

Recommended texts-from Hertfordshire

Year 3 / 4

Traditional tales

Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters - John Steptoe
Jamil's Clever Cat: a folktale from Bengal - Fiona French
The Willow Pattern Story - Alan Drummond
The Jolly Postman - Janet and Allan Ahlberg
The Paper Bag Princess - Robert Munsch
The Boy Who Cried Wolf - Tony Ross
Into the Forest - Anthony Browne
Guess who's coming for dinner? - John Kelly
Little Red – A fizzingly good yarn - Lynne Roberts
Little Chicken Chicken - David Martin
Jasper's Beanstalk - Nick Butterworth

Literary language

That Rabbit Belongs to Emily Brown - Cressida Cowell
Meerkat Mail - Emily Gravett
Scaredy Squirrel - Melanie Watt
On the Way Home - Jill Murphy
Once There Were Giants - Martin Waddell
Stars of Mine - Kevin Crossley-Holland
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus! - Mo Willems
The smartest giant in town - Julia Donaldson
Traction Man is here - Mini Grey
A Dark, Dark Tale - Ruth Brown
Oi! Get Off Our Train - John Burningham

Traditional myths/tales

Just So Stories: How the Leopard Got his Spots (and others in the series) - Shoo Rayner
How the Whale Became - Ted Hughes (Note: this is a challenging text for year 2)
Tiddalick the Frog - Susan Nunes
Ahmed and the Feather Girl - Jane Ray
How the zebra got its stripes - Justine & Ron Fontes
How the camel got its hump - Justine & Ron Fontes
How the turtle got its shell - Justine & Ron Fontes
Tinga Tinga Tales: why giraffe has a long neck
Tinga Tinga Tales: why lion ROARRRS!

Tinga Tinga Tales: why monkeys swing in the trees
Tinga Tinga Tales: why leopard has spots
Tinga Tinga Tales: why chameleon changes colour
Tinga Tinga Tales: why elephant has a trunk
+ some Tinga Tinga Tales are available on DVD
Aesop's Funky Fables - Vivian French and Korky Paul
The Very Best of Aesop's Fables - Margaret Clarke
War and Peas - Michael Foreman
I'll Take you to Mrs Col - Nigel Gray
The Dragon Machine - Helen Ward
The Great Kapok Tree - Lynne Cherry
The Stinky Cheese Man - Jon Scieszka
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs - Jon Scieszka
The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf - Eugene Trivizas
Jim and the Beanstalk - Raymond Briggs
The Lost Happy Endings - Carol Ann Duffy
A Tale of Two Wolves - Kelly Susan
The Amazing Adventures of Idle Jack - Robert Leeson
Daedalus and Icarus - Geraldine McCaughean
Rainbow Bird - Eric Maddern
Too much talk - Angela Medearis
The gift of the sun - Diane Stewart
The hare and the tortoise - Helen Ward
Rama and the Demon King, - Jessica Souhami
Tusk, Tusk - David McKee
The Iron Man - Ted Hughes
The Boy and the Tiger (and other stories for 9-11 year olds) - compiled by Pie Corbett
Ulf the Finger Eater - Dick King Smith
The Truth About Hansel and Gretel - Karina Law and Graham Philpot
The Truth about those Billy Goats - Karina Law
The Pea and the Princess - Mini Grey
Cinderboy - L.Anholt
Mixed up Fairy Tales - H. Harrison
Eco Wolf and the Three Little Pigs - Laurence Anholt
The Orchard Book of Greek Myths, Geraldine McCaughean
Greek Myths - Marcia Williams
Blackberry Blue and other fairy tales - Jamila Gavin
The Boy and the Cloth of Dreams - Jenny Koralek
East O the Sun and West O the Moon - PJ Lynch
The Firework Maker's Daughter - Phillip Pullman
The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone – J.K. Rowling
The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe – C.S. Lewis
Peter Pan in Scarlet - Geraldine McCaughean
The Wooden Horse - Geraldine McCaughean
Mission to marathon – Geoffrey Trease

Adventure

The Snow Dragon - Vivien French
Flat Stanley - Jeff Brown
The Green Ship - Quentin Blake
The Pirate Cruncher/The Pirate's Next Door/The Jolly Roger and the Ghostly Galleon - Jonny Duddle
The Invisible Boy (and others in the series) - Sally Gardner
It was a Dark and Stormy Night - Janet Ahlberg
Fantastic Mr Fox - Roald Dahl
Charlie Small - Charlie Small
Tuesday - David Weisner
Dimanche Diller - Henriette Blandford
The Jaws of Doom - Alex Cliff
Jolly Roger Captain Abdul's pirate school
Black Queen - Michael Morpurgo
Dominic's Discovery - Gervase Phinn
Gorilla City, The perfumed Pirates of Perfidy - Charlie Small
The Speckled Panic - Hazel Townson
Shipley manor, - Tim Walker
The Great Smile Robbery - Roger McGough
The Haunting of Pip Parker - Anne Fine
Julian, Secret Agent - Ann Cameron
The Secret of Weeping Wood - Robert Swindells
The Thing in the Basement - Michaela Morgan

