

APPS Roy

The hunt for William Shakespeare

The story of a boy who runs away to London to join Shakespeare's troupe of actors. A good introduction to Tudor life with lively and attractive illustrations.

YEAR 4 historical stories

ASHLEY Chris

Wasim in the deep end

A clever, sensitive and humorous tale, seemingly simple but skilfully woven with some of the complex issues surrounding ethnic minorities.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings

SEAL YEAR 3/4 good to be me

BERESFORD Elizabeth

Lizzy's war

Colour illustrations and short chapters provide a good introduction to historical fiction in this story set in World War 2.

YEAR 4 historical stories

Best of friends (edited by V Bierman)

Short stories that reflect friendship in all its forms : human, animal and imaginary.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

SEAL YEAR 4 relationships

BRADMAN Tony

Arthur and the king's sword

A lively retelling of how the boy Arthur pulls Excalibur from the stone and becomes King of England. This book, from the Orchard Crunchies series, is enriched by wonderful line drawings from favourite illustrator Tony Ross.

YEAR 3 myths and legends

BROWNE Anthony

Voices in the park

This visit to the park is told from the point of view of four characters. Their thoughts and feelings cleverly overlap and ask the reader questions about how we interact with each other, and who we include or exclude from our world. There are lots of visual clues to how the characters feel, including a typeface for each voice.

USEFUL FOR DRAMA WORK (see DCS Drama folio 65)

BRUCE Lisa

Sister of the bride

Jassy has longed for her sister's wedding but when the day finally arrives, everything begins to go wrong for her. The story is rich in details of a Sikh wedding, with simple, colour illustrations which augment the text.

YEAR 4 stories from other cultures

CAVE Kathryn

Henry Hobbs and the lost planet

A bright and breezy sci-fi adventure starring Henry Hobbs from the planet Omicron. Kathryn Cave's lively and humorous story is complemented by Chris Riddell's quirky illustrations.

YEAR 4 science fiction

CHILD Lauren

Beware the storybook wolves

Herb has to do some quick thinking when two wolves escape from his bedtime story intent on gobbling him up. This is a unique take on the traditional tale told in typical Lauren Child style with illustrations and text that are both lively and great fun.

YEAR 3 traditional stories

CLARK Margaret

The very best of Aesop's fables

Eleven favourite fables are told clearly and amusingly in spare, up-to-date language. Beautifully illustrated by Charlotte Voake.

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

CLEMSON Wendy

Treasure in the jungle

From the popular Using Maths series, this exciting non fiction title should hold appeal for both boys and girls. Packed full of puzzles, maps, charts and tables, as well as some excellent photos, this is a great text for group work and discussion.

Explanation

CREBBIN June

Hal the highwayman

Hal goes to Dick Turpin's school to improve his skills as a highwayman! Text types used in this fun early read include letters, adverts, maps and a school report. Could appeal to older, less able readers.

YEAR 3 letters

DAHL Roald

The magic finger

Our heroine's magic, flashing finger wreaks vengeance on anyone who crosses her path with fantastic results. Good for discussion about the consequences of one's actions.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

DALTON Annie

Space baby

Life is hard for Cameron since Dad left. His big brother Tee has joined Jankro's gang and his little sister Riley insists on wearing Dad's clothes. Then Cameron finds the little Space baby and amazing things start to happen.

YEAR 4 science fiction

FINE Anne

Bill's new frock

A stylishly-written and very funny book about gender issues, sure to stimulate a lot of discussion.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

FINE Anne

The diary of a killer cat

Tuffy the cat narrates this hilarious tale in his own inimitable style. The essence of feline mischief is captured in short sentences, good dialogue and witty illustrations.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings

FINE Anne

The nag club

Boggle hats are the 'in thing'. Lola, an expert parent nagger, tries to teach her friends how to beg, wheedle and tantrum their way into getting one too! A hilarious book that begs to be read aloud.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings

