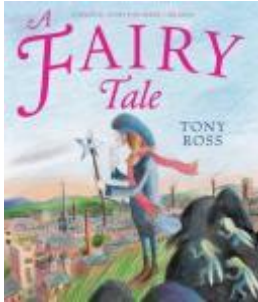


Year 3/4 core list



A Fairy Tale
By Tony Ross

Bess, a young girl, befriends an old lady who tries to convince her to believe in fairies. Over the years they almost imperceptibly change places until old Bess, widowed in World War 2, walks down the street with a youthful Daisy.



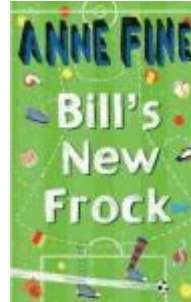
A Hen in the Wardrobe
By Wendy Meddour

Ramzi's dad is behaving strangely, sleepwalking and searching in his son's wardrobe for a hen or chasing frogs in the pantry. Ramzi and his mum realise that dad is homesick for Algeria so they go there for an extended visit.



Aesop's Fables
By Beverley Naidoo

Aware from her own South African childhood that many of the animals in these fables are African, Beverley Naidoo realised that the slave Aesop was himself likely to have been of African origin.



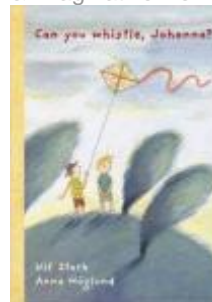
Bill's New Frock
By Anne Fine

Bill wakes up one morning and finds that he is a girl...



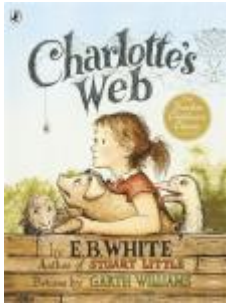
Black Dog
By Levi Pinfold

The Hope family lives in a tall narrow house in a snowy wood, the interior of which is depicted in detailed pictures full of the paraphernalia of playful & imaginative life.



Can You Whistle, Johanna?
By Ulf Stark

Chatting with his friend, Berra realises that he is lacking a grandfather, so the pair visit the old people's home so that he can adopt one. A delightful story dealing with friendship, loss and bereavement.



Charlotte's Web
By E B White

Wilbur is the runt of the litter of piglets, saved at first by Fern the farmer's daughter and then by Charlotte the spider who weaves wonderful statements about him into her web.



Christophe's Story
By Nicki Cornwell

A young Rwandan refugee has a hard time when he first arrives in a British primary school. His culture shock is exacerbated by his strong belief, learned from his absent grandfather, that stories should not be written down.



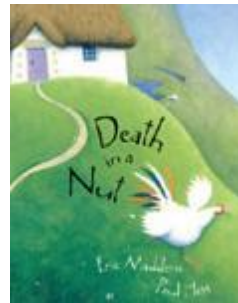
Classic Fairy Tales
By Berlie Doherty

In compiling this collection of fairy tales, mostly taken from Western European tradition, Berlie Doherty has used several sources and shaped her own retellings.



Danny the Champion of the World
By Roald Dahl

Danny discovers the 'deep dark secrets' of the adults around him, the chief of which is that most of them, including his father, the doctor, the policeman and the vicar's wife all belong to a circle of poachers



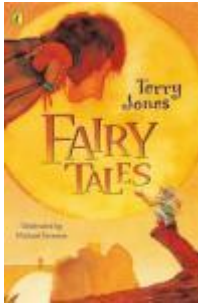
Death in a Nut
By Eric Maddern

Jack does not want his mother to die so he waylays Old Man Death and stuffs him into a hazelnut which he throws out to sea.



Earwig and the Witch
By Diana Wynne Jones

Earwig has a knack of making everyone in the orphanage do what she wants. But is this about to come to an end when she is fostered by a nine-foot man and a witch called Bella Yaga?



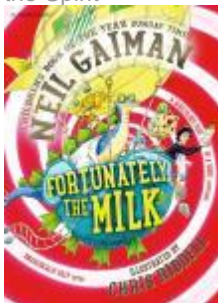
Fairy Tales
By Terry Jones

An essential read aloud collection of original stories which have the magical qualities of fairy tales.



