

Text Rationale

Our Literacy Tree texts have been carefully chosen to support diverse, inclusive and engaging teaching of Literacy. The high-quality texts explore a wide range of issues that promote empathy, critical thinking and global awareness. Some of the key diverse issues commonly explored throughout the texts include: **cultural diversity and identity, inclusion and equality, social justice and activism, environmental awareness, mental health and well-being, relationships, historical perspectives, disability and neurodiversity.**

Reception	Where the Wild Things Are This book has links to PSHE, exploring behavioural expectations, coping with strong emotions and the power of the imagination. The Magic Paintbrush The Magic Paintbrush is a traditional Chinese folktale, dealing with themes of justice and integrity. This text will help to expand children's knowledge of traditional tales from around the world. Used as a springboard to explore Chinese culture and celebrations for children, particularly Chinese New Year and the Chinese Zodiac. The Tiny Seed This text has strong links to science as young children learn about important concepts such as seed dispersal and the life cycle of a flower. So Much The book also represents authentically the language and cadence of an Afro-Caribbean family. Trish Cooke is a multi-talented writer whose work crosses many disciplines including radio, television and theatre. Izzy Gizmo This is an award-winning, lyrical book that highlights the enjoyment that comes from problem solving, inventing and improving on past mistakes. Told through the eyes of Izzy Gizmo, a young, Black girl who loves inventing, this is a tale about perseverance and not giving up when things go wrong. Izzy is a positive female role model who encourages girls into STEM subjects.
Year 1	Cave Baby 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 behavioral expectations, as well as history, introducing children to the stone age.

Astro Girl

This book has a strong narrative and a message about following your dreams. The main character is a girl with an accomplished working mother and father who is the main caregiver at home. Facts on inclusive astronaut history are included, offering a vision for all children – particularly girls – who dream of pursuing careers in STEM and space travel.

I Want My Hat Back

Written and illustrated by the distinctive and award-winning artist Jon Klassen, this charming story follows the fortunes of a bear who is looking for his hat. This tale has a structured plot and repetitive language which children can join in with while reading. It also is the first in a series of books.

Beegu

This is a heart-warming tale of an alien --- Beegu --- who crash lands on earth and finds refuge and friendship with the children in a school playground. The story lends itself to discussions about the importance of welcoming, respecting and including others.

Leo and the Octopus

This story gives thoughtful representation of an autistic child and his friendship with an octopus. The text explores Leo’s individual neurodivergence sensitively without making generalisations and provides opportunities for discussions around neurodiversity and autism. With strong PSHE links, the book explores ways children might self-regulate as well as exploring how we can help others feel safe and comfortable. Scientific links also encourage children to be curious and reflect on their relationship with the natural world.

The See 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 gorgeous 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.

Pig and Pug

This is a hilarious 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.

Lubna and the Pebble

A beautifully illustrated story of friendship and kindness in uncertain time, Lubna and Pebble subtly addresses the refugee crisis in a manner accessible to young children. A touching and heart-warming tale, it explores the experience of Lubna, arriving in a “World of Tents”, missing her family back home in an unnamed, war-torn country and the friendships she forms. This is a story with powerful PSHE links to seeking comfort in uncertainty,

	generosity of spirit and selfless acts of friendship. Dadaji's Paintbrush This poignant story explores issues around bereavement and the healing powers of creativity. Accompanied by heartfelt illustrations which also help tell the story, children will develop empathy and be able to discuss strategies for getting us through difficult times. This books also authentically represents Indian characters and culture. Julian is a Mermaid This award-winning text by Jessica Love is beautifully written and lushly illustrated. It provides a context to discuss creativity, fashion and expression with children and is also a space where gender stereotypes and identity can be sensitively explored.
Year 2	Goldilocks and the Three Bears This retelling of the classic fairy tale by Lauren Child is enchanting and playful. The photography and set design exquisitely depict a miniature world. This text gives children a wonderful introduction to the iconic fairy tale. Me and You This is an inventive and innovative retelling of the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears. This text has a modern setting and explores themes of class, family, happiness and inclusion. It is a great opportunity for children to deconstruct the original tale and discuss the subtle layers that Anthony Browne has teased out in this retelling. Wolves This humorous text is a wonderful way to encourage children to think about the differences between fiction and non-fiction. Rabbit takes a book out of the library which explores facts about wolves... meanwhile, a fairy tale wolf is lurking hungrily in the background. This can open up discussion with children about what is real and what might not be so real. Links to science can be made, focusing on animals, habitats and food chains. The Journey Home 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. The Bear Under the Stairs This gorgeous, lyrical text tells the story of a boy called William who is convinced that a bear is living under the stairs. As the story is told in rhyme and uses alliteration, it is a great way for children to review certain phonemes, particularly different ways to make the /a/ sound. The repetitive language

‘wham, bang, thump’ is also a fun way to encourage children to join in with the reading. It also has strong PSHE links, particularly around overcoming fears and speaking to a trusted adult.

The Bear and the Piano

A magical tale of a talented bear who discovers fame and fortune through his piano playing skills. This text explores themes such as belonging, exploration and overcoming fears. It can encourage healthy discussions with children around what is important in life.

The Owl and the Pussy Cat

This is a classic narrative poem first published in 1871 by pioneering poet Edward Lear who was famous for writing nonsense poetry. It is a great text to introduce children to the narrative poetry genre, providing lots of rhyme and repetition for children to join in with. It is a joyful poem that explores themes of love and adventure.

Grandad’s Camper

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 show love and care.

The Dragon Machine

This enchanting story deals with issues around self-acceptance and feeling left out. After George has led the dragons out of the city, he realises that he is loved and missed by the world he left behind.

Ocean Meets the Sky

This text, which has won many awards and honours, combines the quality writing and luminous illustrations of the Fan Brothers. The story highlights the importance of cherishing memories of people who have passed, and does this in an uplifting, life-affirming way. This story also represents BAME characters and families authentically.

A Walk in London

This is a fantastic 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.

