

The Chaddlewood Reading Spine

[Reading Spine](#)

The Chaddlewood Reading spine is designed to ensure that, over their time with us, Chaddlewood children are introduced to a range of books and poems that gives them a rich appreciation of literature and helps them become successful readers who can independently access more complex texts. The texts we have chosen are ones that the children are unlikely to encounter themselves and which they can only fully understand with the guidance of their teacher.

Doug Lemov has identified five text types that represent a higher level of complexity and demand more from the reader:

Texts containing archaic language

Older texts are significantly different from, and often more complex than, modern texts as they contain archaic language, syntax and cultural references. These texts represent many of the books that we consider classics and which children will encounter in secondary school, college or in their own reading time.

Texts with non-linear time sequences

Many high-quality books contain time shifts (such as flashbacks or events that take place at different points in time). For example, *Holes* by Louis Sachar switches between the main character's experiences in a prison camp and his previous life.

Texts with a complex narrator

Narrators can sometimes be unreliable - for example, Scout in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* doesn't always understand the events that are happening to and around her. Some books have multiple narrators and others - such as *Black Beauty* - have non-human narrators.

Text with a complex plot

Some books have intertwined and apparently unrelated plot lines. These are far harder to read than books with a single plot line.

Resistant Texts

Texts - such as many poems - that are deliberately difficult to understand. Meaning has to be constructed from hints, clues etc.

Other cultures

We also choose texts that introduce children to other cultures.

Our reading spine is designed so that children are exposed to these different text types each year at Chaddlewood, sometimes in context, with their understanding and appreciation progressively developing. Some of the texts are used to inspire writing units; others are linked to topics; and others are class texts that we read to the children purely for pleasure. These include a wide range of classic and modern poems.

Year 6 reading spine

Archaic **Non-linear** **Complex Narrator** **Complex Plot** **Resistant** **Diversity and representation**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)	Pre-teaching key objectives	(short film, journalistic writing, Tuesday) The Ice Bear (Jackie Morris)	Beowulf (Kevin Crossley-Holland) Dragonology (Dugald Steer)	An informal letter Wallace and Gromit Cracking Contraptions	How the Whale Became (Ted Hughes) A formal letter of complaint	
Class books	Holes (Louis Sachar) The Snow Leopard by Jackie Morris	Gods and Heroes from Viking Mythology (Links to Beowulf, which is taught in Term 3)	The Orchard Book of Greek Myths (links to Dragonology)	The Just so Stories (Links to How the Whale Became, which is taught in Term 5)	When the Sky Falls	
Reading for Meaning linked to writing units		Extract from The Hobbit in which Bilbo encounters Smaug (Links to Beowulf, which is taught in Term 3) The story of Heracles (Hercules) and the Hydra	Cracking contraptions: Preston the Cyber Dog Cracking contraptions: 525 Cracker Vac			
Poetry The poems combine all five text types	Weathers by Thomas Hardy The Listeners by Walter de la Mare Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening	In Flanders Fields by John McCrae The Soldier by Rupert Brooke Dulce et Decorum Est by Wilfred Owen	Sea Fever by John Masefield The Tyger by William Blake The Eagle by Alfred Lord Tennyson	Home Thoughts from Abroad by Robert Browning Loveliest of Trees (A.E.Housman) On Wenlock Edge (A.E. Housman)	From a Railway Carriage by Robert Louis Stevenson Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll Daffodils by William Wordsworth	

