



## Victoria Road Primary School - READING SPINE

### Introduction

This document outlines Victoria Road Primary School's reading spine, a spine of books designed to support inclusion, diversity and reading for pleasure at our school. It is a reading spine that inspires, connects and engages children through high quality texts from contemporary and classic authors and illustrators.

We have selected the books in our reading spine for the quality of their writing, illustrations and their ability to represent the lives and experiences of the children at Victoria Road Primary School. We have selected books which represent a range of genders, ethnicities and socio economic backgrounds, so that everyone in our environment feels represented and validated.

At Victoria Road Primary School we recognise the need to raise the aspirations of all of the children at our school, one of the ways that we can do this is through the use of texts which expose children to possibilities which may currently be out of their reach; children cannot be what they cannot see. By selecting books that present ambitious, motivated characters and situations, we hope to inspire children and raise their aspirations.

Our reading spine is designed to ensure that children hear the best stories read aloud to them for pleasure; the books in our reading spine support a holistic approach to reading. They help children to understand the world around them, to encounter and understand emotions and experiences and to provide "mirrors, windows and doors to the world" (Rudine Sims Bishop).



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### Progression

Our reading spine is progressive; books increase in complexity of language, structure and concepts as children progress through the school. This means that we can be assured that they are reading books suitable to the needs of their age-group. To ensure progression we have based our reading spine on **The Five Plagues of the Developing Reader** from 'Reading Reconsidered' by Doug Lemov.

### Archaic Language

The vocabulary, usage and syntax of texts over 50 years old are vastly different and typically more complex than texts written today. Children need to be exposed to and develop proficiency with archaic language to be able to access classic texts later in life.

### Non-Linear Time Sequences

In these texts aspects of the narration are nuanced to create an exact image, and time moves in fits and starts. In order to master this type of text, books must be carefully introduced, discussed and read to children time and again.

### Narratively Complex Books

These books may have multiple plot lines or narrators, narrators may be unreliable or they may have intertwined and apparently unrelated plot lines (e.g. *The Troll* by Julia Donaldson). These books are far harder to read and understand than those with a single plot line.

### Figurative/Symbolic Text

These books use allegories, metaphors and symbols to represent an idea. For example, Jiminy Cricket represents a conscience in 'Pinocchio'

### Resistant Texts

These texts are written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers. Children must assemble meaning around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues.

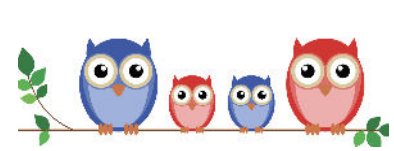


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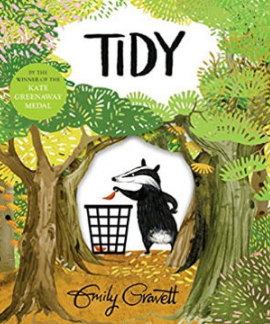
YEAR ONE

Term	Autumn One		Autumn Two			
Topic	Geography - What is it like to live in our local area?		History - What toys did our Grandparents play with?			
Literacy Tree Units	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Exploration</p>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Heroes and Villains</p>			
Reading Spine		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>These books have been selected to enable children to explore their own feelings and emotions. Vocabulary development will focus on their ability to recognise and name emotions and develop a wider vocabulary around this. In the text 'Astro Girl' children will encounter Astrid and her family and through this, gender and racial stereotypes will be challenged.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>A series of books by Beth Woolvin have been selected to challenge gender stereotypes which exist within traditional and fairy tales. Little Red and the Very Hungry Lion also follows this theme and allows children to make comparisons between characters across texts, as they compare Little Red to Billy from Billy and the Beast.</p>	
						





