

# Fairfield Primary School

## Diversity in Literature



### Year 1 Reading Coverage

#### **Silly Billy by Anthony Browne**

This book explores how we can deal with worries by making a worry doll. Worry dolls came from the Central American country of Guatemala and until today children in Guatemala trust their dolls to take away their worries as they go to sleep.

#### **The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl**

This book explores children's natural enticement towards animals and explores themes of collaboration and teamwork, both among the strong and the weak, in order to defend the weak from the wicked. It also explores the physical capabilities of animals that they would be unlikely to meet in their local area.

#### **Naughty Bus by Jan Oke**

Imaginative play encouraged through a picture book exploring the possibility of travel to new places and where transport can take us.

#### **The Jolly Postman by Allan Ahlberg**

This book explores a variety of letters posted to imaginary characters from all walks of life. It considers communication and the importance of sending letters, including what happens from writing a letter to receipt, and the different purposes for letter writing.

#### **A Little Bit Brave by Nicola Kinnear**

Exploring themes of friendship and difference (two bunnies go on an adventure exploring unfamiliar places) and how two creatures that are physically alike can be completely different in manner, skill and bravery.

#### **Beegu by Alexis Deacon**

This is a simple, bittersweet story telling a familiar tale of a child separated from her parents who struggles to cope in an unfamiliar world. It deals with themes of hope, kindness, loneliness and being an outsider.

#### **'Gone' by Eric Finney**

Consideration of where a balloon can travel once let into the atmosphere.

**How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by M Robinson & K Hindley**

This book demonstrates how we may have to tackle big challenges. In this case, it is an unfamiliar challenge with an extinct creature reflecting on the Stone Age and the limited resources at a focused time in history.

**The Smeds and the Smoos by Julia Donaldson**

This is a book about tolerance and accepting difference. The general message is to be friends with who you want to be friends with and not to let differences matter despite colour, beliefs or social expectation. This book's poignant message is even more relevant as it was published in 2019 when Britain was leaving the EU, with the book being dedicated 'to all the children of Europe'. Our cultures and the way we look should never be something which separates us, which this book teaches in a beautiful way.

**The Smartest Giant in Town by Julia Donaldson**

This book portrays a gentle giant who thinks of others first rather than himself. It considers judging people based on their appearance and questions the importance of material goods.

**Tyrannosaurus Drip by Julia Donaldson**

This book explores the concept of belonging and adapting to unnerving surroundings while opening discussions of the effects of bullying and negative feelings.

**Dear Dinosaur by Nicola O'Byrne**

This explores a boy's visit to a museum where he meets a dinosaur. The importance of history is relevant throughout this book and how artefacts from around the world can give us an insight into developments that have happened over time in the world.

**Snail and the Whale by Julia Donaldson**

The theme of love and separation is handled with a grown-up attention to detail that never patronises its young audience. The snail longs to travel the world and by seeking help from others, it can embark on a journey.

**Tiddler by Julia Donaldson**

This book explores the impact of not telling the truth and how the impact of this can cause us problems. Tiddler travels across the ocean and has to face the impact of his lies.

**Under the Sea by Kate Davies**

Exploring the world beneath the sea over thousands of years, from coral reefs teeming with jewel-bright fish to the icy waters of the Arctic, we can explore cultural diversity as the book explores the land and the sea in the world around us.

**Man on the Moon by Simon Bartram**

A book that looks at space and the role of an astronaut, with scope to reflect on a poignant moment in history when Neil Armstrong became the first man to step on to the moon and the impact this had globally.

