

## School Library Service

### Devon School Library Service - Group Readers YEARS 5, 6 & 7

You can borrow either five sets of Group Readers from this list or select any 5 sets from the Group Readers and Playsets lists. You can now mix and match to provide the combination which best suits your needs. We would welcome any feedback.

**Books marked \* appeal to older readers**

**P DENOTES POETRY**

**AHLBERG Allan**

**The better Brown stories**

A cleverly crafted and unusual story in which the characters demand changes to be made, and Ahlberg has great fun exploring the process of writing. Excellent for reading aloud.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**ALMOND David**

**Skellig**

Michael's baby sister is ill and while his parents spend their time at the hospital, he explores his new home. In the old, derelict garage he finds something sinister, a strange, winged creature. Is it something good or something evil? The author won the Carnegie Medal for this book, his first novel for children.

*YEAR 6 fantasy novel*

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**Amazing Inventions**

**Non- Fiction**

This book in the "Top tens" series features an amazing list of weird and unusual inventions that range from a spyfish mini- sub to a phone tooth! There is also a selection of ideas that didn't quite make it onto the list. Some features of this title include statistics, contents page, index and a useful glossary.

*YEAR 5*

**BANKS Lynne Reid**

**Harry the poisonous centipede**

A witty and highly successful creepy-crawly adventure about inquisitive Harry who can't resist the lure of the Up-Pipe to the land of the Hu-Mins.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors.*

**BENSON Gerard (Ed.)**

**This poem doesn't rhyme**

**P**

This anthology includes the work of poets from many different ages, cultures and countries with examples of alliterative verse, riddles, shape and sound poems and much more.

**BINGHAM Jane**

**Animals and us-do animals have rights? Non-Fiction**

This title in the “Get Wise” series looks at the emotive and important issue of animal welfare. Case studies, quotes and tips encourage readers to make their own decisions on this important subject. A useful text for sharing ideas, viewpoints and promoting lively discussion.

*YEAR 5 persuasive writing*

**BLACKMAN Malorie**

**Forbidden game**

During a school trip, a dangerous game goes horribly wrong and soon, Shaun is fighting for his life. This is an exciting adventure from the popular *Surfers* series.

*YEAR 6 adventure novel*

*Suitable for high interest/ low ability*

**BLACKMAN Malorie**

**Cloud busting**

Poetic forms are used to tell this unusual, realistic story of bullying.

*YEAR 6 poetry*

*SEAL Say no to bullying*

**BLACKMAN Malorie**

**Pig heart boy**

Cameron is offered the chance to have a highly experimental and controversial operation which might save his life. Replacing his heart with one from a specially bred pig brings not only medical risks but places Cameron at the eye of a storm of media controversy.

*YEAR 6 argument*

**BRESLIN Theresa**

**The dream master**

There are good dreams and bad dreams but once they're over, they're over. Or are they? One morning, as Cy is about to wake up from a terrific dream about ancient Egypt, he discovers that he can get back into his dream world.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**BROWNE Anthony**

**Me and you**

This thought-provoking take on the Goldilocks story by the former Children's Laureate has dual style illustrations throughout. Modern day Goldilocks' viewpoint is shown in pictures alone, while the bears' story is told in a more traditional way, using text.

*Texts that teach*

*Voyage and return blueprint*

**BRUMPTON Keith**

**Tanya, the moo-vie**

Moove over Superman, Tanya the hoofed crusader is on the case! Full of fun and easily read, this is suitable for the older reader who will appreciate the humour.

*Suitable for high interest/ low ability*

**BURNETT Frances Hodgson**    **The secret garden**

This is a classic children's novel which has retained its appeal through the generations.

*YEAR 5 classic novel*

**BYARS Betsy**

**The midnight fox**

A conventional novel with unexpected challenges in a narrative which repeatedly uses memory and speculation. One of the most successful and enduringly popular stories published for children in recent years.

*YEAR 6 non-fiction. Additional text-based unit as highlighted in Primary Framework*

----- **Classic poems to read aloud** **P**  
(edited J Berry)

Classic poems from around the world, spanning centuries and continents.

----- **Crack another yolk (edited J Foster)** **P**

Different types of poems with an emphasis on word play, riddling and form. An important anthology of contemporary writers.

**CROSSLEY-HOLLAND Kevin Short! : a book of very short stories**

44 separate stories, all slightly odd, Grimm and Aesopish.

