

Reading Journey

Shirley Heath

Our Reading Journey

At our school, we understand the critical role that reading plays in children's education and future success. We are committed to providing children with a comprehensive reading journey that is designed to foster a love for reading and equip them with the skills they need to become confident and proficient readers.

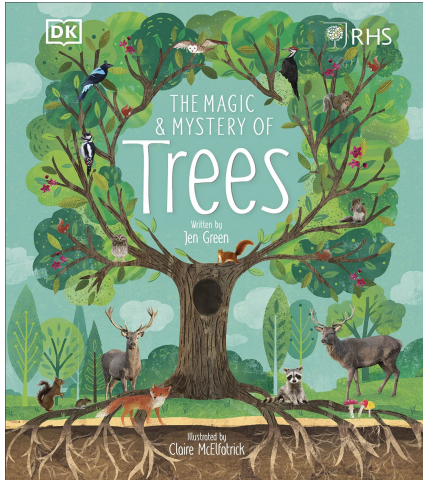
Our reading journey exposes children to a wide variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and play-scripts. By exploring different types of literature, children can discover the types of books that interest them and develop a deep appreciation for reading. We ensure that children are taught key vocabulary, relevant background knowledge and a range of comprehension skills.

We also believe that reading is a social activity and provide opportunities for children to discuss what they are reading with their peers, sharing their thoughts and opinions about the books they've read. Our goal is to help children develop a lifelong passion for reading that will stay with them well beyond their time at our school. We are dedicated to providing children with the best possible reading journey and look forward to helping them become the best readers they can be.

Why We Read These Books. Year 3

The Magic & Mystery of Trees

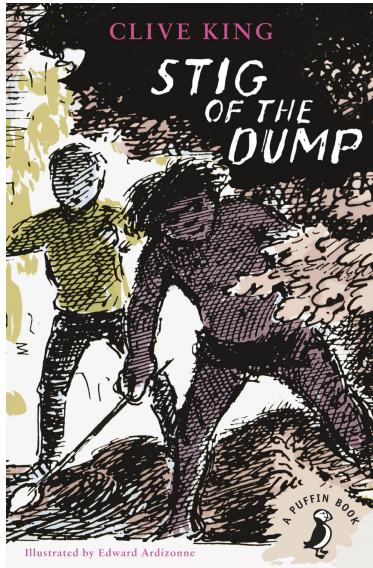
Non-Fiction



1. **Appreciation for nature:** Reading about trees and their importance can help children develop a deep appreciation for nature and the environment. They can learn about the vital role that trees play in our ecosystem, and how they provide us with clean air, shade, and a habitat for wildlife.
2. **Scientific knowledge:** Learning about trees can also help children develop their scientific knowledge. They can learn about photosynthesis, tree growth and development, and the different species of trees. This can help foster an interest in science and the natural world.
3. **Imagination and creativity:** The magic and mystery of trees can inspire children's imagination and creativity. Reading stories or poems about trees can help them see the world from a different perspective, and encourage them to think creatively about the natural world.
4. **Emotional development:** Trees can also be a source of emotional comfort and inspiration. Reading about the beauty and majesty of trees can help children develop a sense of wonder and awe, which can be beneficial for their emotional development.