FINE Anne

Jennifer's diary

Iolanthe has a million ideas for writing stories, so when she sees the empty pages in Jennifer's new diary she just can't help herself and begins to fill them in. Full of humour and some good tips on creating exciting stories out of humble beginnings.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings

GAVIN Jamila

Monkey in the stars

One starry night, Hanuman the Monkey God appears in Amrita's bedroom. He takes her on a magical journey into the story of Diwali, the Festival of Light and the New Year. Jamila Gavin deftly weaves a well-known festival into a good, readable story.
YEAR 4 stories from other cultures

GEBLER Carlo

The base

The Coin children find an abandoned shed perfect for their new base. When they disturb some surprising visitors they realise it's not only their secret. The story is part of the popular 'Yellow Bananas' series.
YEAR 3 adventure and mystery stories

GRAVETT Emily

Meerkat mail

Sunny the Meerkat decides he wants to try a different home and way of life so goes on his travels, but soon discovers that home is best! Full of humorous illustrations which incorporate Sunny's postcards home. Good for exploring points of view.
YEAR 3 letters

GREY Mini

The pea and the princess

This is an alternative version of the traditional tale told by the pea (hence the title). There is a lot to look at and discuss in this beautifully produced picture book, including a very familiar looking queen!
YEAR 3 traditional stories

GREY Mini

Traction man is here

Traction man is the ultimate cool superhero until Granny knits him a green woollen romper suit for Christmas. Can he overcome his humiliation and rediscover the action man within? This book is packed with wonderfully detailed illustrations to talk about and to stimulate imaginative writing.
YEAR 3 adventure stories; small world play

GRINDLEY Sally

Dear Max

Nine year old Max is a small boy with big issues. These are deftly handled in a positive and upbeat way through the correspondence he shares with his favourite author. This is a touching story about imagination, friendship and story telling, with Max eventually learning to stand up for himself.
Letters / diaries

HENDRY Diane

Harvey Angel

A highly readable, imaginative and clever thriller / ghost story. Whitbread Prize winner.
YEAR 4 fantasy stories

KELLY Susan

A tale of two wolves

The Big Bad Wolf is on trial and everyone's convinced that he's guilty. After all he looks just like the wolf who blew down the Three Little Pigs' houses. Who's telling the truth? A story that encourages good citizenship and keen observation from the Flying Foxes series.
YEAR 3 traditional stories

KILWORTH Gary

The gargoyle

A well-told story of the unlikely friendship between a boy and a gargoyle. Requires some maturity on the reader's part to appreciate the setting and understand the subtleties.

YEAR 4 fantasy stories

KING-SMITH Dick

Harriet's hare

A longer but accessible novel which weaves fantasy with reality. Large typeface and plenty of illustrations are sure to tempt new readers to have a go at a full-length novel.

YEAR 4 fantasy stories

KURTZ Jane & Lewis E.B.

Mamo on the mountain

Mamo and his devoted sister are servants in a rich man's house, but when their master challenges Mamo to spend a night alone in the bitter cold, quick wits as well as courage are called for....A heartwarming and beautifully illustrated retelling of a traditional Ethiopian tale.

YEAR 4 stories from other cultures

LEESON Robert

The amazing adventures of idle Jack

"Keep your eyes open, smile nicely and never disagree with anybody" his mother tells him. This advice stands Jack in good stead through his adventures in this new version of a popular folk-tale.

YEAR 3 traditional stories

McCAUGHREAN Geraldine

Daedalus and Icarus

A re-telling of a classic tale that has a lively and easily accessible narrative. Zany illustrations by Tony Ross capture the drama and excitement of this ancient myth.

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

McCAUGHREAN Geraldine

The wooden horse

A rich, poetic narrative, lively and entertaining, good to read alone or aloud and brilliant for dramatic storytelling

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables and parables

McGOUGH Roger

The great smile robbery

A hugely popular book because of its humour and exuberant wordplay.

