



School Library Service

Framework for Reading Aloud

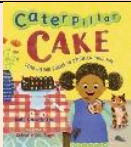
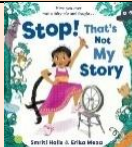
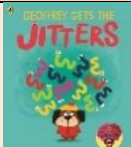
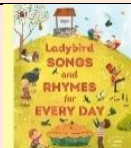
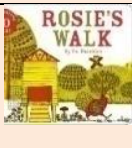
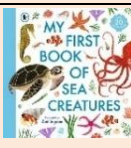
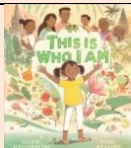
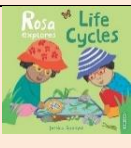
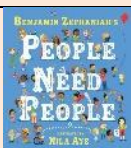
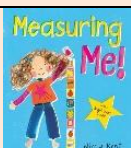
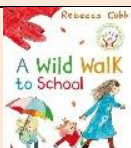
'Pupils are familiar with and enjoy listening to a wide range of stories, poems, rhymes and non-fiction.'
Ofsted 2019

Our aim, in producing this document, is to provide a resource that can be used to promote books to read aloud throughout the school. These books provide a core of excellent read aloud texts for each year group from foundation to year 6, introducing many key authors at the appropriate age. Following this framework introduces pupils to a wide range of authors, genres, and formats enriching their knowledge, skills and experience.

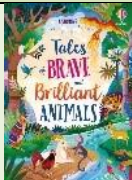
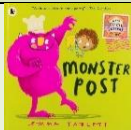
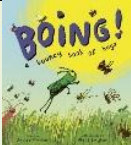
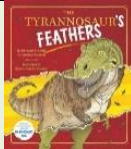
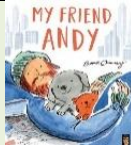
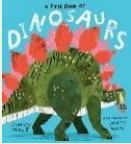
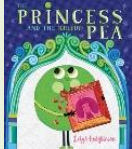
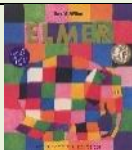
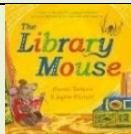
The chosen books should allow opportunities for teachers to meet the statutory requirements of the English National Curriculum. [National curriculum in England: English programmes of study - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england/english-programmes) and fulfils the Government's expectations as outlined in The Reading Framework. [The reading framework: teaching the foundations of literacy - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-reading-framework)

It can be adapted to suit specific school needs but is intended as a 'Read for Pleasure' tool aimed at building a reading culture throughout the school, and an addition to any topic led reading or teaching sequence.

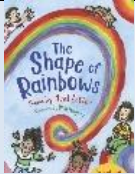
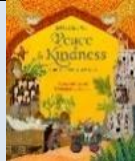
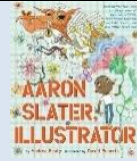
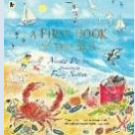
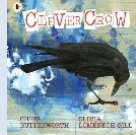
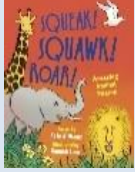
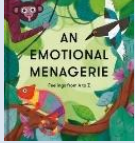
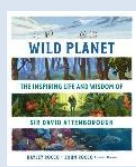
Foundation