Fly, Eagle, Fly!
By Christopher Gregorowski

An African parable, originating in Ghana and interpreted by a South African author and illustrator, about recognising your potential – ‘that we are all born to be eagles who are lifted up with the might of the Spirit



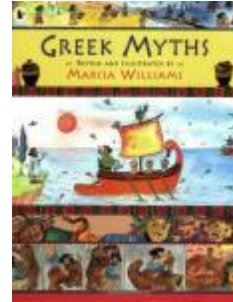
Fortunately the Milk ...
By Neil Gaiman

A dad goes out to buy some milk and is gone for some time... When he eventually returns, he regales his children with tales of how he has been lost in space and time. His adventures are creatively and comically captured by Chris Riddell.



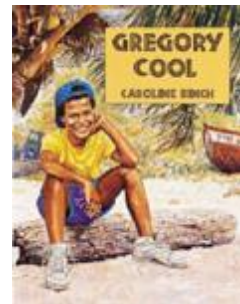
Goth Girl and the Ghost of a Mouse
By Chris Riddell

This ghostly tale places the emphasis on humour rather than horror. It features a host of gothic elements including an historic house Ghostly-Gorm Hall which has a broken wing as well as west and east wings and is complete with a ghostly white nun, a black monk and a beige curate.



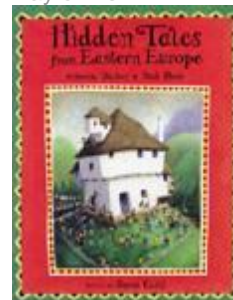
Greek Myths
By Marcia Williams

Many teachers have found this comic strip approach to Greek mythology has stimulated children’s own writing and led to further exploration of these important stories. The stories include ‘Orpheus and Eurydice’, ‘Theseus and the Minotaur’, ‘Perseus and the Gorgon’s Head’. In the ‘Twelve Tasks of Heracles’ the comic strip medium is shown to particular advantage – the tasks are described in the text and the way Heracles tackles them is shown in the pictures.



Gregory Cool
By Caroline Binch

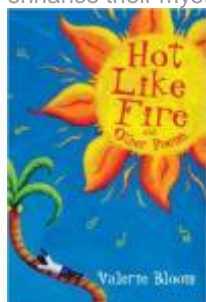
Gregory travels to Tobago to visit his grandparents and initially finds it hard to adjust to a contrasting way of life.



Hidden Tales from Eastern Europe

By Antonia Barber

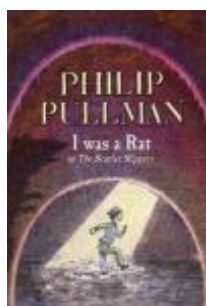
These seven tales are illustrated with pictures which enhance their mystery.



Hot Like Fire and other poems

By Valerie Bloom

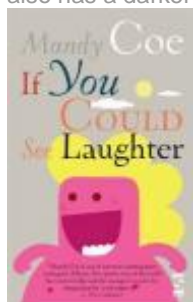
Valerie Bloom's sizzling poems, some in Jamaican Creole, some in standard English, bring light and life to diverse aspects of everyday life.



I Was a Rat! or The Scarlet Slippers

By Philip Pullman

A boy turns up on the doorstep of an elderly childless couple claiming that he was a rat. An adventure in which humour is conveyed through the use of language and characterisation, but which also has a darker side.

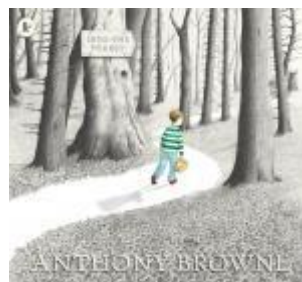


If You Could See Laughter

By Coe, Mandy

The title of this collection conveys how the poet employs all the senses and in the first poem we're urged to 'taste every sound'. 'The Strawberry-Yoghurt Smell of Words' telling of a child-made telephone is redolent of the texture of taste. Playfulness is present in several poems ensuring their enjoyment by children who can bounce along to the beat of 'Busy Feet'. Some of the most

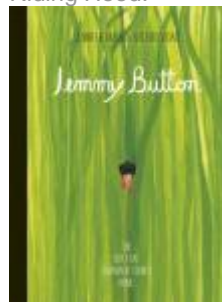
touching involve children addressing significant adults in their lives: 'Questions for a Dad', 'Smile' and 'Sensing Mother'.