Stig of the Dump

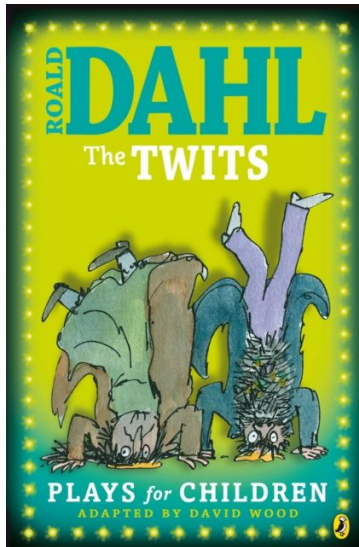
Fiction



1. **Imagination and Creativity:** "Stig of the Dump" is a book that encourages children to use their imagination and creativity. It tells the story of a young boy named Barney who discovers a cavewoman named Stig living in a dump. The story takes place in the woods and dump, which offers a unique and imaginative setting that will capture children's imagination.
 2. **Moral Values:** The book teaches moral values such as kindness, respect, and understanding. Barney's friendship with Stig is built on mutual respect and understanding, despite the fact that they come from different backgrounds. This is a valuable lesson for children in learning to appreciate differences and show empathy towards others.
 3. **Historical Context:** The book was written in the 1960s and provides a glimpse into a bygone era. It offers a unique opportunity for children to learn about the history and lifestyle of that time period. This can help to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.
 4. **Engaging Story:** "Stig of the Dump" is a well-written and engaging story that will capture children's attention. The characters are well-developed and relatable, and the plot is full of adventure, mystery, and humour. Children will be eager to find out what happens next and will be hooked from the very beginning.
 5. **Literary Appreciation:** "Stig of the Dump" is considered a classic children's book and has won several awards. Reading this book will help children develop an appreciation for literature and will introduce them to the joys of reading. It will also help to improve their vocabulary and reading comprehension skills.
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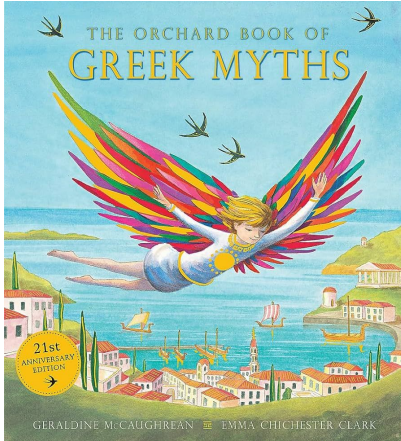
Roald Dahl Playscripts

Playscripts



1. Engaging and entertaining: Roald Dahl's playscripts are known for their entertaining and engaging stories, which captivate children's attention and keep them interested in reading.
 2. Developing reading skills: Reading playscripts requires a different set of skills than reading novels or short stories. Playscripts help children develop their reading comprehension, fluency, and understanding of dialogue and stage directions.
 3. Exploring different perspectives: Roald Dahl's playscripts often feature unique and eccentric characters that give children an opportunity to explore different perspectives and ways of thinking.
 4. Learning about the world: Dahl's playscripts often contain themes and messages that can help children learn about the world around them. For example, "Matilda" teaches children about the importance of reading and education, while "The Witches" encourages children to be brave and stand up to injustice.
 5. Developing imagination: Roald Dahl's playscripts are known for their vivid and imaginative worlds, which can inspire children's creativity and imagination.
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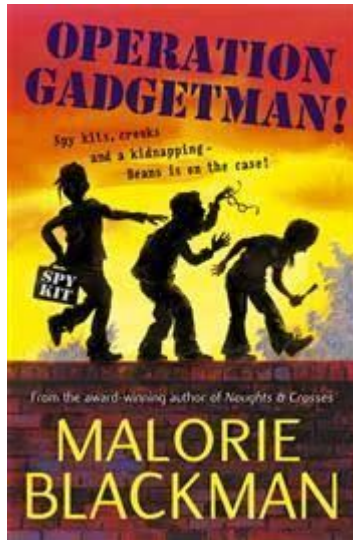
The Orchard book of Greek Myths Fiction



1. Greek myths are a foundational part of Western culture and literature. Reading these stories helps children understand references and themes that appear in many other books, movies, and everyday conversations.
 2. Greek myths often contain moral lessons and themes such as bravery, loyalty, humility, and the consequences of one's actions. These lessons can be valuable for children's character development.
 3. The fantastical elements of Greek myths, with their gods, heroes, and mythical creatures, stimulate children's imaginations and creativity. They provide a rich tapestry of characters and plots that can inspire children's own storytelling and creative play.
 4. The engaging and dramatic nature of myths can captivate young readers, encouraging a love of reading and helping them develop their reading skills. The structure of myths, with their clear narrative arcs, can also help children understand story structure and improve their comprehension.
 6. Greek myths often introduce children to new and varied vocabulary in a context that makes these new words easier to understand and remember.
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Operation Gadgetman

Fiction

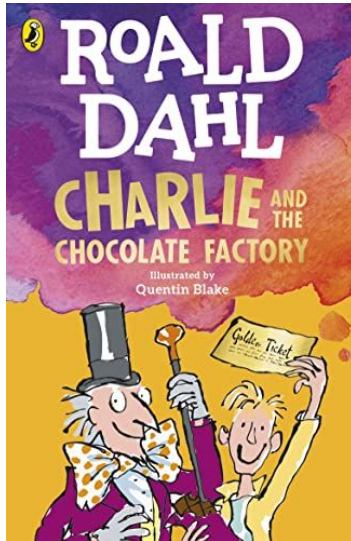


1. Engaging plot: The story is filled with action, humor, and adventure, which makes it appealing to children in this age group. It keeps them engaged and entertained while they read.
 2. Encourages creativity and imagination: The gadgets and inventions that Gadgetman creates are unique and imaginative. Reading about these inventions can inspire children to think creatively and come up with their own ideas.
 3. Relatable characters: The main character, Gemma, is around the same age as Year 3 children, making her experiences and emotions relatable to young readers. This connection helps children become more invested in the story and develop empathy for the characters.
 4. Vocabulary development: The book uses age-appropriate language that helps children expand their vocabulary and improve their reading comprehension skills.
 5. Themes and messages: The story tackles important themes such as friendship, courage, and the importance of using one's talents for good. These themes encourage children to reflect on their own actions and values, contributing to their personal growth.
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Why We Read These Books. Year 4

