



Sage Educational Trust
Making Learning Irresistible

EXCELLENT TEXTS

The following books have been identified by staff within Sage schools as being *Excellent* Texts.

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
NURSERY**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Nursery	The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss	Rhyming	Knowledge & understanding of the world (KUW)
Nursery	The Grumpalump by Sarah Hayes	Rhyming and repetitive text	KUW
Nursery	Can't you Sleep Little Bear? by Martin Waddel	Rhyming and repetitive text	KUW
Nursery	Tanka Tanka Skunk by Steve Webb		
Nursery	Titch by Pat Hutchins		

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
RECEPTION**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Reception	A Boxful of Monsters by Rishe Lemmens	Instructions	Science – materials creative development
Reception	The Gingerbread Man	Instructions	KUW / Creative Development
Reception	Peace at Last by Jill Murphy	Narrative Unit 2	Science – materials
Reception	Whatever Next by Jill Murphy	Narrative Unit 2	Creative Development
Reception	So Much by Trish Cooke	Narrative Unit 1	Creative Development KUW
Reception	We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenby		
Reception	The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle		
Reception	How to Grow a Sunflower Rigby Red Giant		
Reception	Eat Your Peas by Kes Gray and Nick Sharratt		

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 1**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 1	Charlie & Lola - I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato by Lauren Child	Food	Literacy/ Science
Year 1	Jasper's Beanstalk by Nick Butterworth & Mick Inkpen	Growth	Literacy/ Numeracy/ Science
Year 1	A Boxful of Monsters by Rische Lemmens	Instructions	Science – materials creative development
Year 1	The Gingerbread Man	Instructions	KUW / Creative Development
Year 1	Peace at Last by Jill Murphy	Narrative Unit 2	Science – materials
Year 1	Whatever Next by Jill Murphy	Narrative Unit 2	Creative Development
Year 1	So Much by Trish Cooke	Narrative Unit 1	Creative Development KUW
Year 1	Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak	Narrative Unit 4 Fantasy Worlds	
Year 1	Harry & The Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow & Adrian Reynolds		
Year 1	Eat Your Peas by Kes Gray & Nick Sharratt	Narrative Unit 1 familiar settings	
Year 1	We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen & Helen Oxenby	Narrative Unit 2 predictable and patterned language	
Year 1	The Enormous Turnip (Traditional)	Narrative Unit 2 predictable and patterned language	
Year 1	Mr Gumpy's Motor Car by John Burningham	Narrative Unit 1 familiar settings	
Year 1	Handa's Surprise by Eileen Browne	Narrative Unit 2 stories from a range of cultures	
Year 1	The Gruffalo - Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler	Narrative Unit 2 predictable and patterned language	
Year 1/2	Lost On The Beach by Ian Beck		

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 2**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 1/2	Lost On The Beach by Ian Beck		
Year 2	Gorilla by Anthony Browne	Narrative Unit 3 Authors	Art/Literacy
Year 2	Willy the Dreamer by Anthony Browne	Narrative Unit 3 Authors	Art/Literacy
Year 2	The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza by Philemon Sturges	Narrative Unit 2 traditional stories	
Year 2	The Magic Bed by John Burningham	Narrative Unit 1 familiar settings	
Year 2	Too Much Talk by Angela Shelf Medearis & Stephano Vitale		
Year 2	The Three Little Wolves & the Big Bad Pig by Eugene Trivizas	Narrative Unit 2 traditional stories	
Year 2	Starlight by Gillian Lobel		
Year 2	Katie in London by James Mayhew	Narrative Unit 1 familiar settings	Connectives in literacy, local area geography, cross-curricular links, good text to use for introducing Take One Picture