Year 5 reading spine

Archaic **Non-linear** **Complex Narrator** **Complex Plot** **Resistant** **Diversity and representation**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)	Pre-teach key year 5 objectives	Hansel and Gretel by Neil Gaiman Shackleton's Journey by William Grill	Snakes and other scaly reptiles I am Cat by Jackie Morris	Letters of complaint Mysterious Traveller by Elspeth Graham and Mal Peet	The Princess' Blankets by Carol Ann Duffy Where My Wellies Take Me - poetry anthology by Claire and Michael Morpurgo	Post--teach key year 5 objectives
Books linked to topic			Cloud Tea Monkeys Mysterious Traveller		Where My Wellies Take Me - poetry anthology	
Class books	The Wolves of Currumpaw by William Grill Coraline by Neil Gaiman	Windrush Child by Benjamin Zepeniah Ancient Egypt - Tales of Gods and Goddess by Marcia Williams	Tales from Outer Suburbia by Shaun Tan	The Highwayman The Listeners Ozymandias The Tyger Daffodils The Lion and Albert In the Bleak Midwinter/ Who Has Seen the Wind? Caged Bird Time / The River	Short stories by Michael Morpurgo: I Believe in Unicorns Meeting Cezanne	Short stories by Michael Morpurgo: The Giant's Necklace The Mozart Question
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning		My Mind (a poem by Ros Asquith)		Tales from Outer Suburbia by Shaun Tan: Eric Broken Toys The Lost Thing	Stickleback (a poem by Ted Hughes)	
Poems The poems combine all five text types	My Mind Ros Asquith I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth - Pam Ayers	Caged Bird - Maya Angelou	Heard it in the Playground - Allan Ahlberg	The Lion and Albert - Marriott Edgar Albert's Return- Marriott Edgar	Where My Wellies Take Me - poetry anthology Stickleback - Ted Hughes	My Shadow - Robert Lewis Stevenson From a Railway Carriage - Robert Lewis Stevenson At The Seaside - Robert Lewis Stevenson
Comments	These poems have been	These poems are either	These poems were	These poems were	These poems were	These poems were

	chosen to link to Jigsaw PSHE learning about looking after ourselves.	taken from Where My Wellies Take Me or link to our work on North America and Black History Month.	chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.	chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.	chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.	chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.
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Year 4 reading spine

Archaic Non-linear Complex Narrator Complex Plot Resistant Other cultures

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)		Dare to Care Pet Dragon Escape from Pompeii	Bill's New Frock Escape from Pompeii	(Persuasive letter) Myth Atlas	The Shaman's Apprentice	
Books linked to topic					The Great Kapok Tree	
Class books	Love that dog Cloud Busting	A Boy Called Christmas	Danny the Champion of the World		The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth	Rover
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	Marshmallows (linked to English) Good To me Pigeon Impossible Malorie Blackman Teeth	Dare to Care for your Dragon Firework night Anglo Saxon and Scots Invaders	PiRA texts from year 4 How Doth the the little crocodile by Lewis Caro Maisy, who squeezed herself into tight places	Wizard's Speech Superheroes Topsy Turvy World poem by Richard Brightly Hands Earth, Sea and Sky Sharon Smayle's report	The Great Kapok Tree PiRA texts from year 4 Dream Variations by Langston Hughes Pet Care of a Dog	Rover
Poems The poems combine all five text types		Firework Night				
Comments						

Year 3 reading spine

Archaic **Non-linear** **Complex Narrator** **Complex Plot** **Resistant** **Other cultures**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)	Year group objectives	I'll Take You To Mrs Cole Outdoor Wonderland	Ask Dr K Fisher (about animals) A River (poetry)	A Bear called Paddington Anthology of Intriguing Animals	Arthur and the Golden Rope	The Beasties
Books linked to topic		Stone Age Boy	A River (poetry linked to topic)			
Class books	The Butterfly Lion	The Mousehole Cat	The Hodgeheg Dick King Smith	Farm Boy by Michael Morpurgo	George's Marvellous Medicine	Famous Five Wangari's Trees of Peace
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	Stuck! One World Dinosaurs and all that rubbish Dolphin Boy Peter's Place Sulwe	Stone Age Boy Meerkat Mail I'll Take You To Mrs Cole The Mousehole Cat Outdoor Wonderland	Ask Dr K Fisher Ask Dr K Fisher about Reptiles A River The Hodgeheg	Beauty and the Beast Abridged version Leon and the Place Between A Bear called Paddington Anthology of Intriguing Animals Farm Boy by Michael Morpurgo	George's Marvellous Medicine Grimm's Fairy Tales Arthur and the Golden Rope	Mary Poppins P.L. Travers The Beasties Famous Five
Poems The poems combine all five text types		King's Breakfast by AA Milne Please Mrs Butler	Walking with My Iguana by Michael Rosen Something Told the Wild Geese (poem) Rachel Field	Tiger Shadows by Brian Patten	Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl	
Comments			This poem has been selected linked to our Ask Dr K Fisher text with an animal based theme.	This poem has been chosen linked to our text, Anthology of Intriguing Animals.	These poems have been chosen as they are a different text type by the same author and 'revolting rhymes' link	This poem has been selected as it has a cross curricular link to our River topic in the Summer Term.