Into the Forest

By Anthony Browne

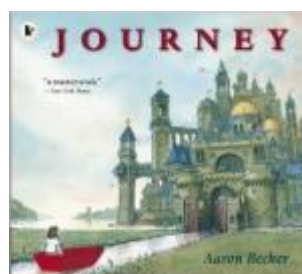
A boy is asked by his mother to take a basket containing a cake to Grandma which entails following a path through the forest. Experienced readers will recognise the many intertextual links with several fairy tales, most notably Little Red Riding Hood.



Jemmy Button

By Jennifer Uman

Inspired by the true story of a native boy from Tierra del Fuego, brought to England to be 'civilised', Jemmy Button is a touching story about the wonder of being somewhere new and different, while feeling the 'pull' of home.



Journey

By Aaron Becker

This is a wordless book told beautifully through the illustrations. A girl sits forlornly in a sepia world, ignored by her busy family. Spying a spot of colour in the shape of a red crayon, she draws a door through which she escapes to a green forest....



Krindlekrax
By Philip Ridley

An action-packed story in which the weedy central character, Ruskin Splinter, becomes a hero. He outwits the monster Krindlekrax which has been terrorising Lizard Street and tames Elvis, the local bully.



Leon and the Place Between
By Angela McAllister

Do you dare to step into the place between? Leon is a boy who believes in magic. This exciting and beautifully illustrated picture book follows Leon beyond the realm of the circus big-top into the place where the magic sends you....



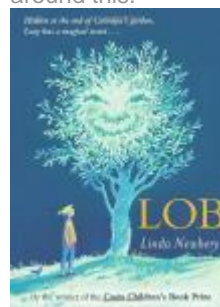
Little Leap Forward. A Boy in Beijing
By Yue Guo, Clare Farrow

Musician Guo Yue draws upon his own childhood experiences to create this short novel set in China in the 1960s.



Little Mouse's Big Book of Fears
By Emily Gravett

A very unusual picture book which expresses a catalogue of possible fears. Using great imaginative flair, Emily Gravett plays with multi-faceted ideas around this.



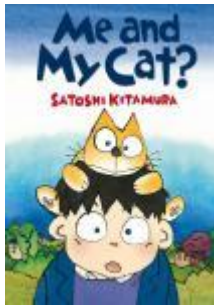
Lob
By Linda Newbery

Lucy loves to visit her grandparents in their cottage in the country. She shares her grandfather's love of growing things and a belief in the garden magic of Lob, a creature who can only be glimpsed fleetingly from the corner of your eye.



Madame Pamplemousse and the Time-Travelling Cafe
By Rupert Kingfisher

Madeleine and her friends Madame Pamplemousse, inventor of the Most Incredible Edible Ever Tasted, and Camembert the cat travel back in time by means of a coffee-like liquid imbibed in the Café of Lost Time.



Me and My Cat?

By Satoshi Kitamura

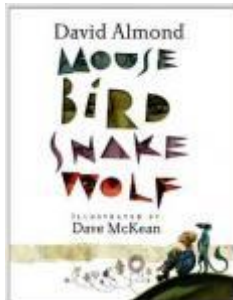
Following a night time visit from 'an old woman in a pointed hat' (which interestingly takes place before the title page), Nicholas and his cat Leonardo find that they have changed places.



Moon Man

By Tomi Ungerer

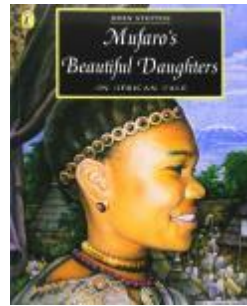
Moon Man crash lands on Earth and is imprisoned by the authorities who fear his strangeness. His unique qualities (ie the ability to wax and wane) enable him to escape and he leads a fugitive existence until he meets Doktor van der Dunkel.



Mouse Bird Snake Wolf

By David Almond

A powerful and thought-provoking text, illustrated in graphic novel-style, which will enable children to explore the beauty and dangers of nature as well as the importance of boundaries and self-restraint.



Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters

By John Steptoe

A beautifully illustrated story set in Zimbabwe which, whilst being very much located within its culture and context, finds echoes in folk tales well-known in Europe, such as Diamonds and Toads, Mother Holle and Cinderella.



My Funny Family

By Chris Higgins

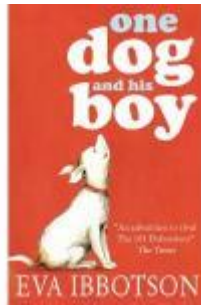
The endearing Butterfield family is seen through the mind of nine year old Mattie who is an eternal worrier. She is anxious about whether seeds can grow if concealed in a cupboard and her mum's visits to the doctor.



Oliver and the Seawigs

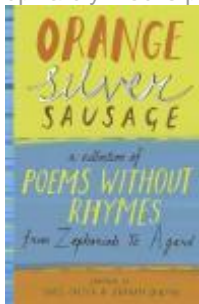
By Philip Reeve

A short, funny novel with words and pictures that work integrally follows the adventure of Oliver who is searching for his missing explorer parents.



One Dog and his Boy
By Eva Ibbotson

Hal is denied the one thing he wants by his upwardly mobile parents – his own dog.



Orange Silver Sausage. A collection of poems without rhymes from Zephaniah to Agard
By James Carter, Graham Denton

This anthology challenges the idea that poems have to rhyme and the removal of this restriction has given freedom to the poets whose work is included to use other kinds of wordplay to shape their poems.



Pea Boy and other stories from Iran
By Elizabeth Laird

The dialogues in these seven surreal tales from Iranian folklore make them fun to read aloud. A chickpea becomes the son of a shopkeeper and brings home a fortune...



Pumpkin Grumpkin
By John Agard, Grace Nichols

Inspired by nonsense poems they discovered in India, John Agard & Grace Nichols researched others from many countries and found them in a variety of forms.



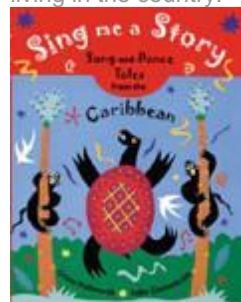
Ronja the Robber's Daughter
By Astrid Lindgren

Ronja, the much loved only child of robber chieftain Matt, is encouraged to be independent and learn the ways of their woodland home. Her expeditions lead to a meeting with Birk, only child of Borka who heads a rival robber band.



Seven for a Secret
By Laurence Anholt

A moving story told through letters exchanged between a child living in a city and her grandfather living in the country.



Sing Me a Story

By Grace Hallworth

[Add to wishlist](#)

Grace Hallworth tells five stories from the Caribbean, illustrated with bright collage pictures. Each contains a song for which the words and music are provided.



Small Change for Stuart

By Lissa Evans

Magic and reality blend beautifully in this novel in which Stuart Horten, aged ten but small for his age, aided and abetted by triplets April, May and June, gets caught up in the mystery of what happened to his great-uncle 'Teeny-Tiny' Tony Horten.



Storm

By Kevin Crossley-Holland

A faultless novella in the popular genre of the ghost story, set in a powerfully evoked marshland. The word storm contains many meanings.

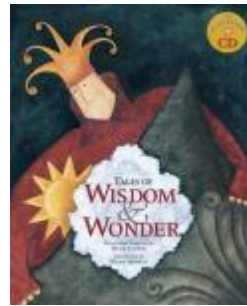


Tales of Hans Christian Andersen

By Hans Christian Andersen

A delightful compendium of thirteen of Andersen's fairy tales, including most of the best known, such as Gerda's search for her lost playmate in The Snow Queen and the circular journey of The Steadfast Tin Soldier.

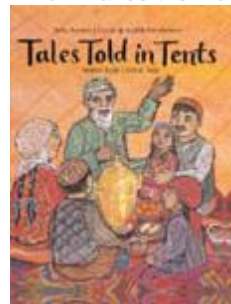
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Tales of Wisdom and Wonder

By Hugh Lupton

A collection of traditional stories from one of Britain's foremost oral storytellers written in a style which makes them a joy to read aloud.