**DAHL Roald Danny: the champion of the world**

Danny's father has looked after him ever since his mother died when he was four months old. Danny and his father love one another dearly and that is why Danny is so surprised to discover that his father has a secret, one that leads them both into a wild scheme.

*YEAR 6 adventure/fantasy novel*

**DAHL Roald James and the giant peach**

Poor James has lived miserably with his two beastly aunts ever since his parents were eaten by an angry rhinoceros. Then something very peculiar happens, something so magical that it completely changes James's wretched existence and takes him on an amazing and unbelievable journey.

*YEAR 6 humorous novel*

**DICKENS Charles A Christmas carol (Eyewitness classics)**

This classic tale is told in the author's own words and the background to the story is explored in photographs, prints, diagrams and maps.

*YEAR 5 classic novel*

*SEAL YEAR 6 new beginnings*

**DOYLE Sir Arthur Conan The hound of the Baskervilles**  
(adapted by Chris Mould)

A picture book version of this classic tale in which Sherlock Holmes and his faithful sidekick investigate rumours of a terrifying dog running around the moors. The slathering hound on the front cover will have instant appeal to even the most reluctant of readers!

*YEAR 5 classic mystery novel*

**DUFFY Carol Ann The tear thief**

The tear thief carries her silvery sack as she steals the tears of every crying child. However the tears of real sadness are the most precious. A dreamy and evocative story that has a thought provoking message with haunting illustrations to match.

*Picture books for older readers*

**(Illust. LYNCH P.J.) East O' the sun, west O' the moon**

This is a classic Norwegian fairy tale in which a great white bear offers to make a poor man rich but first he must give him the most beautiful of his daughters.

Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal for the illustrations.

*YEAR 5 stories from other cultures*

**Eating candyfloss upside down: a carousel of stories and poems**

This is an entertaining and eclectic collection of short stories and poems on the theme of the fair. \these quality stories have been written especially for the collection and are complemented by contributions from famous illustrators.

*Short stories*

**FINE Anne**

**The chicken gave it me**

Anne Fine discusses the challenging subject of factory farming in her own inimitable manner.

This title is also in script format in the Playsets collection.

*YEAR 6 authors and texts. Social issues*

**FINE Anne**

**How to write really badly**

This very funny and accessible book raises important questions about how we learn to read and write and carries a message about self-esteem.

*YEAR 6 authors and texts. Disabilities/dyslexia*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 going for goals*

**FISK Nicholas**

**Grinny**

Tim and Beth have never heard of their Great Aunt Emma before, so they are shocked when she suddenly appears, grinning, on their doorstep. Soon they make a horrifying discovery; this old woman is as dangerous as a time bomb and she has a fearful task to perform which involves them!

*YEAR 6 science fiction novel*

**FOX Geoff**

**Dear Mr Morpingo: Inside the world of Michael Morpurgo**

This book combines a biography of Michael Morpurgo with extracts from talks for children by the author himself. It also includes chapters on how he writes and his likes and dislikes.

The whole adds up to an entertaining introduction to the stories and the man.

*Year 6 biography/autobiography*

**FRENCH Vivian**

**Aesop's funky fables**

This is a collection of ten of Aesop's best known fables in a handsome picture book format. It has strident cartoonish illustrations and lively, modern text.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables, myths and legends*

**GAIMAN Neil**

**The wolves in the walls**

**Illus. by Dave McKean**

This is a delightfully scary picture book for older readers, given greater depth by truly original illustrations. Collage, and expressive use of different fonts and typefaces, scratchy pen drawings and sculptural faces all add to the tension of the fast moving plot.

*Picture books for older readers*

**GAVIN Jamila**

**Someone's watching, someone's waiting**

A chilling ghost story with a powerful sense of menace. A short novel for confident readers who can cope without happy endings.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**GOODHART Pippa**

**Flow**

Dealing with literacy and self-esteem, this book links well with *How to write really badly*. Appealing cover.

*Disabilities/dyslexia*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 going for goals*

**GRIFALCONI Ann**

**The village that vanished**

"Gather round, my people, gather round! And hear the voices of your ancestors..."

The writer echoes the oral storytelling tradition in this inspiring tale of how the Yao tribe was saved from slavery by the bravery of an old, old woman and a very young girl. The illustrations perfectly capture the mixture of threat and hope within the story.

