



Year 1 Text Rationale.

Texts for Writing:

Super Milly and the Super School Day-Stephanie Clarkson, illus. Gwen Millward.

This text has strong links to PSHE with a story that shines a light on one of the most important superpowers of all: kindness. This text entertainingly opens discussions with children about everyday superheroes, roles in the community and how to make a difference in our daily lives. The text and illustrations are lively and colourful. It also features a strong, positive female role model.

So Much-Trish Cooke.

This book was voted one of the 100 best children's books by Time Out in 2016. The book also represents authentically the language and cadence of an Afro-Caribbean family and is a good introduction to poetry.

Naughty Bus-Jan & Jerry Oke.

This is a fast-paced text with lively illustrations and a playful approach to font design. The text has links to toys, transport, the history of toys and provides opportunities for discussions around behavioural expectations. As the Naughty Bus is a typical London double-decker bus, links are made to geography and the local area.

The Polar Express-Chris Van Allsberg.

The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsberg, the film of the same name and The Night Before Christmas by Clement C. Moore. Children are immersed in all things Christmas and winter before climbing aboard The Polar Express. Late on Christmas Eve, after the town has gone to sleep, a boy boards a mysterious train that waits for him: the Polar Express bound for the North Pole. When he arrives there, Santa offers him any gift he desires. The boy modestly asks for one bell from the reindeer's harness. It turns out to be a very special gift, for only believers in Santa can hear it ring.

Cave Baby-Julia Donaldson, Illustrated by Emily Gravett.

The text is a lyrical narrative that is set in the Stone Age and follows a mischievous baby who goes on an outdoor adventure and meets a plethora of animals, some of which are extinct. This book has links to PSHE, exploring behavioural expectations, as well as history, introducing children to the Stone Age. Julia Donaldson is a prolific author with a distinct style and Emily Gravett is a twice Kate Greenaway award-winning illustrator.

Dinosaurs and all that Rubbish-Michael Foreman.

This text has a strong moral about greed, looking after things and sharing the planet. The text provides a solid platform to discuss with children issues around environmentalism, conservation and recycling. Michael Foreman OBE is a significant author and illustrator who has written and illustrated many well-known titles who also spends a large part of his time in St. Ives, Cornwall.

Pig the Pug- Aaron Blabey.

This is a picture book about learning to share. The book has strong PSHE links, providing an engaging space to discuss sharing, collaborating, and looking after each other. It can also lead to discussions about pets and taking care of living things.

The Odd Egg-Emily Gravett.

This charming story provides opportunities to talk about different family structures and adoption. Children will engage with a host of endearing animal characters to help them understand the themes woven throughout. Furthermore, links can be made with identifying and naming a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

Little Red-Bethan Woolvin.

Little Red Riding Hood meets a wolf on her way through the woods to visit her sick grandmother. The wolf is hungry, and Red Riding Hood looks tasty, so he hatches a dastardly plan, gobbles up Grandma and lies in wait. So far, so familiar. But *this* Little Red Riding Hood is not easily fooled, and this big bad wolf better watch his back.

The Deep Dark Wood-- Algy Craig Hall and Ali Pye.

Building on their understanding of Fairy Tales, and exploring alternative endings, this is the deep dark wood. *Everyone* knows it's no place to go for a stroll. There are monsters and trolls and giants everywhere, not to mention the Big Bad Wolf! Wait a minute! What's that sweet little girl doing in the deep dark wood? Doesn't she know it's DANGEROUS here? The Big Bad Wolf will gobble her up for his lunch! But, this deep dark wood is full of twists and turns, and all is not quite what it seems. The Big Bad Wolf is about to get a big, bad surprise...

The Sea Saw-Tom Percival.

The Sea Saw This text has strong PSHE links, exploring themes around how people grow and cope with change and loss. Award-winning author and illustrator Tom Percival has created a plethora of books that help children navigate various emotions and challenges in life which they can enjoy on their own after studying this text as a class. Wonderful collage artwork is paired with moving text to create this very special picture book.

Stanley's Stick-John Hegley.

This lyrical tale follows Stanley and his family as they go on holiday. Lead by Stanley and his stick, the story shows children the power of imagination and what can be done with a little creativity and invention. John Hegley uses lyrical prose to bring this story to life and demonstrate the freedom of childhood. Neal Layton is an award-winning illustrator who perfectly complements the narrative with his simple but characterful illustrations.

Year 2 Text Rationale.

Texts for Writing:

A Walk in London-Salvatore Rubbino.

This is a book to explore London with children and open their eyes to the various landmarks in the capital. It also models non-fiction writing, factual language as well as the more personal language of a diary entry. Salvatore Rubbino's illustrations are colourful and bring the city to life. Children can also read A Walk in New York or A Walk in Paris to continue their city adventures.

The Journey Home- Frann Preston-Gannon.

This beautifully illustrated book tells the poignant story of a group of animals who set out to look for new habitats. This text is a powerful springboard into discussions about global warming, the environment and conservation with children – it is a call to action and builds on the children's learning in Yr.1.