Foundations of Literacy	Below are books that contain a range of the following. • elicit a strong response – curiosity, anger, excitement, laughter, empathy. • have a strong narrative that will sustain multiple readings. • extend children's vocabulary. • have illustrations which are engaging and reflect children from all backgrounds and cultures. • help children connect with who they are. • help children to understand the lives of people whose experiences and perspectives may be different from their own. They also include a range of stories set in the UK and around the world, both traditional and modern, as well as non-fiction.				
Statutory Requirements	Learning to appreciate some poems and recite by heart. Joining in with predictable phrases.	Becoming familiar with fairy stories and traditional tales. Becoming familiar with key stories.	Listening to and discussing a wide range of texts, including non-fiction, at a level beyond that at which they can read independently. Discussing word meanings.	Linking what they hear read to their own experiences.	
Title and Author	 Caterpillar Cake: Read-Aloud Poems to Brighten Your Day Matt Goodfellow 16 short, lively rhymes.	 Stop! That's Not My Story! Smriti Halls Exploring fairytales, but this feisty character wants to be the hero.	 People in Emergency Services Shalini Vallepur Clear overview of daily routines.	 Geoffrey Gets the Jitters Nadia Shireen Geoffrey learns to confront his jitters one by one.	
Title and Author	 Ladybird Songs and Rhymes for Every Day Daniela Sosa (illustrator) Clear lay out with bold illustrations. Extra notes.	 Rosie's Walk Pat Hutchins A classic, with illustrations that tell their own story.	 My First Book of Sea Creatures Zoe Ingram Clear layout, tables of facts and brief descriptions	 This is Who I Am Rashmi Sirdeshpande A celebration of families and shared heritage. A lovely warm read.	
Title and Author	 Watch Me Bloom Krina Patel-Sage Haiku poems that explore our natural surroundings.	 The Dragon Painter Lesley Sims Short re-telling of a classic Chinese traditional tale.	 Rosa Explores Life Cycles Jessica Spanyol Rosa finds frogspawn in a pond and learns about life cycles.	 Changing Tides Julia Moscardo Adapting to becoming a blended family. Explores emotions.	
Title and Author	 People Need People Benjamin Zephaniah Celebrated British poet. Simple, heart-felt message.	 Bella the Storyteller Chris Naylor-Ballesteros The Narrator explores what makes a good story. Fun.	 Measuring Me! Nicola Kent A fun introduction to some big numbers and body facts.	 A Wild Walk to School Rebecca Cobb A family gets ready for school, with added imagination.	

YEAR 1

Foundations of Literacy	Below are books that contain a range of the following; • elicit a strong response – curiosity, anger, excitement, laughter, empathy. • have a strong narrative that will sustain multiple readings. • extend children's vocabulary. • have illustrations which are engaging and reflect children from all backgrounds and cultures. • help children connect with who they are. • help children to understand the lives of people whose experiences and perspectives may be different from their own. They also include a range of stories set in the UK and around the world, both traditional and modern, as well as non-fiction.			
Statutory Requirements	Learning to appreciate some poems and recite by heart. Joining in with predictable phrases.	Becoming familiar with fairy stories and traditional tales. Becoming familiar with key stories.	Listening to and discussing a wide range of texts, including non-fiction, at a level beyond that at which they can read independently. Discussing word meanings.	Linking what they hear read to their own experiences.
Title and Author	 A Treasury of Nursery Rhymes Nursery rhymes, traditional poems and lullabies. Colourful illustrations.	 Tales of Brave and Brilliant Animals Susanna Davidson 10 animal tales from across the world. Folklore.	 Monster Post Emma Yarlett. By making friends with the monster a boy avoids becoming the meal!	 The Adventure and Other Stories Jarvis Sweet friendship stories. Lovely.
Title and Author	 Boing! A Bouncy Book of Bugs James Carter Short, fun, descriptive bug poems.	 Troll Frances Stickley Troll learns that happiness comes from being kind.	 The Tyrannosaurus's Feathers Adam S. Smith, Jonathan Emmett Explores new discoveries in Palaeontology. Great characterisation.	 My Friend Andy Emma Chinnery An empathic insight into the lives of homeless people. Clever storytelling.
Title and Author	 A First Book of Dinosaurs Simon Mole Dinosaur poems that are full of facts. Engaging illustrations.	 The Princess and the (Greedy) Pea Leigh Hodgkinson Clever rhyming adaptation. Bold illustrations support the text.	 Coming to England Floella Benjamin. Picture book autobiography. A look at Black British history and migration.	 The Girl at the Front of the Class Onjali Q Rauf How kindness can make refugee children feel welcome. Empathy.
Title and Author	 Five Little Friends: A Collection of Finger Rhymes Sean Taylor Join in with these fun action rhymes.	 Elmer David McKee Explores acceptance of who you are and what you look like.	 Small Steps, Big Change Annemarie Cool Tips which could be read a page a day with discussion. Chatty, colourful style is very accessible.	 The Library Mouse Frances Tosdevin Encouraging self belief and perseverance.