YEAR 3 adventure and mystery stories

MCKAY Hilary

Charlie and the great escape

Charlie decides to teach his family a lesson by running away from home. However, he didn't know that it would be so "boringly, impossibly quiet"! A lively, humorous and accessible read.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings

SEAL YEAR 3/4 relationships

MADDERN Eric

Rainbow bird

The World is being born and Bird Woman steals fire to give heat and light to the land. Vivid colour illustrations add atmosphere to this Aboriginal folk tale from northern Australia.

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

Madtail, miniwhale and other shape poems P

In this collection, pictures become poems and poems become pictures. It will provide endless inspiration for children to try their hand at creating their own word paintings.

MAHY Margaret

The gargling gorilla

Three humorous short stories with an animal theme. Short chapters and lively Tony Ross illustrations make this an accessible collection for confident young readers.

YEAR 3 stories with related themes

MASTERS Anthony

Badger boy

Following his mother's death, Barry is determined to protect the badgers' sett which they watched together. He learns some difficult lessons during his battle to safeguard the sett but also makes some new friends.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

MATTHEWS Andrew

Favourite stories from Hans Christian Andersen

Fresh retellings of some favourite tales, with jolly illustrations.

YEAR 3 traditional stories

MAYO Margaret

First fairytales

Well-illustrated, well written and clearly-printed collection of traditional tales that most children of this age can read for themselves.

YEAR 3 traditional stories

MEDEARIS Angela

Too much talk

A Ghanaian tale, simply told and stunningly illustrated. The softly-coloured pictures look as if they have been etched on wood.

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

MILES Elizabeth

Watching dolphins in the oceans

Looks at the life and habitat of this much-loved animal. Stunning photographs bring the clear text to life and the explanations are supported by captions, labels and a good glossary.

Explanation

MITCHELL Pratima

Bamba beach

Hari is a warm hearted boy and is helpful to both his family and feuding neighbours. This charming, contemporary story set in India, follows his efforts to raise enough money to save his family from poverty.

Year 4 stories from other cultures

MORPURGO Michael

The butterfly lion

Morpurgo at his best. A magical, sensitive story of the wonderful relationship of a boy and a lion cub, with a superb twist at the end. Smarties Gold Medal winner 1996.

YEAR 4 historical stories

NICHOLSON, Sue

World art

Step-by-step photographs and useful website addresses for children to research examples of the art techniques mentioned in the text. Clear, simple examples of an instructional text for children to use as models for their own writing. The text provides examples of sequenced imperative statements and presentational features such as numbering.

YEAR 3 instructions

NIMMO Jenny

The night of the unicorn

Amber's class have to write a project about their pets – she's delighted as she has a very special pet hen, but why is the new boy Luke so set on finding a unicorn? Jenny Nimmo's wonderful use of evocative language draws the reader into this charming, fantasy tale.

YEAR 4 fantasy

NIMMO Jenny

The owl tree

Atmospheric and haunting story of a very special tree and young Joe's efforts to save it from his grandma's nasty-seeming neighbour.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

NIMMO Jenny

Seth and the strangers

The short accessible text makes this an ideal introduction to science fiction. Excellent characterisation, very atmospheric and lots of issues to ponder.

YEAR 4 science fiction

**The Orchard book of funny poems
(ed W Cope)**

P

Attractively illustrated anthology of riddles, playground rhymes, chants, tongue twisters and nonsense verse from modern and classic poets.

PRICE Susan

The wolf's footprint

Abandoned in the forest by parents who can no longer afford to feed them, Daw and Elke drink from water covering a wolf's footprint. They become wolves as a result and join the wolf pack. A dark edged fantasy written by a master of the craft.

YEAR 4 fantasy stories

RAYNER Shoo

How the leopard got his spots

This retelling of one of Kipling's *Just so stories* captures the essence of the original text in an accessible format for young readers. The text is interspersed with lots of black and white illustrations and 4 separate pages of brief facts about elements mentioned in the story.