					with our class text George's Marvellous Medicine.	
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Year 2 reading spine

Archaic **Non-linear** **Complex Narrator** **Complex Plot** **Resistant** **Other cultures**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)		Disgusting Sandwich Dear Santa	Samuel Pepys Extract Tell Me a Dragon	How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth How to Hide a Lion	Neil Armstrong Recount (Short Film) The Black Hat	Creature features The Way Back Home
Books linked to topic				Handa's Surprise		Sally and the Limpet- Simon James
Class books	Dinosaurs and all that rubbish	The Night Before Christmas (poem) Simon James stories- Wild in the woods Dear Greenpeace Baby Brains	Slug needs a hug - Jeanne Willis	Fantastic Mr Fox -Roald Dahl Rainbow Bird	The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales	Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers The Snail and the Whale- Julia Donalson
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	The Tiger Who Came to Tea Paddington at the Tower A squish and a Squeeze	The dinosaur that pooped Christmas The day the crayons quit	The Jelly that wouldn't wobble The Gruffalos Child Mr Wolf's pancakes.	The true story of the three little pigs		The book with no pictures Voices in the park
Poems The poems combine all five text types	Revolting recipes- Roald Dahl		The Sound Collector-Roger McGough		In 1492 Columbus sailed the ocean blue by Jean Marzollo	
Comments	The poems have been selected because they link with our DT topic- Healthy Pizzas		This poem has been selected because we use it to think about our senses and what we might hear if we walked through the streets of London during the Great Fire in 1666.		This poem is linked to our Fantasy topic- we compare Neil Armstrong and Christopher Columbus	

Year 1 reading spine

Archaic
Non-linear
Complex Narrator
Complex Plot
Resistant
Diversity and representation

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)	The Colour Monster Owl Babies	Penguins Sprout Boy	The Three Little Pigs Slime Book	Seeds to Sunflower Little Red Riding Hood	Lost and Found Could a penguin ride a bike?	My Day at the zoo The Naughty Bus
Books linked to topic						
Class books (linked RWI text)	The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt Room on the Broom- Julia Donaldson	The Animal Boogie- Debbie Harter Where the Wild Things Are Willie the Wimp - Anthony Browne	Tabby McTat- Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler Lighthouse Keeper's Rescue- David Armitage	The Smartest Giant in Town - Julia Donaldson Anita and the Dragons	Green Eggs and Ham - Dr Seuss What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson	The Cat in the Hat comes Back- Dr Suess We're Going on a Bear Hunt- Michael Rosen
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning						
Poems The poems combine all five text types	Chocolate cake - Michael Rosen	Oi, Frog!				
Comments						

EYFS reading spine

Archaic **Non-linear** **Complex Narrator** **Complex Plot** **Resistant** **Other cultures**

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)	We Are Family We're Going on a Bear Hunt The Squirrels Who Squabbled	Pumpkin Soup Diwali Where the Poppies Now Grow Twinkle, twinkle little star The Grumpy Badgers Christmas	The Three Little Pigs The Magic of Clay A Place Called Home	Jack and the Beanstalk Lola Plants a Garden Plant the Tiny Seed From Egg to Chicken	You Must Bring a Hat I want my Hat Back Coco Chanel - Little People Big Dreams When we Grow up	All Aboard the London Bus Emma Jayne's Aeroplane
Books linked to topic	The Colour Monster Everybody feels happy In Every House on Every Street	Mrs Blackhat Binny's Diwali Room on a Broom Meg & Mog Christmas Story Nativity First book of nature Christopher Pumpkin	The three little wolves and the big bad pig Poems about animals You Choose Houses through time Chinese New Year	Jaspers Beanstalk Jack and the Jelly Bean Stalk One Little Seed Little Green Helpers Grow Where do the Chicks Come From?	Miss Honey's Hat Old Hat Busy People: Police Officer	Violet Pilot Don't let the pigeon drive the bus One Day on Our Blue Planet
Class books (linked to RWI)						
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning						
Poems The poems combine all five text types	A Great Big Cuddle					
Comments						