



**St John's**  
Church of England  
**Academy**

**Reading Spine**  
2022 - 2023

## **Rationale**

At St. John's we firmly believe that reading is the key to success and so we are passionate about giving children the very best opportunities to encounter and engage with a wide range of high-quality children's literature. We want children in our school to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers because success in reading opens doors to a world of knowledge. Throughout their time in school, the children will meet a wide range of authors and text types, however, there are some texts that we believe children must meet; texts that bring something fundamental to a child's reading journey. These are the texts that we have included in our reading spine, not an exhaustive list (children will access so many more) but a non-negotiable list that will be referred to as the children progress through school.

## **EYFS**

The curriculum in our EYFS units have core books as their stimulus and many of the learning experiences are planned around these. The children learn nursery rhymes and poems by heart, they enjoy revisiting and retelling their favourite stories as well as encountering new ones in regular story sessions. Children in Reception extend their understanding of books by using story maps to support the retelling of more complex plots and move from these into the writing process.

## **KS1 and KS2**

In 'Reading Reconsidered', Dough Lemov identifies five types of texts (The 5 Plagues of the Developing Reader) that children should access in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence:

### ***Archaic Language***

Texts over 50-100 years old where the vocabulary and cultural context are typically more complex than texts written today with antiquated forms of expression.

### ***Non-Linear Time Sequences***

Books where every aspect of the narration is nuanced to create an exact image and time moves in fits and starts, even doubling back, rather than unfolding with consistency

### ***Narratively Complex***

Books that narrated by an unreliable narrator e.g. those who do not fully understand, who misperceive, who are out of touch with reality or non-human and those that have intertwined or apparently unrelated (at first) plot lines.

### ***Figurative/Symbolic Text***

Texts which happen at an allegorical or symbolic level.

### ***Resistant Texts***

Written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making and requires readers to assemble meaning around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues. Often poetry.

These are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

### **Application**

The books in the reading spine are considered worthy of further exploration and have been chosen to address all '5 Plagues' each year and to ensure that children have encountered a range significant authors/poet. Texts increase in length and complexity as children move through the school so that by the time they reach the end of Year 6 they have a good understanding of them and are able to access the more complex books expected of them at secondary school. The books are used as whole class reads or as study books (in full or part) and can have strong links to writing units. They are narratives and poems; a good balance of appropriate non-fiction should also be read to develop children's background knowledge and understanding.

### **EYFS Reading Spine**

Year Group	Traditional Tales	Repetitive Stories	Rhyming Texts	Cumulative Texts	Contemporary Stories	Nursery Rhymes/Poetry
<b>Nursery</b>	The Three Little Pigs	Shark in the Park -Nick Sharratt Dear Zoo – Rod Campbell	Where's my Teddy – Jez Alborough	Old McDonald Had a Farm	What I Like About Me Blackwells	Twinkle Twinkle Tommy Thumb The Very Hungry Caterpillar – Eric Carle
	Goldilocks and the Three Bears Jack and the Beanstalk	We're Going on a Bear Hunt – Michael Rosen Brown Bear, Brown Bear – Eric Carle	Each Peach Pear Plum – Janet and Allan Ahlberg	The House that Jack Built	The Foggy, Foggy Forest – Nick Sharratt	Humpty Dumpty Baa Baa Black Sheep
<b>REC</b>	The Three Billy Goats Gruff – Paul Galdone	Pardon said the Giraffe – Colin West	The Gruffalo Room on the Broom – Julia Donaldson	The Enormous Turnip	Tidy – Emily Gravett Black is a Rainbow Colour – Angela Joy	Rumble in the Jungle Commotion in the Ocean – Giles Andrea

## Year 1 – 6 Reading Spine

Year Group	Archaic Texts	Non-Linear Time Sequences	Complexity of the Narrator	Complexity of Plot/Symbol	Resistant Texts	Poetry
Year 1	Peter Rabbit-Beatrix Potter T4W	Grandpa – John Burningham Story Time/Author Study	The Very Smart Pea and the Princess to Be Mini Grey Story Time	The Tiger who Came to Tea – Judith Kerr Story Time/Author Study	Beegu – Alexis Deacon Story Time/Book Talk	Owl and the Pussycat – Edward Lear Writing Unit
	The Ugly Duckling-Hans Christian Anderson T4W					The Frog – Hilarie Belloc
Year 2	Aesop's Fables-Aesop Book Talk	Voices in the Park – Anthony Browne Book Talk	Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig – John Scieszka Writing Unit	Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish – Michael Foreman Writing Unit	The Colour Monster – Anna Llenas Book Talk	Ning, Nang, Nong – Spike Milligan Book Talk
	The Magic Faraway Tree – Enid Blyton Story Time					Who Has Seen the Wind – Christina Rossetti Book Talk
Year 3	How the Camel Got his Hump-Rudyard Kipling Writing Unit	The Butterfly Lion – Michael Morpurgo Story Time	Nim's Island – Wendy Orr Book Talk	The Iron Man – Ted Hughes Writing Unit	Cloud Busting – Malorie Blackman Story Time	Revolting Rhymes – Roald Dahl
						Topsy Turvy World – William Brighty Rands
Year 4	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Book Talk	The Firework Maker's Daughter – Phillip Pullman Writing Unit	Max and the Millions – Ross Montgomery Story Time	The Tunnel – Anthony Brown Writing Unit	The Mysteries of Harris Burdick – Chris Van Allsburg Book Talk	Something Told the Wild Geese – Rachel Field
						Dream Variations – Langston Hughes
Year 5	Around the World in 80 days-Jules Verne Book Talk	Cosmic – Frank Cottrell – Boyce Story Time	Once – Morris Gleitzman Story Time	Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare Stories – Leon Garfield Writing Unit	The Arrival – Shaun Tan Book Talk	The Highwayman – Alfred Noyes Writing Unit
						In Flanders Fields – John McCrae Writing Unit
Year 6	The Secret Garden – Frances Hodgson Burnett Book Talk	Holes – Louis Sachar Story Time	Wonder – R.J. Palacio Story Time	Macbeth Shakespeare Stories – Leon Garfield Writing Unit	Jabberwocky – Lewis Carroll Book Talk	The Lady of Shallot – Alfred Lord Tennyson Writing Unit
						The Raven – Edgar Allan Poe Writing Unit