The Great Fire of London-Emma Adams.

The richly detailed illustrations and text work effectively together to portray 17th century London and the changes it went through during this turbulent time. James Weston Lewis' illustrations are colourful, vivid and bring this period of history to life, including city maps and drawings of London before, during and after the fire. The book highlights how people helped each other through the fire as well as how London and the fire service evolved afterwards.

Toby and the Great Fire of London-Margaret Nash and Jane Cope.

Toby has forgotten a delivery for Mr Pepys, but as he sets out across London, he sees the sky is full of flames! An alternative to the non-fiction text of The Great Fire of London an exciting story to complement their learning.

Jim and the Beanstalk- Raymond Briggs.

This iconic author/illustrator, who has distinctive style, and has written many timeless stories. This text is a great introduction to Brigg's style and is a playful sequel, set in modern Britain, to the classic fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk. It is a great opportunity for children to deconstruct the original tale and discuss how the plot structure had been retold by Briggs. It can also lead to discussion about helping others and looking after the elderly.

We are Water Protectors-Carole Lindstrom.

This inspirational book tells the story of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests from the point of view of a Ojibwe girl who joins the protests in order to protect the community's water supply. The story highlights the environmental effects of corrosive, unchecked greed and the importance of people power and protest. Indigenous culture is represented authentically through the highly poetic narration and award-winning illustrations.

The Day the Crayons Quit-Oliver Jeffers.

Poor Duncan just wants to colour in. But when he opens his box of crayons, he only finds letters, all saying the same thing: We quit! Beige is tired of playing second fiddle to Brown, Blue needs a break from colouring in all that water, while Pink just wants to be used. Green has no complaints, but Orange and Yellow are no longer speaking to each other.

The battle lines have been drawn. What is Duncan to do? A great text to base letter writing on as part of their topic on communication.

Grandad's Camper-Harry Woodgate.

This is an important text in terms of the representation of LGBTQIA+ relationships and portraying different family structures. It is also a story that deals with grief and the importance of sharing memories about cherished people who have passed. It highlights the importance of listening to others and finding ways to communicate love and care.

Toys in Space-Mini Grey.

Mini Grey is a significant illustrator and author who has won the Kate Greenaway Award and written an array of well-known, much-loved children's stories. Toys in Space is a fun story that can open up discussion about space, the possibility of alien life and space exploration. It could also link with learning about the history of toys and looking after and sharing toys.

Rosie Revere, Engineer-Andrea Beatty.

This lyrical text follows Rosie who absolutely loves engineering and inventing. Children can get to know Rosie and be inspired by her vision. A vital text, not only to ignite passions about design and technology, but to learn about problem solving and perseverance. It is also a super introduction to the 'Questioners', a group of children who are role models in different fields, from science to illustration to engineering. Andrea Beatty has a distinctive poetic style and is supported by David Roberts' technical illustrations.

Rationale for VIPERS Texts.

Vlad and the Great Fire of London-Kate and Sam Cunningham.

It is 1666 and Vlad the flea and his friend Boxton the rat, love eating and biting their way around London. But one night in Pudding Lane, they are caught up in a fire that threatens to destroy them, along with most of the City of London. Children find out about the Great Fire of London through the story and illustrations, which are based on original sources and artefacts.

The Great Kapok Tree-Lynne Cherry.

A man starts to chop down a great kapok tree in the rainforest. Exhausted from his labours, he puts down his axe and rests, but as he sleeps the animals who live in the tree come and plead with him not to destroy their world. Beautifully illustrated with Links to the children's learning around the Rainforests and the importance of protecting them.

Meerkat Mail-Emily Gravett.

This wonderful book explores the story of Sunny the meerkat lives with his enormous family in the Kalahari Desert. They are all very close . . . so close, in fact, that one day Sunny decides it's just too crowded and packs his bags. He's off to visit his mongoose cousins. But from the watery world of the Marsh Mongoose to the nocturnal lifestyle of the Malagasy Mongoose, Sunny just doesn't fit in. Links to PSHE and the topic of communication.

Unusual Day-Sandy Toksvig.

Introducing early chapter books to Year two, this book explores the story of when Jessica brings her granny into school for 'Unusual Day'. Miss Johnson thinks she's got muddled up with 'Family Day'. Her granny may be wearing a tracksuit and trainers, but she still looks like an ordinary granny. However, when 'Unusual Day' is disrupted by a fire next door, everybody discovers just how unusual Jessica's granny is!

The Invisible Dog-Dick King-Smith.

Building on their knowledge of chapter books and comprehension, this is the tale of a little girl who desperately wants a dog, introduces an imaginary Great Dane called Henry into her home. Her wish comes true when she is allowed a real Henry. Was neighbour Mrs Garrow, with her cackling laugh and black cat, responsible for her wish coming true? From the number one author for animal magic comes a wonderful new edition of this much-loved classic which is a great text for children to embed their VIPERS learning.