Charlie & the Chocolate Factory

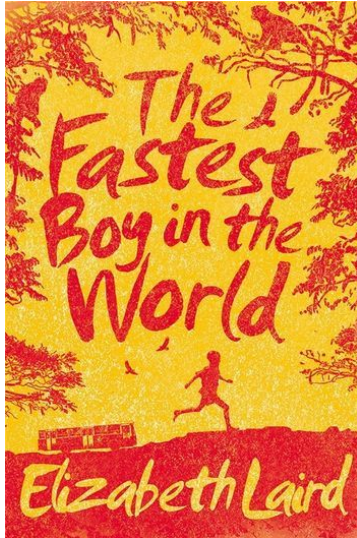
Fiction



1. Imagination and creativity: The book is a great example of imaginative storytelling that stimulates children's creativity and imagination. It transports readers to a magical world filled with fantastical characters and settings, inspiring them to think outside the box and come up with their own imaginative ideas.
 2. Lessons on behaviour: The book provides important lessons on behaviour and the consequences of one's actions. For example, the spoiled and entitled children in the story meet with their own punishments as a result of their bad behaviour, while Charlie's good character and kind heart are rewarded.
 3. Importance of family and values: The book emphasizes the importance of family and the values of honesty, kindness, and generosity. The Bucket family, despite their poverty, are shown to be loving and caring towards one another, while the selfishness and greed of the other characters are exposed.
 4. Humour and entertainment: The book is filled with humorous moments and entertaining characters that make reading enjoyable for children. It also teaches them the value of humour and laughter as an important aspect of life.
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The Fastest Boy in the World

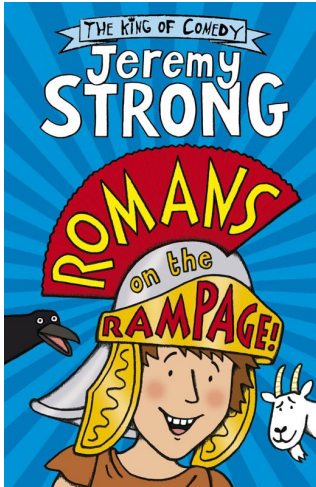
Fiction



1. It promotes empathy: The book deals with themes of poverty and discrimination, which can help children develop empathy towards those who face these challenges in their lives.
2. It encourages perseverance: Solomon faces numerous challenges but he never gives up on his dreams. This can teach children the importance of perseverance and resilience in the face of adversity.
3. It promotes diversity and inclusion: The book features characters from different backgrounds and cultures, which can help children understand and appreciate diversity and inclusion.
4. It inspires children to pursue their passions: The book highlights the importance of following one's dreams and working hard to achieve them. This can encourage children to pursue their own passions and interests.
5. It is an engaging and entertaining story: "The Fastest Boy on Earth" is a well-written and engaging story that can capture children's imaginations and keep them entertained while also teaching valuable life lessons.

Romans on the Rampage

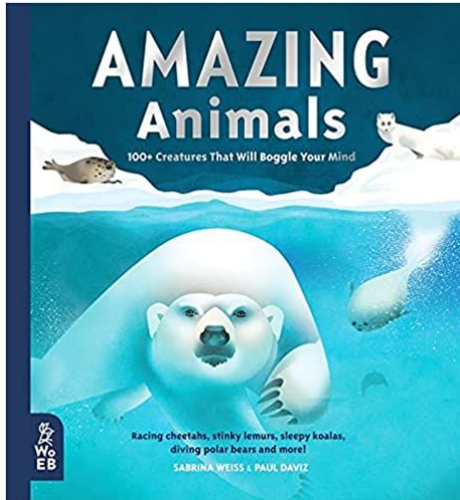
Fiction



1. The book builds upon knowledge gained in History lessons. It helps them learn about Roman culture, daily life, and historical events through the adventures of the characters.
 2. The language used in the book can help expand children's vocabulary. They will encounter new words and phrases within a context that makes them easier to understand and remember.
 3. The book's entertaining and humorous narrative can capture the interest of young readers, motivating them to read more and develop a love for reading.
 4. Through the characters and their adventures, children can learn important moral and social lessons such as bravery, friendship, and problem-solving.
 5. The imaginative storytelling encourages creativity and allows children to visualize ancient Roman times, enhancing their creative thinking skills.
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Amazing Animals