*YEAR 5 Stories from other cultures*

**GRIMM Brothers****Hansel and Gretel ( illust. A. Browne)**

Traditional fairy tale made more sinister by A. Browne's surreal illustrations. Themes of rejection and abuse.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories , fables, myths and legends*

**HADDON Mark****Boom!**

Two boys discover that their teachers are really aliens and set out on a cracking inter-galactic adventure, with plenty of mystery and intrigue along the way. Lots of things in this book could never happen, but who cares, it's a great story!

*YEAR 6 Science fiction novel, humorous novel*

**HATHORN Libby****Way home**

Award-winning, powerful picture book concerned with the plight of the homeless. Dark and compelling illustrations by Greg Rogers.

*Social issues/ homelessness.*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 going for goals*

**HUGHES Ted****How the whale became**

A classic text comprising eleven creation fables, every one with a moral. Each tale looks at the development of a specific animal and its particular characteristics. The rich, evocative and lyrical language is enhanced with lavish illustrations by Jackie Morris.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables myths and legends*

**KIPLING Rudyard****The jungle book**

The classic text containing some of the most thrilling short stories written for children.

*YEAR 5 classic novel*

**LAIRD Elizabeth****Secret friends**

A poignant and emotionally charged book about a friendship brought to an untimely end.

*SEAL Year5/6 say no to bullying*

**LAYTON George****The fib and other stories**

Humorous bittersweet stories about growing up in the fifties, which still strikes a chord with young people today.

*YEAR 6 humorous novel*

**\*LEESON Robert****Red, white and blue**

Three different versions of one story distinguished not only by their literary styles but by the use of three different colours, which makes the book visually exciting and unique.

*YEAR 6 extending narrative*

**LEESON Robert****Smart girls**

Tales from around the world, with strong female protagonists. Simple, direct writing.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables myths and legends*

**LEWIS C.S.****The lion , the witch and the wardrobe**

Peter, Edmund and Lucy are evacuated during the war to live with a vague professor. Left much to their own devices, they find their way into a fantastic land that lies behind an ordinary wardrobe door.

*YEAR 6 fantasy novel*

**\*McEWAN Ian**

**The daydreamer**

A beautifully written collection of episodes centring round the fertile imaginative life of ten year old Peter. Sometimes uncomfortably vivid, sometimes scary, sometimes very funny, these stories are made for reading aloud.

*YEAR 6 fantasy novel*

**McGOUGH Roger**

**Slapstick**

**P**

An enticing array of humorous and thought provoking poems by this prestigious poet. This appealing collection stirs all the emotions and is complemented by lively, black and white illustrations.

**MANNING Mick &  
GRANSTROM Brita**

**Tail-end Charlie**

This is an account of life for an air gunner in WWII. Written primarily as a diary and highly illustrated, it uses multiple text types and forms, including comic strip, postcards, posters and facsimile documents. There is an extensive glossary of period vocabulary.

*Recount/Diary*

**MASTERS Anthony**

**Raven's revenge**

Andy has recurring nightmares but they don't stop him going on an advanced canoeing course at the creepy Greystone Grange. Masters is a master of horror and suspense and there is a genuine sense of foreboding as the story develops. A title in the Colour Graffix series which will have appeal for reluctant readers.

*Suitable for high interest/ low ability*

**MATTHEWS Andrew**

**Macbeth**

A simplified reworking of Shakespeare's tale, with plenty of Tony Ross illustrations to complement the text.

**MITCHELL Adrian**

**The thirteen secrets of poetry**

**P**

Witty and deceptively simple advice about writing poetry, alongside some excellent examples. Colourful illustrations complement the poems.

**MITTON Tony**

**Tale of tales**

The tradition of oral story telling is brought to life by Elephant, Monkey and friends as they embark on an entertaining journey. Along the way they each tell their own special tale. A good example of different authorial voices. Imaginative language choices and dialogue is cleverly used to move the story along and the wonderful silhouettes perfectly complement the text.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables, myths and legends*

**MORPURGO Michael**

**Kensuke's kingdom**

Based on the true story of a Japanese soldier who survived on his own on an island for forty years after the end of World War 2. The details of life at sea and on the island should appeal to those with even a mildly adventurous streak!