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|                         | <p><b><u>Living in Space by Katie Daynes</u></b><br/>In this book, children explore travel to space and what it would be like to live in space, comparing it to life on earth and the survival needs of humans.</p> <p><b><u>On the Ning Nang Nong by Spike Milligan</u></b><br/>Musical exploration through poetry. This book opens discussion of famous musicians and composers and the effects of rhythm and music in order to develop language.</p> <p><b><u>The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems</u></b><br/>Themes covered such as meal times with family, bed time and routines, animals and family.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Year 2 Reading Coverage | <p><b><u>Lila and the Secret of Rain by David Conway</u></b><br/>This book explores the struggle of African culture and the lack of water which affects the living conditions, routines and sustainability of life in Kenya. It also explores African culture with a focus on clothing and celebration.</p> <p><b><u>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl</u></b><br/>This book explores poverty in 1960 and the demands of supporting an elderly family financially.</p> <p><b><u>Princess and the White Bear King by Tanya Robyn Batt</u></b><br/>A twist on a traditional tale that considers roles of a royal family and traditional structures of marriage and female responsibility to husbands and fathers.</p> <p><b><u>The Twits by Roald Dahl</u></b><br/>Conflict in marriage and manipulation between partners.</p> <p><b><u>The BFG by Roald Dahl</u></b><br/>The concept of loneliness is explored through learning about the role of an orphanage and why children may become an orphan. Within the text, we look at conflict between armies and the role of the Royal Family in helping to support battle.</p> <p><b><u>Traction Man by Mini Grey</u></b><br/>This book explores imaginary figures and imaginary worlds created where battle and conflict can be overcome through friendship, hard work and the support from family.</p> <p><b><u>Paddington Bear Series by Michael Bond</u></b><br/>Modern day London and family roles, acceptance of those who are different. Peru culture and location.</p> <p><b><u>Katie in London by James Mayhew</u></b><br/>Exploration of London and key locations in British history, including Buckingham Palace, with reflection on the role and importance of the Royal Family to London.</p> <p><b><u>The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt</u></b><br/>Colours linked to emotion, heightened awareness of not giving up and job roles.</p> |

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|                         | <p><b><u>The Day the Crayons Came Home by Drew Daywalt</u></b><br/>Colours linked to emotion, heightened awareness of not giving up and job roles including loyalty and responding to challenge.</p> <p><b><u>A Squash and a Squeeze by Julia Donaldson</u></b><br/>Explore the various theories of well-being and encourages students to think about whether achieving what they want is all that it takes to have a better life. Considers loneliness and what it means to have a full and happy life.</p> <p><b><u>A Necklace of Raindrops by Joan Aiken</u></b><br/>Religious views and the importance of a godfather and whether or not gifting is appropriate. It also explores the positive and negative consequences that gifts can bring.</p> <p><b><u>The Puffin Book of Poetry by June Crebbin</u></b><br/>A variety of poetry focused on different themes exploring the rhythm and impact of differently structured poems.</p> <p><b><u>The Magic Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton</u></b><br/>Imaginary worlds of unknown geographical locations which encourages children to look at similarities in the locations created in the story and to their knowledge of the world around them.</p> <p><b><u>10 Things I can do to help my world by Melanie Walsh</u></b><br/>Children explore how to reduce, reuse, recycle and conserve energy in this illustrated book. We consider the global impact humans and technology have on the world.</p> <p><b><u>Emily Brown and the Thing by Cressida Cowell</u></b><br/>This book explores the fear of darkness and the unknown.</p> |
| Year 3 Reading Coverage | <p><b><u>Stone Age Boy by Satoshi Kitamura</u></b><br/>A boy travels 15,000 years back to Stone Age Britain and discovers a different world of culture, living and the need for new survival skills in this stripped back reality of history.</p> <p><b><u>The Ice Palace by Robert Swindells</u></b><br/>The book tells the story of a young boy's pursuit to find his captured brother, taken by the evil child abductor - Starjik. Themes of royalty, hierarchy and bravery.</p> <p><b><u>Pebble in my Pocket by Meredith Hooper</u></b><br/>A fascinating history of the earth takes readers on a scientific adventure through time and across the globe, all by following a single pebble over millions of years.</p> <p><b><u>The Iron Man by Ted Hughes</u></b><br/>The poet and children's writer, Ted Hughes, was born in Yorkshire, in 1930. His writing is immensely varied, but often concerns the relationship between nature and industry. The book explores the themes of bravery, prejudice, irrational fear and the dual nature of the things around us. The Iron Man is destructive but has a good heart.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Theseus and the Minotaur by Marcia Williams**

The city of Athens, according to one version of the story, was responsible for the death of King Minos' son, Androgeus. They had to pay a tribute to the King of Crete with seven of the best and most noble youths and seven of the finest and most virtuous maidens every year (according to other versions it was every nine years). They would be sent to Crete aboard a ship with black sails, cast into the labyrinth deep within the palace of Minos, and eaten by the Minotaur.

**The Kitchen Disco by Clare Foges**

The author of this poetry book was a speech writer for the former Prime Minister, David Cameron. It is a zany and hilarious rhyming picture book for young children and is an eccentric tale of what happens when the fruit come out to play at night.

**George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl**

The overarching theme of the book is a play upon the title. The marvellous medicine that George concocts is designed specifically for one purpose: punishing his grandmother for the abusive way she treats him when they are alone. The ending of the book, specifically Mrs. Kranky's reaction immediately following her mother's disappearance, certifies the story's thematic commentary on the role of caregiver to aging parents.