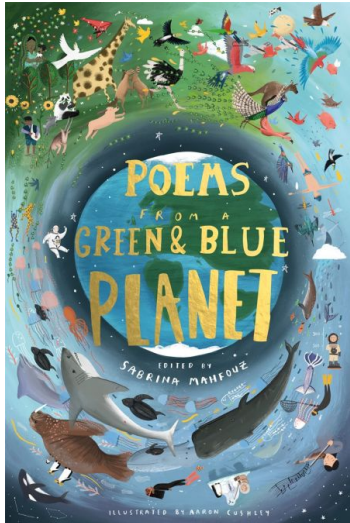
Non-Fiction



1. Learning about animals: The book could offer an opportunity for children to learn about different animals and their unique characteristics, behaviors, and habitats. This can help children develop an interest in science and nature and increase their knowledge and understanding of the world around them.
2. Enhancing language skills: Reading books can help children develop their language skills, including vocabulary, grammar, and comprehension. "Amazing Animals" could introduce children to new words and concepts that they may not have encountered before.
3. Encouraging curiosity: The book could inspire children to ask questions and seek out more information about the animals they read about. This can foster a sense of curiosity and a desire to learn more about the world.
4. Sparking imagination: The book could stimulate a child's imagination and creativity by introducing them to new and exciting animals and scenarios. This can encourage children to engage in imaginative play and storytelling.

Poems from a Green & Blue Planet

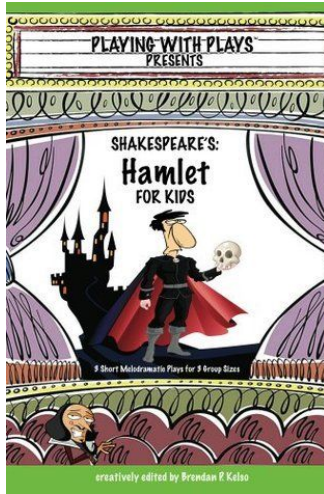
Poetry



1. Developing language skills: Reading poetry exposes children to new vocabulary, figurative language, and different writing styles. This exposure can help them develop their language skills, including their ability to understand and use language effectively.
 2. Encouraging creativity: Poems often feature vivid descriptions and imaginative language that can spark a child's creativity and imagination. Reading poetry can inspire children to create their own stories, poems, and artwork.
 3. Fostering empathy: Many poems explore human emotions and experiences, and reading them can help children develop empathy and understanding for others.
 4. Promoting environmental awareness: Poems about the natural world can help children develop an appreciation for the environment and a sense of responsibility to protect it.
 5. Cultivating a love of reading: Poems can be short and accessible, making them a great way to introduce children to the joys of reading. By reading poems from a green and blue planet, children may also develop an interest in science and the natural world, which can lead to further exploration and learning.
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Shakespeare's Hamlet

Playscripts

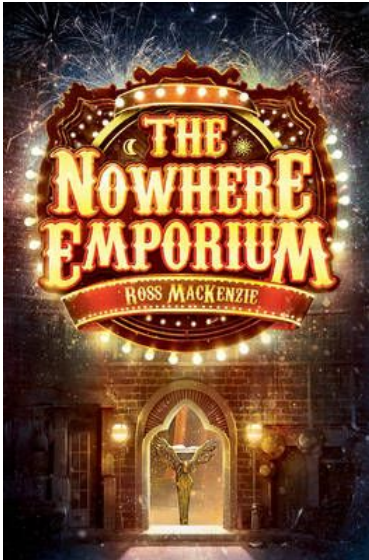


1. Cultural enrichment: Shakespeare's plays are considered some of the greatest works of literature in the English language, and studying them can provide children with a deeper understanding of the culture and history of the English-speaking world.
2. Language development: Shakespeare's language is renowned for its richness and complexity, and reading his plays can help children expand their vocabulary and develop their language skills.
3. Critical thinking: Shakespeare's plays often deal with complex themes and moral dilemmas, and reading them can encourage children to think critically about the world around them and develop their analytical skills.
4. Imagination and creativity: Shakespeare's plays are full of vivid characters, settings, and plots, and reading them can spark children's imagination and inspire them to create their own stories and ideas.
5. Performance skills: Reading playscripts can help children develop skills in reading aloud, public speaking, and acting, as they can practice performing the dialogue and interpreting the characters.