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 3**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 3	Mufaro's Beautiful Daughter by John Steptoe	Traditional Stories	Literacy/Art
Year 3	For Every Child by Caroline Castle	For Every Child	Personal, Health and Social Education
Year 3	Sir Francis Drake: His Daring Deeds (currently out of print)	Poetry	Tudors, pirates
Year 3	The Enormous Crocodile by Roald Dahl	Playscript	Roald Dahl Week
Year 3	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	Narrative Unit 5 dialogue and plays	
Year 3	The Tunnel and Into the Forest by Anthony Browne	Narrative setting and dialogue	Art and DT – model making
Year 3	What is in the Moon? by Caroline Dunant	Non-chronological report	Light
Year 3	Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl	Narrative Unit 4 authors	
Year 3	The Pirate Treasure Map by Colin & Jacqui Hawkins	Narrative Unit 3 adventure and mystery	
Year 3	Gorilla by Anthony Browne	Narrative Unit 4 authors	Philosophy
Year 3	Katie in London by James Mayhew	Narrative Unit 3 adventure and mystery	Connectives in literacy, local area geography, cross-curricular links, good text to use for introducing Take One Picture
Year 3	The Wolf's Footprint by Susan Price	Narrative Unit 3 adventure and mystery	Mystery and adventure stories
Year 3	The Magic Bed by John Burningham	Narrative Unit 3 adventure and mystery	Adventure stories – Literacy. good for introducing art medium such as pastels and watercolour
Year 3	Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown	Narrative Units 1 and 3 familiar settings and adventure	Good for adventure stories
Year 3	Wish You Were Here!	Narrative Unit 4 authors and letters	Letters (literacy)
Year 3	Dear Greenpeace by Simon James	Narrative Unit 4 authors and letters	Letters (literacy)
Year 3	Myths and legends	Narrative Unit 2 myths and legends	History and literacy links but especially good for linking to literacy work in year 3 related to a character going on a Quest

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 4**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 4	Malcolm X, For Children by Arnold Adoff	Black History Month	PSHE, Literacy, History
Year 4	Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian	Narina	History/Literacy/PSHCE
Year 4	The Unsinkable Titanic	Narrative historical setting	
Year 4	There's a Poet Behind You	Poetry, using imagery and figurative language	
Year 4	The Life Story of Santa Clause Babouska/ Various websites	Narrative traditional tales/cultural stories	RE, History, DT
Year 4		Non fiction newspaper reports	History - Romans
Year 4	The fall of Pompeii – various resources and images compiled from the internet	Non-fiction Unit 1 recounts : newspaper	Romans
Year 4	The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo	Narrative Unit 1 historical settings	Light
Year 4	Nessie the Loch Ness Monster, The Mystery of the Loch Ness Monster and various materials extracted from the internet	Non-fiction Unit 1 recounts : newspaper	Monsters
Year 4	The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis (abridged version)	Narrative Unit 1 historical settings	Journeys
Year 4	The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch by David Armitage and Ronda Armitage	Non fiction Unit 2 Explanation and Instructions	Electricity
Year 4	The Ice Palace by Robert Swindell	Narrative Unit 2 imaginary worlds	
Year 4	The Roman News by Walker Books	Non-fiction Unit 1 recounts : newspaper	History - Romans
Year 4	James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl	Narrative Unit 5 plays	
Year 4	The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes	Narrative Unit 4 issues and dilemmas	World war 2
Year 4	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes	Narrative Unit 2 imaginary worlds	DT – moving monsters making a torch. Good links for Geography in terms of locating the places named in the text. Good links for ICT, creating sound effects/ looking at moving images
Year 4	How Dogs Really Work by Alan Snow	Non fiction Unit 2 Explanation and Instructions	
Year 4	The Truth About Cats by Alan Snow		
Year 4	The Magic Bed by John Burningham	Narrative Unit 2 imaginary worlds	Adventure stories – Literacy. Good for introducing art medium such as pastels and watercolour