**The Mousehole Cat by Antonia Barber**

Based on the old Cornish legend of Tom Bawcock's Eve, this lovely picture-book offers an engaging story of a cat, her human, and the fishing village they saved from starvation one cold, blustery winter. Mowzer is a venerable matron cat whose offspring could be found in many of the important establishments of the village of Mousehole.

**The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter**

Since the days of Aesop, animals have been used as vehicles through which humankind has addressed its moral, ethical and cultural identity. For some, this serves to misrepresent animals by privileging anthropomorphism at the expense of the more sensitive issues of animal sentience and welfare. For others, this approach allows humans to circumvent their own social taboos to reveal not merely fresh insights into what it is to be human, but also humanity's intrinsic relationship to animals, with animals, and as part of nature.

**Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare**

Tradition in Romeo and Juliet is certainly seen as a constraint that reduces the freedom of individuals. Romeo and Juliet's story remains relevant today, as people in society have similar experiences to what they went through. There are also common events that occur with regard to religion, which are also similar to Romeo and Juliet's experiences such as arranged marriages in Muslim culture and forced marriage by parents.

**The Minpins by Roald Dahl**

This book was Roald Dahl's final contribution to literature. This book was inspired by the countryside where Roald Dahl lived and is a direct message to young readers to embrace the power an active imagination gives them.

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| <p><b>Year 4 Reading Coverage</b></p> | <p><b><u>Captive Celt by Terry Deary</u></b><br/> Set in Rome AD51. Maternal death, human sacrifice, corporal punishment, genocide, infant slavery - this children's book has it all. It's looking bleak for Deri, a mouthy Britain abroad, when chance sees him thrown into prison with the Celtic hero, Caratacus. Deri is spared from crucifixion, and the implausible notion of a national resistance movement is implied when Caratacus dispatches Deri to go and hang out with Boudicca in the mid-fifties.</p> <p><b><u>This Morning I met a Whale by Michael Morpurgo</u></b><br/> A fictional account of the day a whale swam up the Thames, in which the whale makes an environmental plea to the boy who first sees him. Michael, the main human protagonist, shows an instinctive compassion for a rare but dying breed in Old Father Thames. He is inspired by his imagined conversations with the messenger from the natural world to reach-out to its despair and touch something beyond the mundane. A certain life-long, personal crusade to save the environment!</p> <p><b><u>The Egyptian Cinderella by Shirley Climo</u></b><br/> The story of Cinderella is one of the most popular in the world. It tells the tale of a young heroine, unjustly forced into servitude but who becomes elevated to royalty from the Egyptian cultural perspective and touches upon the virtues of being tolerant and kind.</p> <p><b><u>Cloud Tea Monkeys By E Graham &amp; M Peet</u></b><br/> This story follows a young girl named Tashi and her mother who picks tea leaves in the tea plantations until one day Tashi's mother falls ill. Tashi worries that her mother's absence from work will mean money will become an issue so she decides to take matters into her own hands. Reflection of the culture and lives of a poor tea picker living in the Himalayan mountains.</p> <p><b><u>The Tempest by W Shakespeare adapted by Andrew Matthews</u></b><br/> In the Tempest, power and control are two consistent themes. Characters are fighting to gain power for their freedom on the island, ultimately resulting with the characters abusing their power. During the time Shakespeare wrote The Tempest in 1667, British Colonies were starting to settle in America under the reign of cruel King James 1. During the 1600's power determined whether you were upper or lower class. Some people chose to respect the King, either because they truly believed him or because they wanted to keep their place on the social ladder.</p> <p><b><u>Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo</u></b><br/> Kensuke's Kingdom is firstly an adventure story; a story of resilience and survival; a story about friendship and ultimately, about loss. A young boy is washed up on an island in the Pacific Ocean. Strands of Japanese culture flow through the story in the form of Kensuke, who takes care of the boy.</p> |
| <p><b>Year 5 Reading Coverage</b></p> | <p><b><u>Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo</u></b><br/> In fifth century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the night and only the great Prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. It portrays Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, a foul fiend and hideous sea-hag. This monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving in British literature.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

**Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens**

The treatment of the poor, social injustice and the ability of a selfish man to redeem himself by transforming into a more sympathetic character are the key themes of the story. A Christmas Carol remains relevant today because readers can identify with its traditional Christian portrayal of Christmas. Being surrounded by family and food, as we see in the Cratchits' celebration of Christmas, is very similar to how the holiday is celebrated today.