Settings

Cloud Tea Monkeys (set in another country) - Mal Peet
The Butterfly Lion (historical setting) - Michael Morpurgo
Children of Winter (historical setting) - Berlie Doherty
The Ice Palace (imaginary worlds) - Robert Swindells

Stories set in imaginary worlds

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe - C S Lewis
The Dream Master - Theresa Breslin
Aquila (science-fiction) - Andrew Norriss
The Widow's Broom - Chris Van Allsburg
Dragon's Child - Jenny Nimmo
Seth and the Strangers - Jenny Nimmo

Set in other countries

Jane & Lewis Kurtz E.B. Mamo on the mountain – (Ethopia)
The true story of Balto - Natalie Staniford (Arctic)
Anna Hibiscus – Atinuke (Nigeria)
The Big Book of Betsey Biggalow - Malorie Blackman (West Indies)
Sophie and the Albino Camel - Stephen Davies (Sahara Desert)
Elephant child – Mary Ellis (African savannah)
Grandpa's Indian Summer - Jamila Gavin (India)

The Colour of Home – Mary Hoffman (Somalia)
A fistful of pearls and other tales from Iraq – Elizabeth Laird

Historical settings

Street Child - Berlie Doherty
Across the Roman Wall - Theresa Breslin
The Time Travelling Cat - Julia Jarman
The Roman Eagle - Julia Jarman
The Tudor Treasure - Julia Jarman
The Egyptian Goddess - Julia Jarman
The Aztec Sacrifice - Julia Jarman
The Viking Terror - Julia Jarman
Roger's War - Robert Swindells
Meet me by the steelmen - Teresa Tomlinson

General

Bill's New Frock (gender stereotypes) - Anne Fine
Cloud Busting (friendship/bullying) - Malorie Blackman
Journey to Jo'burg (segregation) - Beverley Naidoo
Frog Belly Rat Bone (protecting the environment) - Timothy Basil
The Angel of Nitshill Road (bullying) – Anne Fine
Secret Friends (bullying/peer pressure) - Elizabeth Laird
The Forbidden Game (bullying) – Malorie Blackman
The Widow's Broom (prejudice - being different/misunderstood) - Chris Van Allsburg
Prosper's Mountain (prejudice - being different/misunderstood) - Henrietta Branford
Rat heaven - Jeanne Willis (different points of view)
Voices in the Park – Anthony Browne (different points of view)
Dear Mrs LaRue; Letters from Obedience School (being misunderstood/different points of view) - Mark Teague
Big Ben - Rachel Anderson (disability)
Fred (bereavement) – Posy Simmonds

Suspense and mystery – year 4

Snow horse and other stories – Joan Aiken
Snaggletooth's mystery – Gene Kemp
Shock forest and other stories – Margaret Mahy
Room 13 – Robert Swindells
The London Eye Mystery – Siobhan Dowd
No Such Thing as Dragons - Written and illustrated by Philip Reeve
Cosmic- Written by Frank Cottrell Boyce
Flood Child - Written by Emily Diamand

Year 5/6

Classic texts

Narnia Stories – CS Lewis
Harry Potter series – JK Rowling
Billy The Kid – Michael Morpurgo
Why the Whales Came – Michael Morpurgo
Oliver Twist – Charles Dickens
Kensuke's Kingdom – Michael Morpurgo
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens
Stig of the Dump – Clive King
Snow Spider – Jenny Nimmo
Macbeth for Kids, Louis Burdett
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase – Joan Aiken
Peter Pan – J. M. Barrie
A Christmas Carol (Eyewitness classics) – Charles Dickens
The Hound of the Baskervilles – Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (adapted by Chris Mould)
The Wind in the Willows – Kenneth Grahame
The Jungle Book – Rudyard Kipling
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland – Lewis Carroll
Mary Poppins – P.L. Travers
Stories from Dickens (ed Blishen)
Stories from Shakespeare (ed. Geraldine McCaughrean)
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick – Chris Van Allsburg
FARTHER – Grahame Baker-Smith
Journey – Aaron Becker
Train to Somewhere – Eve Bunting
The Princess Blankets – Carol Ann Duffy
The Gift – Carol Ann Duffy
The Wolves in the Walls – Neil Gaiman Illus. by Dave McKean
Wolves – Emily Gravett
Way home – Libby Hathorn
Beware, Beware – Susan Hill
The Red Tree – Shaun Tan
The Arrival – Shaun Tan
Tales from Outer Suburbia – Shaun Tan
Eric – Shaun Tan
Rules of Summer – Shaun Tan
The Lost Thing – Shaun Tan (book and animation)
How to Live Forever – Colin Thompson
The Tower to the Sun – Colin Thompson
Varmints – Helen Ward
Tuesday – David Wiesner
Flotsam – David Wiesner
Mr William Shakespeare's plays – Marcia Williams