Tales Told in Tents. Stories from Central Asia

By Sally Pomme Clayton

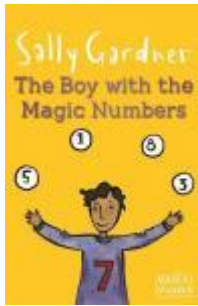
Storyteller Sally Pomme Clayton travelled through the countries of Central Asia, including Afghanistan and Kazakhstan, collecting stories from people she met there.



The BFG

By Roald Dahl

One of Dahl's best loved books, combining irreverent humour with some blood-curdling moments and telling the story of Sophie who is taken to the land of the giants by the BFG.



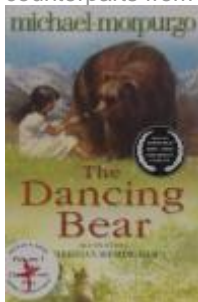
The Boy with the Magic Numbers
By Sally Gardner

Billy Pickles' dad leaves him and his mum and takes off for New York to try and fulfil his dreams. When Billy goes there on a visit, the family situation is not what he expects.



The Children of Winter
By Berlie Doherty

A timeslip novel, in which Catherine and her brother and sister, sheltering from the snow while walking in the Derbyshire hills, live the lives of their ancestral counterparts from 1665.



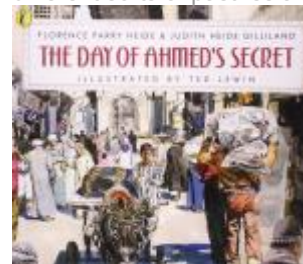
The Dancing Bear
By Michael Morpurgo

Set in a quiet mountain village, this story shows the effects brought about by the arrival of a film crew. The focus is on Roxanne, who has raised a bear cub throughout her own childhood, and the consequences of her departure for a life in the wider world.



The Day My Father Became a Bush
By Joke van Leeuwen

Toda is so-called because, where she lives now, no-one can pronounce her real name. She lives with her pastry chef father who can 'bake twenty different sorts of pastries and three kinds of cake.'



The Day of Ahmed's Secret
By Florence Parry Heide, Judith Heide Gilliland

Like many children the world over, Ahmed must work to help his family as well as go to school. He delivers butagaz in the city of Cairo and on this particular day he carries with him a secret which he will reveal to his family only when his day's work is done.



The Green Ship
By Quentin Blake

Two children discover a ship made out of trees and bushes. On climbing aboard they enter their own fantasy world, which they share with two equally imaginative adults.



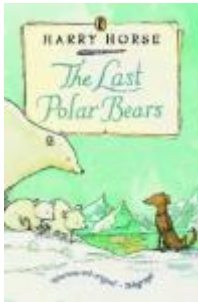
The Ice Palace
By Robert Swindells

The language and landscape of this story evoke the atmosphere of Russian folk tales. Ivan's quest to rescue his little brother from the evil Starjik calls to mind other stories such as Hans Christian Andersen's The Snow Queen.



The Iron Man
By Ted Hughes

This is a modern fable of extraordinary power. In this illustrated version Laura Carling's pictures bring a new life to the well known modern classic novella.



The Last Polar Bears
By Harry Horse

A short novel related entirely in the form of letters to his grandchild from an old man on an expedition to the Arctic to see the polar bears during his lifetime and before the snow-caps melt and they become extinct.



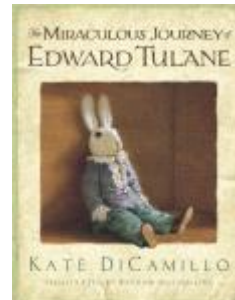
The Lion and the Unicorn
By Shirley Hughes

Readers will gain insight into the life of an evacuee in World War II through this picture book about Lenny, a young Jewish boy sent to the countryside, where he learns that there are 'different kinds of courage'...



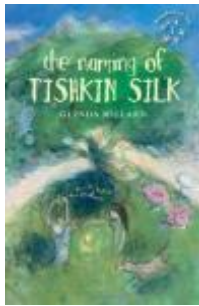
The Little Blue Slipper. An Irish Cinderella Story
By Jude Daly

Jude Daly's illustrations give this variant of the Cinderella story a medieval setting in rural Ireland. Readers will recognise the well known elements of the traditional tale.



