Reading canon v8

The writing working party worked with the first draft of the reading canon to identify writing opportunities linked to the text and to elements of the PKC curriculum. We have updated the canon to reflect this.

You'll see that we've put in brackets the type of text – there are many more links that we could have made, for example to show where narratively complex themes are built over time or where we re-visit traditional stories and how they build later. We have left this blank as it's important that every school builds their own narrative and develops their links based on what's important in their context.

Core poems have been identified for children to study in reading lessons and learn to perform. Additional poems should be selected by the school, and it is vital the English lead has oversight to ensure there is a clear rationale of why and when particular poets / poems / types of poem are studied. **NB we learn poems to perform and analyse structures etc in reading lessons. We do not ask children to compose their own poems in writing lessons.**

The enrichment texts are examples – schools should identify the texts they will read in their daily read alouds etc. NB the priority is to read the core texts in their entirety as children should read complete novels and the texts feed into the writing curriculum. Schools should also include non-narrative-non-fiction to build background knowledge for the core texts. To develop reading across the curriculum, teacher-written extracts should be read using FASE reading techniques in these lessons, too.

It will be important that the English subject leader writes the narrative, so they have ownership. They will of course do this in conjunction with the rest of the school's teaching team, but they need to hold the narrative so that if texts are swapped / changed they know the integrity of their narrative is maintained.

Common themes

We have identified common themes that run across our canon.

DEMAT reading canon themes

EYFS				
Bravery	The Gruffalo	Bear Hunt	Red Riding Hood	
Trust	Goldilocks	3 Little Pigs	Cat in the Hat	
Love	Rainbow Fish	Owl Babies	Gorilla	Lost and Found
Year 1/2/3/4				
Heroism	Arabian Nights	Beowulf	King Arthur	Iliad/Odyssey
Resilience	Gruffalo	Coming Home	Jungle Book	Fireworkmaker's Dtr
Selfishness	Peter Rabbit	Christmas Carol	Greek Myths	Arabian Nights
Belonging	Twelfth Night	Stig of the Dump	Fireworkmaker's Dtr	Edward Tullane
Friendship	JungleBook	Stig of the Dump	Oliver Twist	
Deceit	Emperor's Clothes	Aesop's Fables	Richard III	
Leadership	The Tempest	Richard III	Iliad/Odyssey	Julius Caesar
Hope	Hansel and Gretel	Owl Babies	Christmas Carol	Oliver Twist
Despair	Coming Home	Ice Trap	Iliad/Odyssey	Edward Tullane
Year 5/6				
Courage	1000 Year Old Boy	Lion Witch Wardrobe	Animal Farm	Macbeth
Loyalty	Romeo and Juliet	Animal Farm	Journey to River Sea	Macbeth
Faith	Skellig	Lion Witch Wardrobe	1000 Year Old Boy	

Where text has a white background, we feel this is not the main theme for the text. For example, the theme ‘Belonging’ is a main theme for The Fireworkmaker’s Daughter, by ‘Resilience’ is not a main theme.

Golden thread – add in brackets

fiction	poetry	plays	non-fiction	archaic texts	non-linear	narratively complex	complex plots & symbols	meaning resistant	**year / phase author**	**year / phase poet**	**Bible stories / parables**
									Children will learn about the author's life / context etc and know if someone is authoring an abridged version etc.	One poem to be selected and learnt by heart for performance	To be specified for each year group
myths & legends	traditional stories	modern fiction	literary heritage	other cultures & traditions	narrative theme: e.g. classic texts	narrative theme: e.g. conflict / war	narrative theme: e.g.	narrative theme:			

Year Group	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2	Poetry
FS1 & FS2 Core (2-year cycle example) **NB see writing overview for examples of texts to read linked to PKC units.**	**A: The Gruffalo** – Julia Donaldson (complex plots and symbols)	**A: Goldilocks and the Three Bears** (traditional stories)	**A: We're Going on a Bear Hunt** – Michael Rosen (modern fiction)	**A: Little Red Riding Hood** (traditional stories)	**A: Rainbow Fish** – Marcus Pfister (modern fiction)	**A: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves** (traditional stories)	**A: Classic nursery rhymes** Hey Diddle Diddle the Cat and the Fiddle; Humpty Dumpty; Ring a Ring a Roses
	B: The 3 Little Pigs (traditional tales)	**B: Owl Babies** – Martin Waddell (modern fiction, complex plots and symbols)	**B: Cat in the Hat** – Dr Seuss Rhyming words (archaic texts)	**B: Gorilla** – Anthony Browne (narratively complex)	**B: Lost and Found –** Oliver Jeffers (modern fiction)	**B: The Boy Who Cried Wolf** Aesop's Fables (other cultures)	**B: Classic nursery rhymes** Dr Seuss The Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham
Texts for reading aloud that link well to PKC units	What makes me a Me? The Gruffalo Here We Are The Squirrels who Squabbled Funnybones	Brave and the Fox Shackleton's Journey Mr Gumpy's Motor Car The Train ride	Whatever Next! Meet the Planets How to Catch a Star	The Enormous Turnip Oliver's Vegetables / Fruit Salad Jasper's Beanstalk The Very Hungry Caterpillar Once there were Giants Owl Babies	Paddington at the Palace The Queen's Hat Katie in London	Jack and the Beanstalk Prometheus & the Fire Aesop Fables – Hare and the Tortoise Anansi and the Spider George & the Dragon	
PKC unit	**All About Me**	**Transport**	**Space**	**Growing and Changing**	**Kings and Queens**	**Stories from the Past**	**All About Me**
FS2 Core	**The Gruffalo** – Julia Donaldson (poetry, narratively complex, modern fiction)	**Owl Babies** – Martin Waddell (complex plots and symbols, modern fiction)	**Little Red Riding Hood** – Lari Don (traditional stories)	**Cat in the Hat** – Dr Seuss Rhyming words (archaic texts)	**The Boy Who Cried Wolf** Aesop's Fables (other cultures)	**Snow White and the Seven Dwarves** (traditional stories)	**John and Janet Ahlberg** Please Mrs Butler; Pear, Plum & The Jolly Postman
EYFS RE texts		**Nativity story**					
EYFS enrichment e.g.	The Tiger Who Came to Tea; The Three Billy Goats Gruff; The Boy with Square Eyes; Room on the Broom, Stickman, The Snowman						