Fantasy

Skellig – David Almond
The Various – Steve Augarde
Artemis Fowl – Eoin Colfer
The Bag of Bones – Vivian French
Inkheart trilogy – Cornelia Funke
Coraline – Neil Gaiman
The Weirdstone of Brisingamen – Alan Garner
Pure Dead Magic – Debi Gliori
Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver
Truckers – Terry Pratchett
The Spiderwick Chronicles – Lynne Reid Banks
Goblins series – Philip Reeve
Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick
The Amulet of Samarkand – Jonathon Stroud
The Hobbit – J.R.R. Tolkien
The Girl Who Circumnavigated Fairyland in a Ship of Her Own Making – Catherynne M. Valente
Tanglewreck – Jeanette Winterson

Science Fiction

Supernaturalist – Eoin Colfer
Grinny: Grinny and You Remember Me – Nicholas Fisk
Among the Hidden – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Double Identity – Margaret Peterson Haddix
Maphead – Lesley Howarth
The Giver – Lois Lowry
Other Worlds: 10 Amazing Sci Fi Stories – Rick Riordan ed.
Timesnatch – Robert Swindells
Hydra – Robert Swindells

Chilling Stories

The Graveyard Book – Neil Gaiman
Uncle Montague's Tales of Terror – Chris Priestley
Horowitz Horror – Anthony Horowitz
Breathe – Cliff McNish
At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry
Chill – Alex Nye
Tales from the Tunnel's Mouth – Chris Priestley
Tales of Terror From the Black Ship – Chris Priestley
Marianne Dreams – Catherine Storr

Real Life

Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman (science/ethics)
Tangerine – Edward Bloor (blindness)
The Eighteenth Emergency – Betsy Byars (bullying)
The 10PM Question – Kate De Gold (worry/anxiety)
Running on Cracks – Julia Donaldson (running from home – mature themes)
Step By Wicked Step – Anne Fine (step parenting)
Dead End in Norvelt – Jack Gantos (boredom, friendship)
Love, Aubrey – Suzanne LaFleur (family)
Hangman - Julia Jarman (bullying)
The View from Saturday – E.L. Konisburg (friendship)
The Other Side of Truth – Bevery Naidoo (refugee)
Wonder – R.J. Palacio (appearance)

Adventure

Noah Barleywater Runs Away – John Boyne
Ruby Holler – Sharon Creech
Danny: the champion of the world – Roald Dahl
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane – Kate DiCamillo
Stormbreaker – Anthony Horowitz
The Devil and his Boy – Anthony Horowitz
Journey to the River Sea – Eva Ibbotson
From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler – E. L. Konigsburg
Outlaw: the Legend of Robin Hood – Tony Lee
The Ghost of Thomas Kempe – Penelope Lively
Mortal Engines – Phillip Reeves
Varjak Paw – S. F. Said
The Invention of Hugo Cabret – Brian Selznick
Wonderstruck – Brian Selznick

War

Warboy – Michael Foreman
Once/Now/Then/After – Morris Gleitzman
Goodnight, Mr Tom – Michelle Magorian
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
At the Firefly Gate – Linda Newberry
Johnny and the bomb – Terry Pratchett
My Friend the Enemy – Dan Smith
The Machine Gunners – Robert Westall
Carrie's War – Nina Bawden
Doodlebug Summer – Alison Price
Soldier Dog – Sam Angus

Mysteries

Chasing Vermeer – Blue Bailliett
The Crossroads – Chris Grabenstein
Silver Fin – Charlie Higson
The Case of the London Dragonfish – Joan Lennon
The Sign of the Black Dagger – Joan Lingard
Magnus Finn and the Selkie Secret – Janis Mackay
Out of the Depths – Cathy MacPhail
Flood and Fang – Marcus Sedgwick

Humour

How to Train Your Dragon - Cressida Cowell
How To Train Your Dragon <http://www.howtotrainyourdragonbooks.com/>
How to speak dragonese - Cressida Cowell
The Meanwhile Adventures – Roddy Doyle
Boom! – Mark Haddon
Ribblestrop – Andy Mulligan
Goblins series – Philip Reeve
Holes – Louis Sachar
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom – Loius Sachar
A Boy and a Bear in a Boat – Dave Shelton
Gangsta Granny – David Walliams
Ratburger – David Walliams

Animals

The Midnight Fox – Betsy Byars
The Tale of Despereaux – Kate DiCamillo
Charlotte's Web – E.B.White
Flush – Carl Hiaasen
One Boy and His Dog – Eva Ibbotson
A Coyote in the House – Elmore Leonard
The Call of the Wild – Jack London
Going Home –Cliff McNish
Why the Whales Came – Michael Morpurgo
The Amazing Story of Adolphus Tips – Michael Morpurgo
War Horse – Michael Morpurgo
Catscape – Mike Nicholson
Wolf Brother – Michelle Paver
The Outlaw Varjack Paw – S.F. Said
Black Beauty – Anna Sewell

Traditional tales

Sir Galwain and the Loathly Lady, Selina Hastings
Don Quixote, Marcia Williams

Arthur: The Seeing Stone, Kevin Crossley-Holland
Beowulf – K. Crossley-Holland
The Story of Robin Hood – R. Leeson
Arthur, High King of Britain – Michael Morpurgo
The Tale of Tales – Tony Mitton
Myths and Legends – Anthony Horowitz
Arion and the Dolphin – Vikram Seth
Just So Stories – Rudyard Kipling