YEAR 3 myths and legends

SADLER Wendy

How do they work? – Construction toys

Clear font, bright illustrations and an interesting subject make this an excellent explanatory text. The book contains labels and diagrams and has a good glossary and index at the back. This might also be useful as a high interest / low ability text for upper KS2 pupils.

YEAR 4 explanations

SMITH Emily

Shrimp

A positive and uplifting tale of how shy Ben gains confidence when his teacher sets the class a wildlife project during the school holidays.

YEAR 4 short stories and novels that raise issues

SEAL YEAR 3/4 good to be me

STANIFORD Natalie

The true story of Balto

Real-life adventure of Balto the sled-dog's heroic journey through an Arctic blizzard to bring medicine to sick children. Short sentences and lots of coloured illustrations.

YEAR 3 adventure and mystery stories

SOUHAMI Jessica

King Pom and the fox

This colourful picture book tells the Chinese version of the story which later became famous in the West as Puss in Boots. Clever Fox helps Li Ming to change his fortune and live happily ever after.

YEAR 3 multicultural alternative version of traditional tale

STEWART Diane

The gift of the sun

A colourful and vibrant tale from South Africa. Beautifully illustrated, it relates how Thulani exchanges his animals for some sunflower seeds resulting in him receiving good fortune – the gift of the sun!

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

SWINDELLS Robert

Ice palace

A gripping story, in the style of a traditional tale, which demonstrates the power of good over evil. Rich use of language.

YEAR 4 fantasy stories

SWINDELLS Robert

Roger's war

World War II has brought glamour to Roger's village. Pilots of the U.S. Airforce are based there and Roger dreams of being special like these heroes. A tale of hope and courage.

YEAR 4 historical stories

TOLSTOY Nikolai

The gigantic turnip

A retelling of the classic Russian tale in which an old man and his wife tug and heave at the giant turnip. Success only comes when the birds and animals join in!

YEAR 3 traditional stories

TOMLINSON Teresa

Meet me by the steelmen

This powerfully written book explores the mystery of three bronze statues of steelmen in a Sheffield shopping centre. The style is deceptively simple - there's lots of depth, a strong sense of time and place and excellent characterisation.

YEAR 4 historical stories

**Tongue twisters and tonsil twizzlers
(ed P Cookson)**

P

Poems that will tie tongues in knots and tire out tonsils. Beware - children may well be inspired to write lots of their own!

Twinkle twinkle chocolate bar (ed. J Foster) P

An attractive, accessible collection of rhymes, useful for whole class involvement as well as small group performance

TRIVIZAS Eugene

The three little wolves and the big bad pig

An excellent example of a well-known fairy tale turned on its head. Helen Oxenbury's wonderful illustrations add an extra dimension

YEAR 3 traditional stories

**Walking the bridge of your nose
(ed M Rosen)**

P

Wonderful games with language - wordplay, riddles, tongue-twisters, puns - enhanced by Chloe Cheese's exuberant, humorous artwork.

**What's under your hat? And other P
mysteries and riddles;
selected by Myra Barrs and Sue Ellis**

This is an accessible collection of mysteries and riddles from the popular 'Read me Poetry' series. The poems are an entertaining mixture of traditional and modern, with illustrations that complement the clearly laid out text.

WARD Helen The hare and the tortoise

This version of the classic Aesop's fable has fantastic vocabulary and vibrant, finely detailed illustrations.

YEAR 3 myths, legends and fables

SEAL YEAR 3/4 going for goals

WILLIAMS Marcia Greek myths for young children

Comic strip pictures and a simple narrative - an attractive format that encourages shared reading and discussion.

YEAR 3 myths, legends, fables, parables

WILSON Jacqueline Cliffhanger

The author's easy, humorous style deals lightly with Tim's dread of any kind of physical activity. Many children who share Tim's agonies will take courage from this entertaining story.

YEAR 3 stories with familiar settings