The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane
By Kate DiCamillo

Edward Tulane is a much-loved china rabbit who falls overboard on a sea voyage, and there follows a picaresque narrative in which our hero falls into many different hands, learning to love as well as be loved on the way.



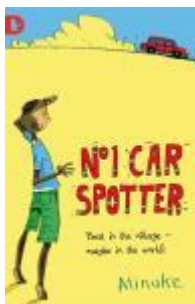
The Naming of Tishkin Silk

By Millard, Glenda

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The first title in a series of short novels known as the Kingdom of Silk by Australian writer Glenda Millard. The stories deal with emotional subjects in ways which touch the heartstrings but avoid false sentimentality.

[Read more...](#)



The No 1 Car Spotter

By Atinuke

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Atinuke doesn't name the African country in which she sets her short fiction although she draws on her Nigerian cultural background for her lively comic creations.

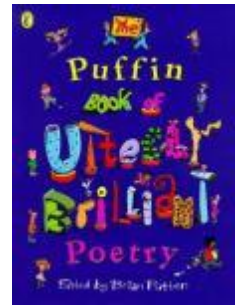
[Read more...](#)



The Ogress and the Snake

By Elizabeth Laird

A lively collection of folk tales told to the author by people living in the Somali region of Ethiopia.



The Puffin Book of Utterly Brilliant Poetry

By Brian Patten

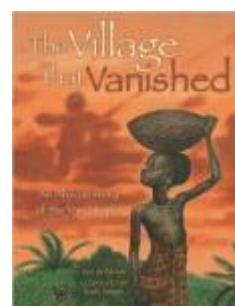
big colourful book celebrating ten modern poets, including Charles Causley, Jackie Kay, Roger McGough and Benjamin Zephaniah.



The True Story of the Three Little Pigs by A. Wolf

By Jon Scieszka

History is always open to interpretation, depending on whose point of view is being put forward. The wolf from the well-known traditional tale insists that he only went to visit the three pigs to borrow a cup of sugar and sneezed because he had a cold which brought down their houses and killed them 'dead as a doornail'. The story is told in the style of an American crime novel and the whole concept, in terms of both text and illustrations, yields many unexpected pleasures.



The Village That Vanished

By Ann Grifalconi

The story of how the inhabitants of a West African village thwart capture by slave traders, thanks to the wisdom, courage and faith of three generations of women.



The Wicked Tricks of Till Owlyglass
By Michael Rosen

The traditional stories about Till Eulenspiegel are set within a modern day framework about two boys on holiday in Germany, who hear the tales from an elderly man who has been asked to keep them out of mischief.



The Wolf's Story
By Toby Forward

Subtitled 'What Really Happened to Little Red Riding Hood', this is the well known fairy tale told from the viewpoint of the wolf who is determined to convince readers that the version we all know is mistaken.



Ug: Boy Genius of the Stone Age
By Raymond Briggs

Ug is a stone age boy who longs for soft trousers instead of those made of stone. In this comic strip version of the prehistoric period, everything is made of stone – clothes, the sheets and even Ug's football.



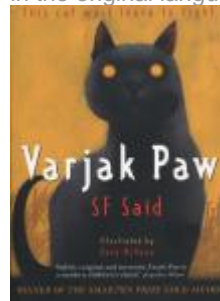
Under the Moon & Over the Sea
By John Agard, Nichols, Grace Nichols

This anthology adopts a thematic approach, beginning with the Caribbean as a homeplace and ending with journeying away from there. Each of the five thematic sections is illustrated by a different artist.



Under the Spell of the Moon

A truly international picture book. Each double page spread by a highly regarded illustrator includes text in the original language and in English translation.



Varjak Paw
By S F Said

Varjak Paw is descended from a proud line of Mesopotamian Blue cats. Now the Paws are in danger and only Varjak understands enough to go Outside and seek help.



Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?

By Lauren Child

In this post-modern picture book, Herb falls asleep on the open pages of his book of fairy tales, and finds himself in a topsy-turvy world which he gradually discovers he has participated in making.



Window

By Jeannie Baker

A wordless picture book which provokes much discussion about the effects of humanity on the environment.