

The Chaddlewood Reading Spine

<https://teachlikeachampion.com/wp-content/uploads/5-Plagues-Reading-Spine.pdf>

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
Other cultures

	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)	I am Cat (Should animals be kept in zoos?)	How the Whale Became (Ted Hughes) Wallace and Gromit Cracking Contraptions	Earth Verse (Evacuee diary entry)
Books linked to topic			Orchard Book of Greek Myths		Just So Stories (Rudyard Kipling)	
Class books	Holes (Louis Sachar)	Wonder (R.J. Palacio)	Shark Caller (Zillah Bethell)	A Monster Calls (Patrick Ness)	The Light Jar (Lisa Thompson)	Skellig (David Almond)
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	Who (a poem by Charles Causley)	The Geography Teacher (a poem by Brian Patten)				
Poems The poems combine all five text types	The Listeners (Walter de la Mare) The Raven (Edgar Allan Poe) The Headless Horseman and Other Poems to Trouble Your Sleep (Jack Prelutsky)	The Eagle (Alfred Lord Tennyson) The Donkey (G.K. Chesterton) The Tyger (William Blake) The Lamb (William Blake)	The Ballad of Patrick Spens (anon) The Lady of Shallot (Alfred Lord Tennyson) The Pirates (JH)	Iron Wolf: Selected animal poems (Ted Hughes) The Wild Swans at Coole (W.B. Yeats)	In Flanders Fields (John McCrae) The Soldier (Rupert Brooke) Dulce et Decorum Est (Wilfred Owen) The Charge of the Light Brigade (Alfred Lord Tennyson)	The River (Valerie Bloom) Daffodils (William Wordsworth) Loveliest of Trees (A.E.Housman) On Wenlock Edge (A.E. Housman) Home Thoughts from Abroad (Robert Browning)
Comments	The poems have been selected because they link with the 'ghost story' theme of Alma.	The poems have been chosen because they link with the theme of The Ice Bear.	The poems have been selected because they accord with the balladic/heroic nature of Beowulf.	The poems have been selected because they link with the theme of I am Cat and also introduce the children to the work of Ted Hughes, who inspires their writing in the next term.	The poems have been chosen to coincide with VE day and build on the military links of many Chaddlewood children.	The poems link with the 'nature' theme of Earth Song.

Year 5 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)	Recovery curriculum part 1 The Wizard of Oz	Where My Wellies Take Me - poetry anthology Shackleton's Journey	Cloud Tea Monkeys Mysterious Traveller	Flood (Snakes and other scaly reptiles)	Tales from Outer Suburbia	Recovery curriculum part 2 (Ripley's Mighty Machines)
Books linked to topic	Sign of the Beaver The Wizard of Oz		Cloud Tea Monkeys Mysterious Traveller	Secrets of a Sun King	Street Child	
Class books	Sign of the Beaver	War Horse		Secrets of a Sun King	The Girl Who Stole an Elephant	The Village by the Sea
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	My Mind (a poem by Ros Asquith)	Stickleback (a poem by Ted Hughes)		Eric Broken Toys The Lost Thing	The Tyger (a poem by William Blake)	
Poems The poems combine all five text types	My Mind Ros Asquith I Wish I'd Looked After Me Teeth - Pam Ayers	Where My Wellies Take Me - poetry anthology Stickleback - Ted Hughes Caged Bird - Maya Angelou	Heard it in the Playground - Allan Ahlberg The Highwayman - Alfred Noyes	The Lion and Albert - Marriott Edgar Albert's Return- Marriott Edgar	The Tyger - William Blake	My Shadow - Robert Lewis Stevenson From a Railway Carriage - Robert Lewis Stevenson At The Seaside - Robert Lewis Stevenson
Comments	These poems have been chosen to link to Jigsaw PHSE learning about looking after ourselves.	These poems are either taken from Where My Wellies Take Me or link to our work on Amazing Americas and Black History Month.	These poems were chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.	These poems were chosen because we enjoy reading them and would like to share them with the children.	This poem has been chosen to link to our history topic - The Victorians.	The poems have been chosen to focus on one significant poet and link to our history topic - The Victorians.