Y1 Core	**The Gruffalo – Julia Donalson** **Hansel and Gretel** – The Brothers Grimm (traditional stories)	**Coming Home** – Michael Morpurgo (complex symbols and plots, modern fiction)	**The Tale of Peter Rabbit** – Beatrix Potter (literary heritage)	**The Emperor's New Clothes** and **The Little Mermaid** Hans Christian Anderson (traditional stories)	**The Jungle Book** – Rudyard Kipling (Ladybird Classics) (narratively complex, other cultures and traditions) **The Tempest** – Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews)	**'Twas the Night Before Christmas'** Clement Mark Moore **The Owl and the Pussycat** – Edward Lear
Re texts				**Easter story**		
Y1 enrichment e.g.	Pinocchio, Peter Pan, The Pied Piper of Hamlin, A Squash and a Squeeze					
Y2 Core	**Owl Babies –** Martin Waddell **Arabian Nights Aladdin/Sinbad/Ali Baba** – Usborne Illustrated Arabia (Traditional tales, narratively complex)	**A Christmas Carol** – Charles Dickens (Real Reads or Usborne Classics) (archaic texts, narratively complex, non-linear, cultural heritage)	**Greek Myths Persephone and the Pomegranate Seeds/Medusa/ Athene & Arachne/Pandora's Box –** Geraldine McCaughrean (archaic text, myths & legends)	**Aesop's Fables** – The Wolf in Sheep's Clothing (Woolly Wolf) and The Wind and the Sun – Geraldine McCaughrean (literary heritage, complex plots and symbols)	**King Arthur** – Andrew Matthews King Arthur (literary heritage, narratively complex, archaic text) **Twelfth Night** – Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews)	**On the Ning Nang Nong** – Spike Milligan **Duck's Ditty** - Kenneth Grahame
RE texts						
Y2 enrichment e.g.	Paddington, Winnie the Pooh, George's Marvelous Medicine, The Secret Garden, Charlotte's Web, The Stories of King Arthur, Robin Hood (abridged)					
Y3 Core	**Stig of the Dump** – Clive King (modern fiction)	**Stig of the Dump** – Clive King (modern fiction)	**The Firework Maker's Daughter** –Philip Pullman (narratively complex, other cultures & traditions)) **Ice Trap** Meredith Hooper (narratively complex, modern fiction)		**Beowulf** – Michael Morpurgo (literary heritage, archaic texts) **Richard III** – Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews and Marcia Williams)	**Jim – A Cautionary Tale** – Hillarie Belloc **The Jabberwocky** - Lewis Carroll
RE texts						
Y3 enrichment e.g.	Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Black Beauty, The Railway Children, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, The Iron Man					

Y4 Core	**Oliver Twist** – Charles Dickens (Lesley Baxter or Usborne Classics) Victorians (archaic texts, literary heritage)		**Iliad / Odyssey** – Gillian Cross Ancient Greece (archaic texts, other cultures and traditions) also use The Wooden Horse from Greek Myths, Orchard Books and Greek Myths, Marcia Williams Victorians (archaic texts, literary heritage)		**The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane –** Kate DiCamillo (narratively complex, complex plots and symbols) **Julius Caesar** –Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews and Marica Williams)		**The Tyger** – William Blake **In Flanders Field** - John McRae
RE texts							
Y4 enrichment e.g.	Treasure Island, Five on a Treasure Island, Danny, Champion of the World, Street Child, Iron Woman						
Y5 Core	**Skellig –** David Almond (complex plots and symbols) William Blake poetry (literary heritage)		**The Boy in the Tower** – Polly Ho Yen (for a 5/6 class) (modern fiction, narratively complex, complex plots and symbols)		**The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe –** C.S. Lewis (literary heritage, complex plots and symbols, archaic text) **Macbeth** –Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews & original text) (Literary heritage, narratively complex, archaic language)		**Act IV, Scene I The Three Weird Sisters** - William Shakespeare / Leon Garfield, Marica Williams **The Schoolboy** – William Blake
RE texts							
Y5 enrichment e.g.	Pig Heart Boy, The Borrowers, Wind in the Willows, The Hobbit, There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom, A Monster Calls, Cloud Busting						
Y6 Core	**The 1,000-year-old boy** – Ross Welford (modern fiction, narratively complex, complex plots and symbols)		**Journey to the River sea –**Eva Ibbotson (modern fiction, narratively complex)		**Animal Farm** – George Orwell Dystopia (only for a single year group) (narratively complex, complex plots and symbols) **Romeo and Juliet** –Shakespeare (Andrew Matthews & original text) (Literary heritage, narratively complex, archaic language)		**I wandered lonely as a cloud** – William Wordsworth Romeo and Juliet prologue
RE texts		Crucifixion / ascension					
Y6 enrichment e.g.	Tom Sawyer; Boy/Going Solo; The Jungle Book; Wonder, The Girl of Ink and Stars, The Lie Tree						