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Term	Spring One		Spring Two			
Topic	Geography - What is special about the four nations of the UK?		History - How did the first flight change the world?			
Literacy Tree Units	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Similarities and Differences</p>		<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Our Natural World</p>			
Reading Spine		<p><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>These books explore similarities and differences and challenge gender stereotypes. Children are introduced to some sex relationships in Tango Makes Three in a way that is recommended by <a href="http://www.educateandcelebrate.org">www.educateandcelebrate.org</a> and Stonewall.</p>			<p><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>Children are introduced to sustainability. They are introduced to the life and work of Greta Thunberg, demonstrating how young people can achieve great things and encouraging them to consider their own impact on the environment. In Mrs Noah's Garden children are introduced to the ideas of refugees and migration, as well as the need to care for the world that we live in.</p>	
						



## Victoria Road Primary School - READING SPINE

Term	Summer One			Summer Two		
Topic	Geography - Where are the Seven Wonders of the World?			History - Who were the greatest explorers?		
Literacy Tree Units	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Friendship and Kindness</p>			<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Creation and Imagination</p>		
Reading Spine		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>The themes of friendship and kindness are explored in these texts. Children are introduced to the ideas of exclusion and prejudice in 'Mrs Noah's Pockets.' Children will experience different types of friendship through these texts and will be encouraged to reflect on their own friendships.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>In line with the recommendations made by <a href="http://www.educateandcelebrate.org">www.educateandcelebrate.org</a> and Stonewall, we have embedded gender, gender identity and sexual orientation into the fabric of the school by selecting books to address these issues. Children are introduced to the role of an architect, an aspirational career. They will also be introduced to the life and struggles of Malala Yousafzai, a person whose work and achievements they will revisit in KS2.</p>	
						

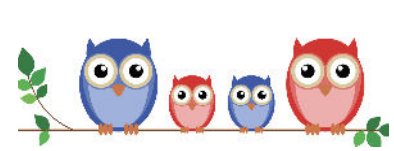








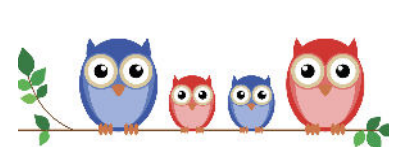





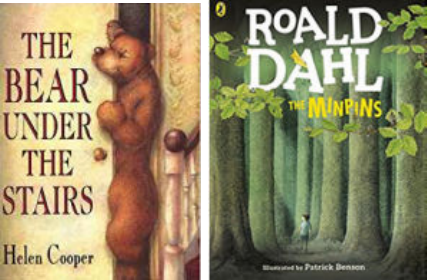
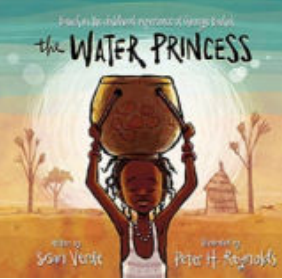
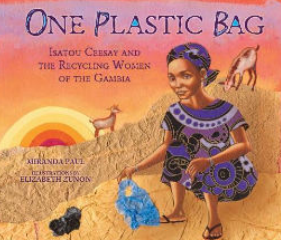
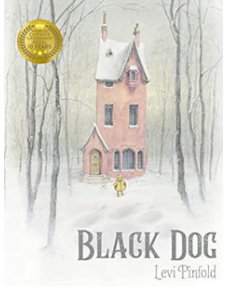
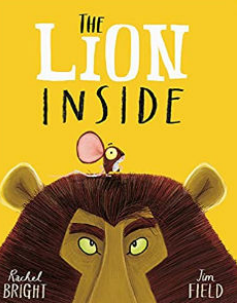
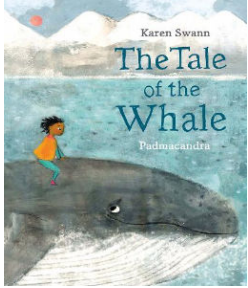