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)	The Julian Stories How to Train your Dragon	Dare to Care for a Dragon	Poetry Pie Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears	Myth Atlas Penguins	13 Words The Great Kapok Tree	The Shaman's Apprentice Rainforest Rough Guide
Books linked to topic				Penguins	The Great Kapok Tree	The Shaman's Apprentice Rainforest Rough Guide
Class books	Firework Makers daughter Philip Pullman	The Midnight Fox	The Witches	Love that dog	Charlotte's Webb	Cloud Busting The Girl Who Stole an Elephant
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	Marshmallows (linked to English) So Good To me Pigeon Impossible Your Teeth and How to Look after them	Dare to Care for your Dragon Firework night Remembrance Day Anglo Saxon and Scots Invaders	Poetry Pie Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears	Wizard's Speech Superheroes	The Great Kapok Tree PiRA texts from year 4	Rover
Poems The poems combine all five text types		How Doth the the little crocodile by Lewis Carroll Firework Night	The Power of Poets Elephants and Peas A Good Listener Handwriting Poetry Pie The Bigger the Clog Toothy Grin The Red Carpet The Power of Poets Tomorrow Has Your Name On It Jellyfish Pie Clerihews	Topsy Turvy World poem by Richard Brightly Hands	Dream Variations by Langston Hughes	
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)	I'll Take You To Mrs Cole Anthology of Intriguing Animals	The Nutcracker Seasons of Splendor	Ask Dr K Fisher The Day I swapped My Dad for Two Goldfish	Paddington Goes to Town The Ink Garden of Brother Theophane	The Roman Newspaper Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone	The River (poetry) Arthur and the Golden Rope
Books linked to topic			Stone Age Boy			The River (poetry linked to topic)
Class books	The Butterfly Lion	The Mousehole Cat Antonia Barber Beauty and the Beast Abridged version	Something Told the Wild Geese (poem) Rachel Field	A Bear Called Paddington	George's Marvellous Medicine	Famous Five Wangari's Trees of Peace
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning	The Hodgeheg Dick King Smith Stuck!	Dinosaurs and all that rubbish One World	Something Told the Wild Geese (poem) Rachel Field	Farm Boy by Michael Morpurgo	George's Marvellous Medicine	Mary Poppins P.L. Travers
Poems The poems combine all five text types	Tiger Shadows by Brian Patten	Paint Me A Poem (Linked to English unit) King's Breakfast by AA Milne Please Mrs Butler	Walking with My Iguana by Michael Rosen		Revolting Rhymes by Roald Dahl	The River by Valerie Bloom
Comments	This poem has been chosen linked to our text, Anthology of Intriguing Animals.		This poem has been selected linked to our Ask Dr K Fisher text with an animal based theme.		These poems have been chosen as they are a different text type by the same author and 'revolting rhymes' link with our class text George's Marvellous Medicine.	This poem has been selected as it has a cross curricular link to our River topic in the Summer Term.

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

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Books linked to English units (other English units)					Lost and Found	The cat in the hat Creature features
Books linked to topic						
Class books (linked RWI text) Green Eggs and Ham - Dr Seuss Room on the Broom- Julia Donaldson We're Going on a Bear Hunt- Michael Rosen	Where the Wild Things Are The Smartest Giant in Town - Julia Donaldson Willie the Wimp - Anthony Browne	Tabby McTat- Julia Donaldson and Alex Scheffler Anita and the Dragons	The Animal Boogie- Debbie Harter	The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt What the Ladybug Heard by Julia Donaldson	The Cat in the Hat comes Back- Dr Suess Lighthouse Keeper's Rescue- David Armitage	
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning						
Poems Chocolate cake - Michael Rosen The poems combine all five text types						
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)					Traditional Tales	
Books linked to topic	Some Children like.. The Rainbow Fish Elmer stories	Owl Babies Room on a Broom Funny Bones Meg & Mog Christmas Story Nativity	Rosie's Walk Stickman Percy the Park Keeper The Hungry Caterpillar	Emergency Mog and the Vet	The Elves & the Shoemaker Chicken Licken Each Peach Pear Plum	Dogger The Giant Jam Sandwich Into the Forest Voices in the park
Class books (linked to RWI)	The Proudest Blue Peepo	The Bad Tempered Ladybird		Mr Magnolia A great big cuddle poems for the very young -Michael Rosen	The Very Busy Spider Five Minutes Peace	The Three Billy Goats Gruff Camille and the Sunflowers
Whole texts taught in Reading for Meaning						
Poems The poems combine all five text types						
Comments						