*YEAR 6 authors and texts*

**MORPURGO Michael**

**Who's a big bully then?**

A simple tale of how Darren faces up to the school bully. There is a nice blend of humour and courage plus an idyllic rural setting! An added bonus is a letter from the author describing life on his farm and the city children who visit throughout the year.

*Suitable for high interest/ low ability.*

*SEAL5/6 say no to bullying*

**MORPURGO Michael****The wreck of the Zanzibar**

The story is told in the form of a diary given to the author after the death of his great aunt Laura. Superb setting, true characterisation, excellent line illustrations....a special book.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**MORRIS Jackie****The snow leopard**

The magical story of a girl and a powerful being that takes the shape of a snow leopard. Set in the Himalayan landscape this tale sends a deeper message about the need for the protection of Earth's wild places. Poetic and lyrical, the text weaves amidst stunning illustrations that capture the true spirit of nature.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables myths and legends*

**\*NIMMO Jenny****The Rinaldi ring**

Elliot, grieving for his dead mother, is sent to stay with his cousins. There, he is haunted by Mary-Ellen, who was once kept prisoner in his room. The loss of her fiancé, Orlando Rinaldi, killed in World War I, threatened her sanity – or so everyone thought.

*YEAR 6 ghost story*

**ORME David****Boffin boy and the monsters from the deep**

Follow science lover Rick Shaw alias Boffin boy as he sets out with his friend Wu Pee to overcome giant mutant jellyfish that are stealing all the sweets and chocolates they can find. This simple, boy friendly title has wacky humour and an appealing, colourful, cartoon/comic style format .

*Suitable for High Interest/ Low ability*

**\*PAULSEN Gary****Hatchet**

An exciting, heart-stopping story about survival in a hostile environment, this is more than the average adventure story. *Hatchet: the return* and *Hatchet: winter* develop the story.

*YEAR 6 adventure novel*

*SEAL YEAR 6 going for goals*

**PAVER Michelle****Wolf brother**

Torak, a young warrior teams up with an orphaned wolf cub to defeat a demon which has taken the form of a great bear.

This tense adventure successfully mixes historical and fantasy elements, resulting in an exciting and satisfying read.

*YEAR 6 fantasy novel*

**POWELL Jillian****Spies and gadgets**

The subject matter, layout and photographs make this book a winner. This title in the Download series is designed to appeal to reluctant readers and uses short sentences, bite-sized chunks of text, tables, charts and diagrams to convey the information. The book incorporates a short story in 3 chapters interspersed throughout the text.

*Explanation*

**PULLMAN Philip****Clockwork**

A story within a story with lots of twists and turns to wind the reader up. Complex literary structure which includes windows of factual knowledge inserted to support the plot.

*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**PULLMAN Philip**

**Springheeled Jack**

An hilarious tale of bravery and evil set in Victorian London and told partly in strip-cartoon form. Three orphaned children are being pursued by Mack the Knife but Spring-heeled Jack is hot on his trail. Quotes from children's literature head each new chapter and provide an opportunity to discuss the reason for their inclusion.  
*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**ROSEN Michael**

**Hairy tales and nursery crimes**

Wonderful off-the-wall wordplay when this favourite writer has great fun with traditional nursery rhymes and fairy tales.  
*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables, myths and legends*

**RUSHTON Rosie**

**Life line**

Skid finds it easier to make up stories about his life every time he starts at a new school but this gets him into trouble until the mysterious Cassie comes to his aid. This easily read story is published by Barrington Stoke.  
*Suitable for high interest/ low ability*  
*SEAL YEAR 5/6 good to be me*

**SCHAEFER Lola**

**What's on your plate? Snacks**

An excellent title to explore the issues around healthy eating. The information is presented using a variety of styles including text boxes, graphs, charts and tables. The book includes instructions for making 3 different healthy snacks.  
*Explanation and instructions*

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**Stories from Shakespeare**

**(ed. Geraldine McCaughrean)**

These retellings capture the atmosphere, drama and humour of the originals while at the same time making them accessible and highly readable.

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**South and North, East and West (ed M Rosen)**

A wide-ranging collection of authentic and original stories, from around the world, with authors and illustrators from 22 different countries.  
*YEAR 5 traditional stories ,fables,myths and legends*

**STEVENSON Robert Louis**

**Treasure Island**

This classic novel is packed full of wonderful characters, pirates and adventure. The unabridged version is, however, quite a challenging read. In this group reader pack we have included one copy of an unabridged edition and six copies of a graphic version from the Raintree Graphic Revolve series. Told in graphic format they are a good retelling of the plot and contain notes on Stevenson and the book's background.