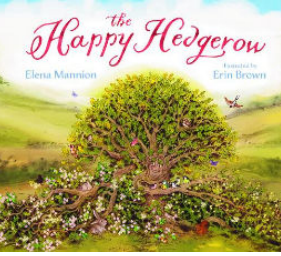
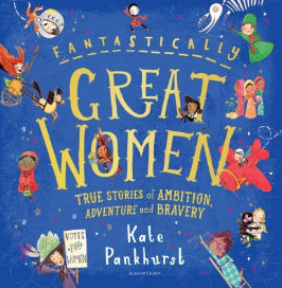
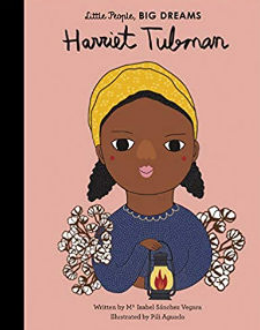
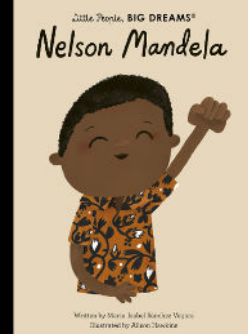
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YEAR TWO

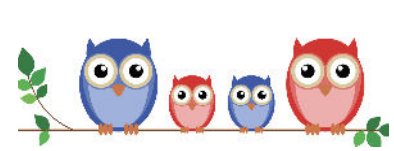
Term	Autumn One		Autumn Two			
Topic	Geography - Where Would you Prefer to Live, England or Kenya?		History - Why do we Remember The Great Fire of London? Why do we Remember Bonfire Night?			
Literacy Tree Units	 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Traditional Tales</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Urban Lives</p>			
Reading Spine		<p><b>Favourite Five</b> This half term children will read a range of 'twists on a tale.' These will be used to further challenge gender stereotypes and traditional gender roles. In line with the suggestions made by <a href="http://www.educateandcelebrate.org">www.educateandcelebrate.org</a> children will be exposed to different presentations of gender identity</p>			<p><b>Favourite Five</b> Children will explore the theme of Urban Lives. In Ada Twist, Scientist children will be introduced to the role of a scientist, an aspirational career. In A Bear Called Paddington children will begin to understand the experiences of a refugee through the experiences of Paddington Bear.</p>	
						





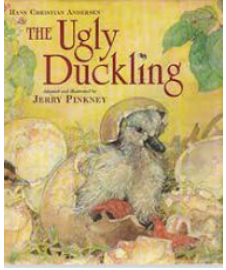
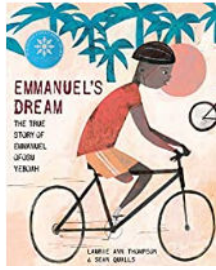

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Term	Spring One		Spring Two			
Topic	Geography - Why Don't Meerkats Live in the North Pole?		History - How Has Our School Changed Over Time?			
Literacy Tree Units	 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Conservation and Creation</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Overcoming Fear</p>			
Reading Spine		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>Children will build on the knowledge of sustainability that they developed in KS1. In <i>The Water Princess</i> and <i>One Plastic Bag</i>, children will begin to understand the impact that they can have on their environment, their power to change this and to care for the world that we live in. Children will experience strong female characters and positive male role models.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>Children will explore the theme of bravery and different forms that this can take. Children will explore the lives of real people who have demonstrated bravery in the face of adversity. They will also build on their understanding of prejudice and the bravery of those who have battled against this.</p>	
						





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Term	Summer One		Summer Two			
Topic	Geography - Why Do People Visit the Seaside on Holiday?		History - How Have Seaside Holidays Changed Since our Grandparents Were Young?			
Literacy Tree Units	 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Change</p>		 <p style="text-align: center;">THEME - Fiction and Fantasy</p>			
Reading Spine		<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>Children will explore the theme of change. They will think about how they themselves have changed and will change and they will begin to consider changes in their lives and relationships. In Emmanuel's Dream children will find out about the life of Emmanuel Ofofu Yebaha learning that being disabled does not mean being unable.</p>			<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Favourite Five</b></p> <p>Children will read a collection of books by The Fan Brothers. In 'It Fell From The Sky,' children will be introduced to the themes of greed and consumerism in an age appropriate manner. While in 'The Night Gardener' they will further explore the beauty of nature and in 'Where Ocean Meets Sky,' they will be introduced to life after loss.</p>	