Why We Read These Books. Year 5

Nowhere Emporium

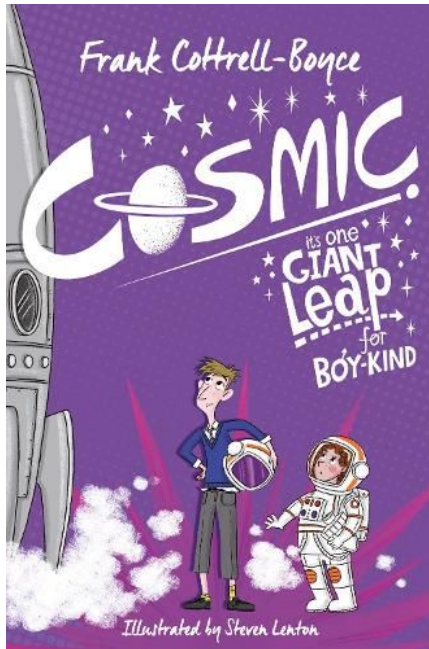
Fiction



1. Encourages imagination and creativity: The book takes readers on a fantastical journey through a mysterious emporium that sells wonders beyond imagination. Children can let their minds wander and imagine what it would be like to visit such a magical place.
 2. Teaches important life lessons: The story features themes of friendship, loss, and the power of love. Children can learn valuable lessons about the importance of relationships and how love and kindness can conquer even the darkest of circumstances.
 3. Improves literacy skills: Reading "The Nowhere Emporium" can help improve children's vocabulary, comprehension, and reading fluency. The book also includes rich descriptive language that can help children improve their writing skills.
 4. Fosters a love for reading: The book is captivating and engaging, making it a perfect read for children who are reluctant readers. It can help them develop a love for reading and inspire them to explore more books.
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Cosmic

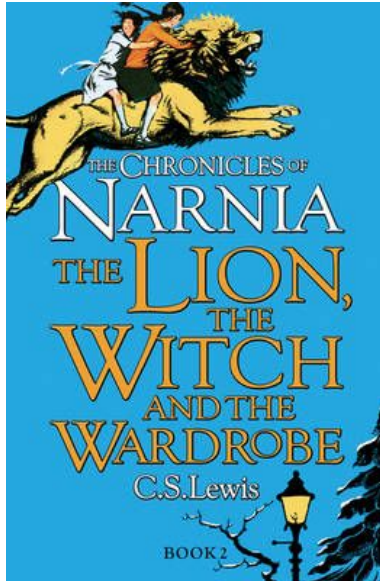
Fiction



1. Improves Reading Skills: Reading books, in general, can help improve a child's reading skills, including vocabulary, comprehension, and language skills. "Cosmic" is written in a way that is engaging and easy to understand for children, making it an ideal book to enhance their reading skills.
2. Develops Imagination and Creativity: "Cosmic" is a science fiction novel that explores imaginative concepts, such as space travel, aliens, and time travel. Reading this book can help children develop their imagination and creativity by encouraging them to think about what the future might hold.
3. Encourages Critical Thinking: "Cosmic" deals with complex issues such as identity, ethics, and morality. By reading this book, children can learn to think critically about these issues, which can help them develop their own opinions and ideas.
4. Increases Knowledge and Interest in Science: "Cosmic" deals with science fiction themes such as space travel and alien life. Reading this book can spark a child's interest in science, leading them to explore more about space exploration and astronomy.
5. Teaches Empathy: The protagonist of "Cosmic" is a young boy who looks much older than his age, leading him to face several challenges. Reading about his struggles can help children develop empathy and understand that everyone faces unique challenges in life.

The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe

Fiction



1. **Imagination and Creativity:** The book takes readers on a magical journey to the land of Narnia, where they can explore a world filled with talking animals, mythical creatures, and fantastical landscapes. This encourages children to use their imaginations and think creatively.
2. **Morals and Values:** The story is full of important themes, such as friendship, loyalty, courage, sacrifice, and forgiveness. Children can learn valuable lessons about these topics while enjoying an exciting adventure.
3. **Literary Significance:** "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is a classic work of children's literature, and it has been beloved by generations of readers. By reading this book, children can gain an appreciation for the art of storytelling and learn about the literary techniques used by the author.
4. **Christian Allegory:** The book is also an allegory for Christian themes, such as the story of Jesus Christ and the sacrifice he made for humanity. This can be a great way to introduce children to religious concepts in a way that is accessible and engaging.

Be The Change, Poems to Help You Save the World.

Poetry



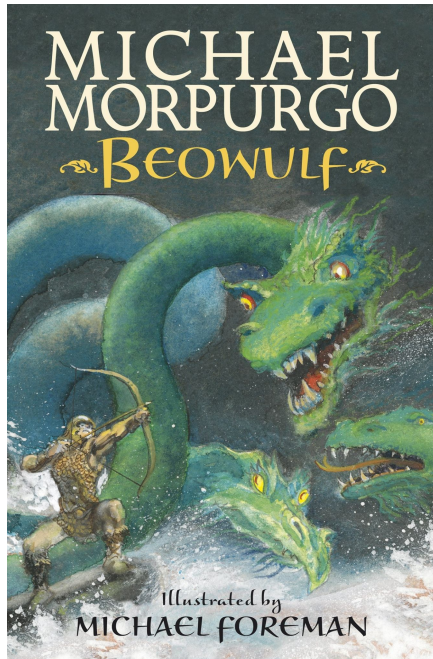
Children should read "Be the Change: Poems to Change the World" for several reasons. First, poetry can be an excellent way to inspire young readers to think about important issues and encourage them to take action to make a positive impact on the world. This book contains a collection of poems by a variety of poets that address topics such as social justice, equality, and the environment.