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 4	Myths and Legends	Especially good for linking to literacy work in year 3 related to a character going on a Quest	History and literacy links
Year 4	The Tunnel by Anthony Browne	Narrative Unit 4 issues and dilemmas	Good for setting descriptions (literacy)
Year 4	Matilda by Roald Dahl	Narrative Unit 4 issues and dilemmas	Really good for character descriptions. BFI also had ideas for using the film to investigate character descriptions
Year 4	Greek Myths and Legends		Marissa. Useful for history topics and cross-curricular links with literacy
Year 4	Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine	Narrative Unit 4 issues and dilemmas	Good text for gender issues
Year 4	Spud Goes Green by Giles Thaxton	Narrative Unit 4 issues and dilemmas	Environmental Issues
Year 4	The Minpins by Roald Dahl	Narrative Unit 2 imaginary worlds	Geography settlers and invaders

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 5**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 5	The Thief in the Village by James Berry The Mouth Organ Boys by James Berry	Many Islands, Many People	Geography, History, Literacy, Art
Year 5	The Unsinkable Titanic	Narrative historical setting	
Year 5	There's a Poet Behind You	Poetry, using imagery and figurative language	
Year 5	The Life Story of Santa Clause Babouska/ Various websites	Narrative traditional tales/cultural stories	RE, History, DT
Year 5	Rose Blanche by Roberto Innocenti	Narrative structure, aspects of narrative	The Second World War.
Year 5	War Game by Michael Foreman	Narrative structure, aspects of narrative	The Second World War
Year 5	The Lion and the Unicorn by Shirley Hughes	Narrative structure, aspects of narrative	The Second World War
Year 5	The Bharunda Bird retold by Edward Korel	Poetry	India
Year 5	Coming to England by Floella Benjamin	Narrative structure	Immigration
Year 5	In a Wide Wide Sea by Michael Morpurgo	Narrative structure	Immigration
Year 5	Orchard Book of Greek Myths by Geraldine McCaughrean	Narrative Unit 2 myths and legends	
Year 5	Journey to Jo'burg by Beverley Naidoo	Narrative Unit 3 other cultures	
Year 5	Fingers on the Back of the Neck by Margaret Mahy		
Year 5	Thief by Malorie Blackman	Narrative Unit 1 significant authors	PHSCE
Year 5	Way Home by Libby Hathorn		
Year 5	Street Child by Berlie Doherty		
Year 5	M.O.L.E. - Russell Hoban, Illustrator Jan Pienkowski		
Year 5	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes	Narrative Unit 1 significant authors	DT – moving monsters making a torch. Good links for Geography in terms of locating the places named in the text. Good links for ICT, creating sound effects/ looking at moving images
Year 5	Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine	Narrative Unit 6 dramatic conventions	Good text for gender issues
Year 5	Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian		War focus
Year 5	Grandpa Chatterji by Jamila Gavin & Peter Bailey	Narrative Unit 1 significant authors	
Year 5	The Highwayman by Alfred Noyes	Poetry Unit 2 classic narrative poems	Journeys
Year 5	The Lady of Shallot by Alfred Tennyson	Poetry Unit 2 classic narrative poems	
Year 5	The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis	Narrative Unit 4 older literature	

**EXCELLENT TEXTS
YEAR 6**

Year Group	Texts used	Unit of work	Cross Curricular links
Year 6	The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett	Narrative Unit 1 and 2 extending narrative	History, Literacy, The Victorians
Year 6	Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz	Narrative Unit 3 authors and texts	
Year 6	Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo	Narrative Unit 3 authors and texts	Good transition text for KS2
Year 6	Thief by Malorie Blackman	Narrative Unit 1 and 2 extending narrative	PSHCE
Year 6	Skellig by David Almond	Narrative Unit 1 and 2 extending narrative	PHSCE
Year 6	The Piano (short film)	Narrative Unit 4 short stories and flash backs	
Year 6	The Paperbag Prince by Colin Thompson		
Year 6	A Candle In The Dark by Adele Geras	Narrative Unit 4 short stories and flash backs	
Year 6	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes	Narrative Unit 3 authors and texts	DT – moving monsters making a torch. Good links for Geography in terms of locating the places named in the text. Good links for ICT, creating sound effects/ looking at moving images