Literature Spine

Core texts for depth study

Academic year 2024-25

READING CUSP PRIMARY CURRICULUM WITH UNITY SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

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The principles

Each cohort will have a suite of core texts that will form the depth study for the academic year. These texts represent a promise from the school to every pupil that it serves of the literature that it is committed to studying throughout a pupil's school journey. These texts have been mapped carefully to ensure a breadth of experiences, authors, texts and themes is addressed across the Primary years. In addition to these texts, there are core poems that each year group will study in detail. Other texts that will be studied in part will be outlined within the curriculum. This spine represents the core texts for depth study only. The literature spine has been harmonised with the wider curriculum, where appropriate. Changes to the long term sequence have been reflected for the academic year 2023-24.

A development in CUSP Reading from 2022 is the inclusion of agile modules for each year group. This gives teachers the opportunity to switch a text that a school may decide not to study based on the needs of their particular context or cohort, without compromising the structure or quality of the Reading units. Teachers and leaders should carefully track any changes that are made to ensure that the curriculum retains balance over time and that any changes are reflected in whole school curriculum documentation. The expectation is that most schools will work with the original literature spine.

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Year 1

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Beegu	**Block 4:** The Storm Whale	**Block 7:** The Tale of Peter Rabbit	**Block 10:** Here We Are	**Block 13:** There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom	**Block 16:** The Lion Inside
Block 2: Where the Wild Things Are	**Block 5:** The Owl and the Pussycat Edward Lear	**Block 8:** The Tale of Peter Rabbit	**Block 11:** Here We Are	**Block 14:** There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom	**Block 17:** Aesop's Fables – The Hare and the Tortoise
Block 3: Where the Wild Things Are	**Block 6:** Aesop's Fables – The Boy who Cried Wolf	**Block 9:** Look Up!	**Block 12:** Chocolate Cake Michael Rosen	**Block 15:** and tango makes three	**Block 18:** The Proudest Blue
Agile module: Rapunzel – Bethan Woolvin, Too Much Stuff – Emily Gravett and Peace on Earth – Smriti Halls					

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Year 2

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Grandad's Island	**Block 4:** Paddington	**Block 7:** The Quangle Wangle's Hat Edward Lear	**Block 10:** The Rhythm of the Rain	**Block 13:** Fantastically Great Women who changed the World	**Block 16:** Fantastic Mr Fox
Block 2: Aesop's Fables – The Goose that Laid the Golden Eggs	**Block 5:** Paddington	**Block 8:** Coming to England	**Block 11:** The Rhythm of the Rain	**Block 14:** Fantastically Great Women who changed the World	**Block 17:** Fantastic Mr Fox
Block 3: Mrs Noah's Pockets	**Block 6:** The Christmas Pine Julia Donaldson	**Block 9:** The Street Beneath My Feet	**Block 12:** Little People, Big Dreams David Attenborough	**Block 15:** Aesop's Fables – The Sun and the Wind	**Block 18:** Fantastic Mr Fox
Agile module: Somebody Crunched Colin – Sarah Roberts, A Planet Full Of Plastic And How You Can Help by Neal Layton and The Enormous Crocodile – Roald Dahl					

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Year 3

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Greta and the Giants	**Block 4:** Leon and the Place Between	**Block 7:** Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark	**Block 10:** Operation Gadgetman	**Block 13:** The Dancing Bear	**Block 16:** The Magician's Nephew
Block 2: The Pebble in My Pocket	**Block 5:** Leon and the Place Between	**Block 8:** Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark	**Block 11:** Operation Gadgetman	**Block 14:** The Dancing Bear	**Block 17:** The Magician's Nephew
Block 3: The Pebble in My Pocket	**Block 6:** 'Twas the Night before Christmas Anon.	**Block 9:** Sam Wu is Not Afraid of the Dark & My Shadow Robert Louis Stephenson	**Block 12:** Operation Gadgetman	**Block 15:** The Dancing Bear	**Block 18:** The Magician's Nephew
Agile modules: The Little Prince – Antoine De Saint-Exupéry, The Great Food Bank Heist – Onjali Q. Raúf and Wildsmith: Into the Dark Forest by Liz Flanagan					

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Year 4

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: The Queen's Nose	**Block 4:** The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	**Block 7:** Varjak Paw	**Block 10:** The Boy at the Back of the class	**Block 13:** Young, Gifted and Black	**Block 16:** The Wind in the Willows
Block 2: The Queen's Nose	**Block 5:** The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	**Block 8:** Varjak Paw	**Block 11:** The Boy at the Back of the class	**Block 14:** Young, Gifted and Black & Caged Bird Maya Angelou	**Block 17:** The Wind in the Willows & The Walrus and the Carpenter Lewis Carroll
Block 3: The Raven Edgar Allen Poe	**Block 6:** The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	**Block 9:** Varjak Paw	**Block 12:** The Boy at the Back of the class	**Block 15:** Young, Gifted and Black	**Block 18:** The Wind in the Willows
Agile modules: The Borrowers – Mary Norton, What a Waste Rubbish, recycling and protecting our planet – Jess French and The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan					

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Year 5

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Shackleton's Journey	**Block 4:** Secrets of a Sun King	**Block 7:** A Midsummer Night's Dream	**Block 10:** Boy in the Tower	**Block 13:** The Explorer	**Block 16:** Five Children and IT
Block 2: Shackleton's Journey	**Block 5:** Secrets of a Sun King	**Block 8:** I Am Not A Label	**Block 11:** Boy in the Tower	**Block 14:** The Explorer	**Block 17:** Five Children and IT
Block 3: Shackleton's Journey	**Block 6:** Secrets of a Sun King & If Rudyard Kipling	**Block 9:** I Am Not A Label	**Block 12:** Boy in the Tower & Daffodils William Wordsworth	**Block 15:** The Explorer	**Block 18:** Five Children and IT
Agile modules: A Wrinkle in Time – Madeleine l'Engle, The Rabbits – John Marsden & Shaun Tan and Boy Giant by Michael Morpurgo					

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Year 6

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Block 1: Rooftoppers	**Block 4:** Pig Heart Boy	**Block 7:** All Aboard the Empire Windrush	**Block 10:** Skellig	**Block 13:** Dare to be You	**Block 16:** Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Block 2: Rooftoppers	**Block 5:** Pig Heart Boy	**Block 8:** All Aboard the Empire Windrush	**Block 11:** Skellig	**Block 14:** Dare to be You	**Block 17:** Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Block 3: Rooftoppers & The Listeners Walter de la Mare	**Block 6:** How to Live Forever	**Block 9:** The Island	**Block 12:** Skellig & A Carol From Flanders Frederick Niven	**Block 15:** Dare to be You	**Block 18:** Introduction to Dickens – Oliver Twist
Agile modules: Treasure Island – Robert Louis Stephenson, The Future is in our Hands Climate Action – Georgina Stevens & Katie Rewse and Now or Never: A Dunkirk Story by Bali Rai					

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