range of genres.

JARMAN Julia

The ghost next door

Suitable for KS1. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

The terrific tale of Jack and the beanstalk

Suitable for KS1. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

• The following two titles are packaged as ONE set

DONALDSON Julia

Names and games (4 books)

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 4

HENDERSON Kathy

The old woman who lived in a vinegar bottle (4 books)

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 4

GATES Susan

William's workshop

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

ROSSELSON Leon

Free the sunbird

Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

SLOAN Carolyn

The evacuees

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

**BARLOW Steve &
SKIDMORE Steve**

Chips off the old block

Suitable for Year 6 / 7. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

Ginn Primary Impact

Aimed at top juniors these scripts have a lower reading age.

- **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

**BARLOW Steve &
SKIDMORE Steve
DONALDSON Julia**

Starbores (4 books)
Characters: 4
Top of the mops (4 books)
Characters: 4

Ginn Reading 360

A lively and varied range of plays. Attractively presented, they offer children enjoyable material to read or perform.

- **The following three titles are packaged as ONE set**

DONALDSON Julia

The boy who cried wolf (4 books)
Suitable for Year 1 / 2. Characters: 4
The three billy goats Gruff (4 books)
Suitable for Year 1 / 2. Characters: 4
Turtle tug (4 books)
Suitable for Year 1 / 2. Characters: 4

DONALDSON Julia

Birthday surprise
Suitable for Year 2 / 3. Characters: 10
6 books in the set

FINE Anne

Stranger danger
Suitable for Year 2 / 3. Characters: 11
6 books in the set

**BARLOW Steve &
SKIDMORE Steve**

The Pied Piper of Hamelin
Suitable for Year 2 / 3. Characters: 8
6 books in the set

MARK Jan

The one that got away
Suitable for Year 2 / 3. Characters: 10
6 books in the set

- **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

DAPRE Alan

Taking shelter (3 books)
Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 3

DONALDSON Julia

The wonderful smells (7 books)
Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 7

**BARLOW Steve &
SKIDMORE Steve**

Thingummybob
Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 9
6 books in the set

McBRATNEY Sam

Breakfast with Ublob

Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 8
6 books in the set

MAGEE Wes

The working children

Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 12
6 books in the set

FINE Anne

The angel of Nitshill Road

Suitable for Year 5. Characters: 6 main
8 books in the set
Would work well with a whole class

**DICKENS Charles
(adapt. Barlow & Skidmore)**

Nicholas Nickleby

Suitable for Year 6. Characters: 6 main
6 books in the set
Designed for whole class or small groups

AGARD John

The great snakeskin

Suitable for Year 5 / 6 / 7. Characters: 10
6 books in the set

**BARLOW Steve &
SKIDMORE Steve**

Stone me!

Suitable for Year 5 / 6 / 7. Characters: 9
6 books in the set

McBRATNEY Sam

Bananas

Suitable for Year 5 / 6 / 7. Characters: 9
6 books in the set

Heinemann Literacy World

Yates Irene (ed.)

The magic sticks

Suitable for Year 3. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

Three plays, two traditional tales and a fantasy play, for reading aloud in small groups.

Heinemann Sunshine

Of a variable quality but have proved popular with children. The script is clearly laid out but detailed stage instructions, although generally helpful, do become intrusive in some scripts.

• **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

CIANTAR George

King of the beasts (5 books)

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 5

The goats and the troll (4 books)

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 4

Longman Book Project

EYLES Heather

Changes in the night

Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 8
6 books in the set

An effectively creepy mystery involving a time slip to a Victorian nursery.

EZRA Mark

Bertie's Uncle Basil

Suitable for Year 4 / 5. Characters: 13
7 books in the set

Dahlesque comedy which is fast-moving and very funny.

FINE Anne

Celebrity chicken

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 21
10 books in the set

Based on an original story **The Chicken gave it to me.** A humorous but thought provoking novel about battery farming.

Longman Hits

FINE Anne

Bill's new frock

Suitable for Years 6 / 7. Characters: 9 main
6 books in the set

Although there are 30 characters, this title can be used for pupils working in groups of 5 or 6.

ROBINSON Tony

Maid Marian and her merry men

Suitable for Years 6 / 7. Characters: 6 plus small parts
6 books in the set

Although there are 15 parts, this title can be used in groups of 5 or 6.

Longman Reading 2000

- **The following three titles are packaged as ONE set**

Blondilocks and the quiet music (4 books)

The traditional tale is engagingly retold with the addition of a disco dancing Baby Bear in part-rhyming verse.

MURDOCH Helen

Dick Whittington (4 books)

Suitable for Year 5

This title is more suited to performance than group reading.

MURDOCH Helen

The story of Shaheen (5 books)

Suitable for Year 5

This title is more suited to performance than group reading.

Nelson Thornes Tale and Play

SMITH Annette

The three little pigs

Suitable for KS1. (Orange band) Characters:6
6 books in the set

This popular traditional tale is presented in the first half of the book as a story and then as a play in the second half.

GILES Jenny

Cinderella

Suitable for Year 3. (Gold band)
Characters: 6 plus small parts
6 books in the set

Another well known traditional tale in similar format, - story, then play.

Oxford Primary English

Each of the books in this series contains a selection of poems for reading aloud plus one playscript. The poems are imaginatively selected by John Foster and present lots of opportunities for children reading in pairs or small groups to work on poems for recording or performance. The plays cover a variety of genres and Davis William's **The wolf who cried** (in The password) and Irene Yate's **Christmas present** (in The day the animals talked) are particularly good examples.

FOSTER John (Comp)

It's my dog

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 7
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

Whoppers!

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 7
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

The secret

Suitable for Year 3 / 4. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

Face the front

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

Mr Jones versus Angela

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 5
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

The Password

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 8
6 books in the set

FOSTER John (Comp)

The day the animals talked

Suitable for Year 5 / 6. Characters: 9
6 books in the set

Oxford Treetops

MORGAN Michaela

Spooky

Suitable for Year 4. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

WARBURTON Nick

Climbing in the dark

Suitable for Year 4. Characters: 6
6 books in the set

Written in the style of a stage play, this can be read in a group or performed as a full play.

SHIPTON Paul

Petey

Suitable for Year 5. Characters: 5 plus sound effects
6 books in the set

This title has been written as a radio play to be heard rather than seen.

Ransom: Goal!

NORMAN Tony

The magic match

Suitable for Year 5/6 (high/low). Characters: 5
5 books in the set

This simple, but fun play takes place in the commentator's box at a football match.

Stanley Thornes Spirals

Originally intended for reluctant readers at Key Stage 3 but many of the titles would be a good choice for children at the top of Key Stage 2 because of their humour, layout and line length.

• **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

MITCHELHILL Barbara

Punchlines (4 books)

Characters: 4

TOWNSEND John

Hanging by a Fred (6 books)

Characters: 10

• **The following three titles are packaged as ONE set**

TOWNSEND John

Cowboys, jelly and custard (5 books)

Characters: 5

WALKE David

The good, the bad and the bungle (3 books)

Characters: 3

WALKE David

Package holiday (4 books)

Characters: 4

Walker Story Plays

Story plays are dramatised versions of well-known stories suitable for KS1. Each story is told by four voices, each part being denoted by a different colour. A very useful introduction to playscripts.

• **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

FRENCH Vivian

Farmer Duck (4 books)

Characters: 4

Little Rabbit Foo Foo (4 books)

Characters: 4

• **The following two titles are packaged as ONE set**

FRENCH Vivian

This is the bear (4 books)

Characters: 4

We're going on a bear hunt (4 books)

Characters: 4