



Year Four Reading Spine List

THEME	TITLE	AUTHOR	WHY THIS BOOK?	QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS	ACTIVITY IDEAS & LINKS TO OTHER TEXTS
EVERYDAY BOOKS	Bill's New Frock	Anne Fine	<b>Read &amp; Respond</b>	Read the first sentence and then discuss how might things be different for Bill. With the class list and discuss the various things that happen to Bill as a girl. The book was written in 1989, so together consider if anything has changed since then. Act out the classroom scene in Chapter 2. Discuss the line 'I am a person' in Chapter 7	Encourage the children to write an extra scene for the book.
	Charlotte's Web	E B White	<b>Read &amp; Respond</b>	It is 63 years on, but it is still a great read, starting with such a startling opening: "Where's Papa going with that axe?" With the class track the different characters, gathering clues about their different natures. Also, chart with a character graph how Wilbur's character develops. Produce a class timeline to show the sequence of events, so the plot can be seen in one glance.	Role play conversations between Fern and Avery about different events, revisiting what has happened and discuss the implications of the key events.
	Why The Whales Came	Michael Morpurgo	Timeline and events	Provide the children with some information about Narwhals as they feature in the story. On the board draw a map of Bryher and together label with events. Ask: How do our views of the Birdman change and why? Issues to discuss in class: fear, bullying, friendship and should whales be hunted.	Check out Bryher on the Isles of Scilly, and Rushy Bay – which is a key setting – and research on the internet why families left Samson Island.



Year Four Reading Spine List

	The Firework-Maker's Daughter	Phillip Pullman	Alternative books by a familiar author	Ask: What is the big challenge that Lila faces? Then in groups they can act out the scene where Lila meets Razvani. ask: How does the author show how Lila feels in Chapter 5? 'Illusions': what does this mean in Chapter 5? What sort of person is Lila? Invite them to gather evidence.	As a class invent names for new fireworks and draw designs for amazing explosive fireworks! Encourage children to write a letter from Lachand back to Lila (Chapter 2). Provide time to create persuasive adverts for a firework show by Lila and Lachand. Also, read The Scarecrow and his Servant (Random House) by the same author.
	The Snow Walker's Son	Catherine Fisher	From a 'Fire' daughter to a 'Snow' son, this is the first part of a powerful trilogy involving 'magic' written by the Welsh novelist and poet, Catherine Fisher.	Track the two main characters, Kari and Jessa, perhaps using a class timeline to show the main events and their developing characters. With the class make notes and discuss at the end the role of heat and cold in the story.	Can they predict (or write) what might happen in the next story, The Empty Hand (Red Fox)?
	Perry Angel's Suitcase	Glenda Millard	Deep running themes throughout	Read this book yourself before sharing it with the class. Discuss in lesson how everyone feels before Perry arrives and then discuss Perry's behaviour, thinking about why he acts as he does. Discuss the suitcase. Pause in Chapter 10 to discuss why Perry gets onto the raft. Ask: What advice can be learned from Chapter 10? Discuss the viewpoints of those involved at the end of each chapter.	The themes run deep and it will help for children to talk about their feelings. There are other books in this series, all equally magical.



## Year Four Reading Spine List

	Voices in the Park	Anthony Browne	<b>Picture Book</b>	Read the book through several times. Ask the children to list 'things to talk about' or 'questions' then discuss. Ask: How do you feel about each character and why? (Is the mother really a bad mother? Where is the dad? Why does she wear a bowler hat? Is it right that the girl makes the dad a cup of tea?) Together place them in order of sympathy. Then discuss relationships. Ask: Which is the most important picture? Why? How long did the story take to read? What is the story about? What is its theme? Discuss the pictures, use of colour, playfulness, lines and the font used.	Also, study The Tunnel (Walker Books) by the same author
--	--------------------	----------------	---------------------	--	--