Second, reading poetry can help children develop important literacy skills such as vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking. The poems in this book are written by a diverse group of poets with different styles and perspectives, which can expose children to a range of literary techniques and foster their appreciation of language.

Third, the themes addressed in this book can help children develop empathy and understanding for others who may be different from them. Through the power of poetry, children can connect with the experiences and struggles of people from different backgrounds and cultures, which can help them become more compassionate and open-minded individuals.

Beowulf

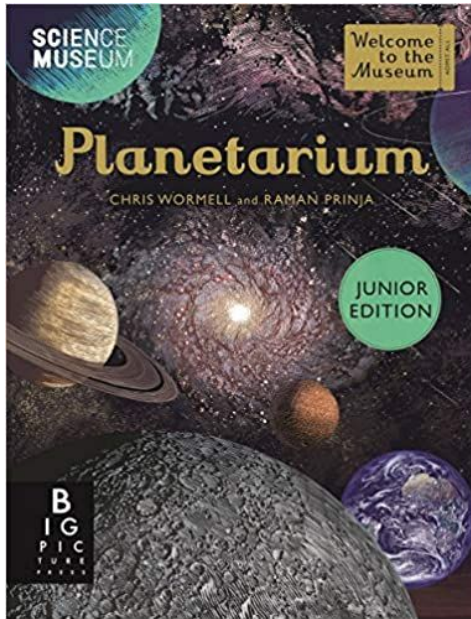
Fiction



1. Exposure to Classic Literature: Beowulf is a classic piece of literature that has been studied and appreciated for centuries. By reading an adaptation of it by Michael Morpurgo, children can gain exposure to the themes and literary techniques found in this important work.
 2. Understanding of Heroism and Courage: Beowulf is a tale of heroism and courage, and reading it can help children understand the importance of these qualities. Through Beowulf's heroic deeds, children can learn about the importance of standing up for what is right, even in the face of great danger.
 3. Appreciation of Other Cultures: Beowulf is a story that comes from the Anglo-Saxon culture of England. By reading an adaptation of this work, children can gain an appreciation for the traditions, beliefs, and values of this culture.
 4. Development of Reading Skills: Reading Beowulf can also help children develop important reading skills, such as vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking. The complex language and structure of the poem can challenge children's reading abilities and help them develop new skills.
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Planetarium

Non-Fiction

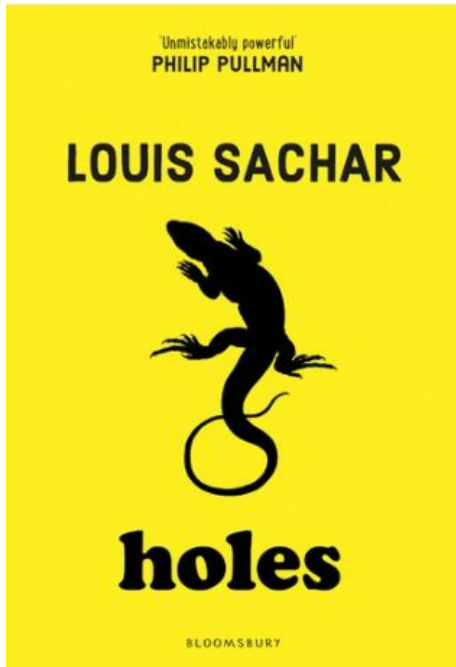


1. Enhances scientific understanding: "Planetarium" provides a detailed and engaging introduction to astronomy, covering a wide range of topics such as stars, planets, galaxies, and space exploration. Reading this book can help Year 5 children develop a better understanding of the universe and the science behind it.
 2. Inspires curiosity: The book presents fascinating information about the cosmos, which can pique children's curiosity and inspire them to learn more about the world around them, both on Earth and beyond.
 3. Stunning visuals: Chris Wormell's illustrations are beautifully detailed and provide an immersive visual experience that can help children better grasp the concepts and scale of astronomical phenomena.
 4. Age-appropriate content: "Planetarium" is written in a way that is accessible to children in Year 5, with language and explanations tailored to their level of understanding. This makes the complex topic of astronomy more approachable and enjoyable for them.
 5. Supports cross-curricular learning: Astronomy is a subject that connects to various other disciplines, such as physics, chemistry, mathematics, and geography. Reading "Planetarium" can support children's learning in these areas by providing a real-world
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Why We Read These Books. Year 6