*YEAR 5 classic novel*

*Graphic novel*

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**The sun is laughing (ed. Sue Ellis) P**

The title of this collection takes its name from a poem by Grace Nichols but within only 18 poems provides a rich diversity to challenge all the emotions. Each poem is illustrated by a major picture book artist which makes it a visual delight.

**SWINDELLS Robert**

**Hurricane summer**

An exciting novel set in the 1930s, giving an accurate picture of village life in the run-up to war. For fluent readers, the text is broken up by detailed line drawings.  
*YEAR 5 novels and stories by significant children's authors*

**THOMPSON Colin**

**How to live forever**

The starting point of the book is a library which contains a copy of every book published, but one book is missing – ‘How to live forever’. Peter and his cat go on a journey through spectacular landscapes growing from the library books, until they meet the Ancient Child who sadly guards his tragic secret. The text is limited and contrasts with the complex and beautiful illustrations. This fascinating book will stimulate imaginative written and illustrative work, as well as discussion about how changes to our lives are ultimately to be cherished rather than feared.

*Picture book for older readers*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 change*

**THOMPSON Colin**

**The paperbag prince**

Rich and detailed illustrations work beautifully with the no less intriguing narrative. There is lots to look at and discuss, both in the illustrations and the environmental theme and especially the unexpected twist where the Paperbag Prince turns out not to be quite what we had imagined.

*Picture book for older readers*

*YEAR 6 Authors and texts*

**THOMPSON Colin**

**The tower to the sun**

Once upon a time, if you stood on the moon and looked down at earth you could see the Great Wall of China but 100 years later you can see nothing but clouds. Down below on lonely planet Earth, no one can see the sun. The detailed illustrations add depth to the story and need close observation to obtain their true riches.

*Picture book for older readers*

**TINCKNELL Cathy**

**Scoop! : an exclusive by Monty Molenski**

This short listed Greenaway title follows Monty a newspaper reporter who inadvertently uncovers unexpected stories whilst following his more successful colleagues. News headlines, jottings and much play on words make this a sophisticated and humorous story.

*Picture book for older readers*

*YEAR 6 journalistic writing*

**WILLIAMS Marcia**

**The adventures of Robin Hood**

The well-known and much-loved story in graphic novel format.

*YEAR 5 traditional stories, fables, myths, and legends.*

**WILLIAMS Marcia**

**Mr William Shakespeare’s plays**

Take your place in the Globe Theatre of Shakespeare’s day to see seven of his best-loved plays brought vividly to life. This comic-strip version includes the bard’s own dialogue not to mention the rowdy remarks of the audience!

**WILLIS Jeanne**

**Dumb creatures**

Eleven year old Tom has never spoken. When he encounters Zanzi, a gorilla at his local zoo, he discovers that he is able to communicate with her through sign language, enabling them to share their fears and frustrations.

A little book with a strong message, plus a happy ending!

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 good to be me*

**WILLIS Jeanne**

**Rat heaven**

“By the time you finish this book, one of us will be dead”. Told from the point of view of her pet rat, the narrative follows a child as she makes the awkward transition from childhood to adolescence. Superbly written, this is a short read that packs a punch. Keep a tissue handy.

*Viewpoints*

**\*WILSON Jacqueline**

**The Lottie project**

Lively, direct writing full of warmth and humour about the class Victorian project and how Lottie turns events in her own life into the diary of a put-upon servant girl.

*YEAR 6 authors and texts*

**WILSON Jacqueline**

**The story of Tracy Beaker**

Tracy lives in a children's home and this is her story, in her own words. Beautifully observed, funny and touching by turns, a book to linger in the mind long after it has been read.

*YEAR 6 authors and texts*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 relationships*

**WILSON Jacqueline**

**The suitcase kid**

A pacy story with a strong female lead, in short chapters dealing with the sensitive issue of divorce. Lots of humour takes the reader through the full gamut of emotions and high drama.

*YEAR 6 authors and texts*

*SEAL YEAR 5/6 relationships.*

**World of poetry (edited M Rosen)**

**P**

An extensive and exciting anthology arranged in alphabetical order by writer, not by theme, giving some happy and unusual juxtapositions.