**Street Child by Berlie Doherty**

The author movingly captures the life of an orphan in Victorian London, based on the true accounts of children whose lives led the famous philanthropist, Dr Barnardo, to set up his homes for children without families. This book explores the themes of cruelty, injustice, resilience and humanity and enables children to develop an understanding of issues such as poverty and child labour.

**Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly**

Hidden Figures tells the story of three African-American women who worked as computers to solve problems for engineers and others at NASA. In the early years of their careers, the workplace was segregated and women were kept in the background as human computers. These women played an integral role in the development of American aviation and space technology. They persevered in the face of discrimination against both their race and their gender.

**Journey to The River Sea by Eva Ibbotson**

This book explores several cultures. When distant cousins are discovered 4,000 miles away, Maia must travel to the exotic Amazon River town of Manaus to live with them. She is accompanied on her journey by a governess. They arrive in South America and soon discover that the Carters, Maia's cousins, are selfish and greedy people who isolate themselves from the wild beauty of the countryside around them. With the help of her clever governess, Maia finds moments of brief escape from their stifling home and makes friends with a strange Indian boy named Finn and a homesick child actor called Clovis.

**Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll**

"Jabberwocky" is a nonsensical ballad written by the English poet Lewis Carroll in 1871. In "Jabberwocky," Carroll uses nonsensical words throughout a typical ballad form to tell a tale of good versus evil, which culminates in the killing of the fearsome Jabberwock. Carroll explicitly defined certain words when the first stanza of this poem was published as a poem in its own right as "Stanza of Anglo-Saxon Poetry."

**The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry**

The tree, and others like it, connects the wildlife in the forest. The theme is about how all trees serve an equally important role, no matter where they are located, and that everyone should think more carefully about cutting them down or abusing them. This book is related to the existing deforestation and the importance of human impact on our environment. It also considers the loss of animals and their homes, which is taking place as a result, in the Amazon Rainforest.

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|                                       | <p><b><u>Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare</u></b><br/> The play is set in early Greece, in Athens. It is unexpected as so much of the play seems so typically English. Shakespeare was writing at a time when antiquity was the cultural reference, although the English Renaissance was more and more regarded. Shakespeare drew on concepts of courtly love and ethics from Chaucer's "The Knight's Tale" as well as the marriage culture of the 16th century in order to create the play A Midsummer Night's Dream. It also explores themes of gender roles and the boundaries between the real and the magical worlds.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p><b>Year 6 Reading Coverage</b></p> | <p><b><u>Skellig by David Almond</u></b><br/> The topics of life and death and transformation are woven throughout Skellig. Michael and Mina discuss the possibility that Skellig may be a new step forward in evolution. He has qualities that seem to make him a man, a bird, and perhaps something other than an ordinary mortal. Skellig describes himself as "something like you, something like a beast, something like a bird, something like an angel."</p> <p><b><u>Floodland by Marcus Sedgwick</u></b><br/> Set in an all too believable near future when many parts of England are submerged in water and people drift into gangs, divided due to the scarcity of resources, especially food. A girl seeks to find her family as she has to cope with human cruelties and frailties but the story ends on a note of hope.</p> <p><b><u>Macbeth by William Shakespeare</u></b><br/> Macbeth was most likely written in 1606, early in the reign of James I, who had been James VI of Scotland before he succeeded to the English throne in 1603. In focusing on Macbeth, a figure from Scottish history, Shakespeare paid homage to his king's Scottish lineage.</p> <p><b><u>Goodnight Mr Tom by Michelle Magorian</u></b><br/> 1939, and England is poised on the edge of war with Nazi Germany. It is believed that the main target of invasion from the sea will be the south coast, and the biggest threat of mass bombing raids from the sky will be in London. For this reason, children from the inner city are evacuated to the North of England where it is believed the threat from the Germans will be much slighter. The book follows the nurturing love of an elderly man who takes in an evacuee with the discovery of the hardship, abandonment and cruelty a child can face at the hands of a parent.</p> <p><b><u>Blitzed Brits- Horrible Histories</u></b><br/> Reflection on life during World War 2, including what British citizens had to do during air raids, what the RAF, Royal Navy and British Armed Forces were doing during the Second World War and rationing in Britain.</p> <p><b><u>There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar</u></b><br/> Explores bullying and the impact on children, involving school practitioners to support and overcome self-doubt. The book is set in modern-day America and includes references to American culture.</p> |