Holes

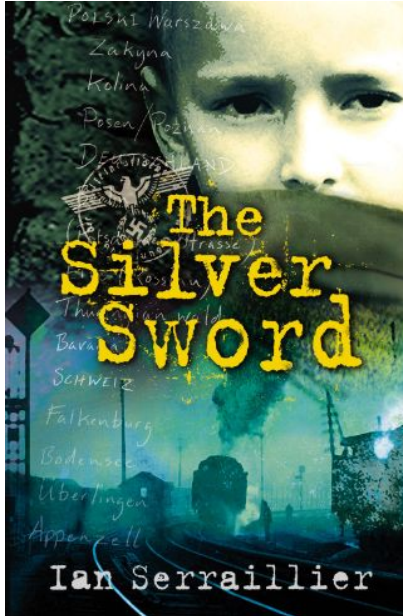
Fiction



1. Engaging plot: "Holes" has an intriguing storyline that keeps readers engaged, with a mix of mystery, adventure, and humor. It can help spark a love for reading in children who may not have been interested in books before.
 2. Rich characters: The novel features a diverse cast of well-developed characters, each with their own unique stories and backgrounds. This allows children to explore different perspectives and develop empathy for others.
 3. Themes and lessons: "Holes" explores themes such as friendship, perseverance, family history, and the idea that everyone has the potential for redemption. These themes can help children learn valuable life lessons and develop a strong moral compass.
 4. Vocabulary and language skills: Reading "Holes" can help children expand their vocabulary and improve their language skills, as the book contains a wide range of words and sentence structures that can challenge young readers.
 5. Interwoven narratives: The novel skillfully weaves together multiple storylines from different time periods, providing an excellent opportunity for children to practice their critical thinking and comprehension skills.
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The Silver Sword

Fiction

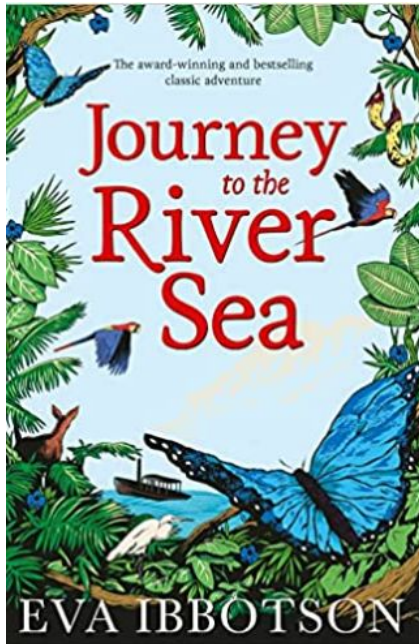


1. Historical context: The novel provides a valuable opportunity for children to learn about World War II, the Holocaust, and the hardships faced by millions of people during this period. Reading the book can lead to discussions about history, fostering a deeper understanding of the events and their consequences.
2. Empathy and compassion: The story of the children's struggles and perseverance fosters empathy and compassion in young readers. It helps them appreciate the value of family, friendship, and solidarity in the face of adversity.
3. Resilience and determination: The characters in "The Silver Sword" display incredible resilience and determination in their quest to reunite with their family. By reading about their journey, children can develop a greater appreciation for the importance of perseverance and the power of hope in overcoming challenges.
4. Moral lessons: The novel explores various moral themes, such as courage, loyalty, and the importance of helping others. These themes can serve as a springboard for discussions about ethics and values, helping children develop their moral compass.
5. Cross-cultural understanding: The story takes place across multiple European countries, exposing children to different cultures, customs, and languages. This can help broaden their horizons and foster a greater appreciation for diversity.

Journey to a River

Sea

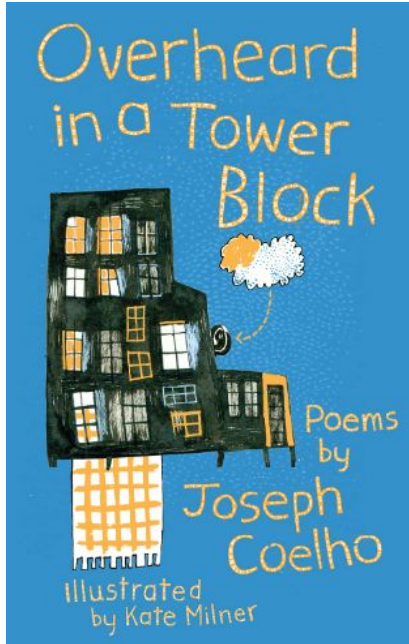
Fiction



1. Rich, engaging storytelling: Ibbotson's writing is captivating and vivid, with strong character development, a gripping plot, and engaging prose. This can encourage children to develop a love for reading and help them become lifelong readers.
2. Cultural and historical awareness: The book introduces readers to the Amazon rainforest and its unique ecosystem, as well as the customs, culture, and history of the region. This can broaden a child's understanding of different cultures and historical contexts, fostering empathy and global awareness.
3. Environmental appreciation: The book's setting in the Amazon rainforest can help children develop an appreciation for nature and the environment, as well as an understanding of the importance of conservation and biodiversity.
4. Moral values and life lessons: "Journey to the River Sea" explores themes such as friendship, courage, resilience, and kindness. Children can learn valuable life lessons from Maia's experiences and the challenges she faces, which can help shape their own moral compass and character.
5. Encourages imagination and curiosity: The book's adventurous and mysterious elements can ignite a child's imagination, fostering creativity and curiosity. It can inspire children to explore the world around them and develop an interest in learning about different places, cultures, and environments.

Overheard in a Tower Block

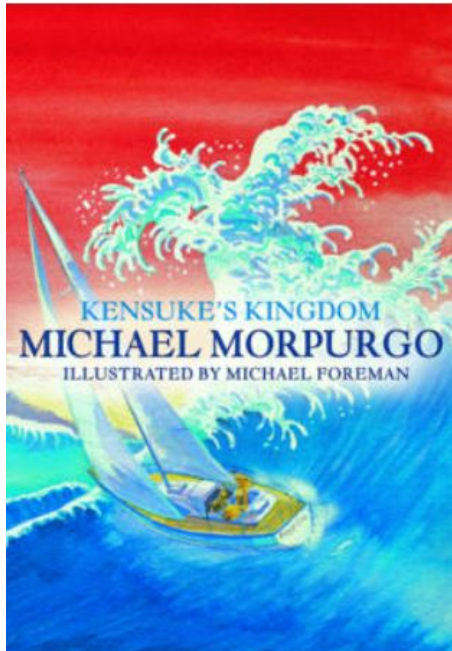
Poetry



1. Exposure to poetry: Reading poetry can help children develop a love for language, improve their vocabulary, and foster their creative thinking. "Overheard in a Tower Block" offers an accessible introduction to poetry, with a diverse range of topics and styles.
2. Relatable themes: The poems in the collection touch upon themes like family, friendships, community, and the challenges of growing up. These themes are relatable to children, helping them understand their own experiences and emotions better.
3. Cultural diversity: The book showcases the multiculturalism of urban life, giving children a glimpse into the lives of people from various backgrounds. This can promote empathy, understanding, and appreciation for diversity.
4. Social issues: The poems address social issues such as poverty, inequality, and the importance of community. Reading about these topics can help children develop their critical thinking skills, empathy, and awareness of the world around them.
5. Encourages reflection and discussion: "Overheard in a Tower Block" can serve as a conversation starter between children and adults, encouraging them to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences. This can help build strong relationships and enhance communication skills.

Kensuke's Kingdom

Fiction



1. Engaging plot: The story follows a young boy named Michael who gets shipwrecked on a deserted island and meets Kensuke, a Japanese man who has been living there for many years. The book is filled with adventure, suspense, and emotion, which keeps children engaged and entertained throughout.
 2. Rich language and vocabulary: Michael Morpurgo's writing style is descriptive and captivating, helping Year 6 children expand their vocabulary and improve their reading comprehension skills.
 3. Themes and messages: The book explores important themes such as friendship, survival, cultural understanding, and the impact of war. These themes encourage children to think deeply about the world and their place in it, fostering empathy and compassion.
 4. Cultural exploration: Through the character of Kensuke, children are exposed to aspects of Japanese culture and history. This exposure can help foster curiosity and understanding of different cultures and perspectives
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A range of playscripts

Playscripts

**We LOVE
School
Musicals!**



1. Playscripts improve literacy by exposing children to dialogue-driven narratives, requiring careful attention to punctuation, stage directions, and character interactions. This can enhance reading fluency and comprehension.
 2. Playscripts introduce children to a different form of literature, broadening their understanding of storytelling and narrative structure beyond traditional prose.
 3. Engaging with playscripts allows children to explore different characters and scenarios, fostering creativity and encouraging imaginative thinking.
 4. Analyzing characters' motivations, plot developments, and thematic elements in playscripts helps children develop critical thinking and analytical skills.
 5. Performing in front of others, whether in a classroom setting or a larger audience, helps build self-confidence and public speaking skills.
 6. The interactive and dynamic nature of playscripts can make reading more engaging and enjoyable for children, fostering a lifelong love of literature.
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