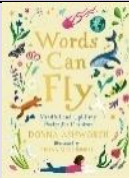
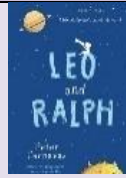
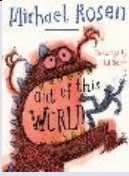
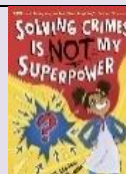
YEAR 2

Foundations of Literacy	Below are books that contain a range of the following; • elicit a strong response – curiosity, anger, excitement, laughter, empathy. • have a strong narrative that will sustain multiple readings. • extend children’s vocabulary. • have illustrations which are engaging and reflect children from all backgrounds and cultures. • help children connect with who they are. • help children to understand the lives of people whose experiences and perspectives may be different from their own. They also include a range of stories set in the UK and around the world, both traditional and modern, as well as non-fiction.			
Statutory Requirements	Pupils should be taught to develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by ...			
	Continuing to build up a repertoire of poems learnt by heart, appreciating these and reciting some with appropriate intonation to make the meaning clear. Discussing their favourite words and phrases.	Becoming increasingly familiar with and retelling a wider range of stories, fairy stories and traditional tales. Recognising simple recurring literary language in stories and poetry.	Listening to and discussing and expressing views about a wide range of contemporary and classic poetry, stories and non-fiction at a level beyond that at which they can read independently. Being introduced to non-fiction books that are structured in different ways.	Discussing the sequence of events in books and how items of information are related, Discussing and clarifying the meanings of word, linking new meanings to known vocabulary.
Title and Author	 The Shape of Rainbows Neal Zetter Relatable and funny poems from popular performance poet.	 Stories of Peace and Kindness: for a Better World Elizabeth Laird 7 beautifully retold stories.	 Interview With a Panda & Other Endangered Animals Too Andy Seed Q&A with 10 endangered animals.	 Aaron Slater, Illustrator Andrea Beaty Affirming, rhyming story about finding your voice. Dyslexia.
Title and Author	 A First Book of the Sea Nicola Davies Lovely observational poetry with lots to explore.	 Grimm's Fairy Tales Retold by Elli Woollard Well-crafted rhyming fairy tales. Expressive illustrations.	 Clever Crow Chris Butterworth Celebrates ingenuity of crows. Carnegie Illustration winner of 2025.	 The Can Caravan Richard O'Neill Celebrates Traveller community virtues of loyalty and adaptability. Recycling.
Title and Author	 Squeak! Squawk! Roar!: Amazing Animal Poems Kate Williams Lively poems in a mix of styles.	 The Iron Man Ted Hughes. Powerful story with rich vocabulary. Many themes to explore. Classic.	 Deep Jess McGeachin Covers everything deep; under sea, underground. Fascinating.	 The Wild Robot on the Island Peter Brown Themes of technology, identity and family. Lovely.
Title and Author	 An Emotional Menagerie Rachael Saunders (illustrator) Develops emotional vocabulary. Beautifully illustrated collection.	 The Café at The Edge of the Woods Mikey Please Mythical creatures and culinary curiosities! Atmospheric illustrations.	 Wild Planet: The Inspiring Life And Wisdom of Sir David Attenborough Hayley Rocco Picture book biography with his message about caring for our planet.	 Grey Laura Dockrill Relatable, reassuring poem about feelings and acceptance.

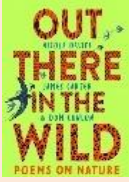
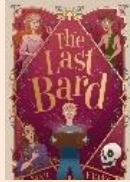
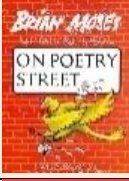
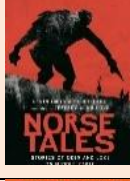
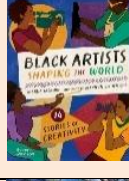
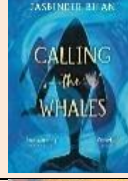
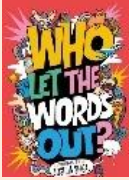
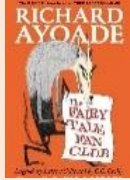
YEAR 3

Foundations of Literacy	Below are books that contain a range of the following; • elicit a strong response – curiosity, anger, excitement, laughter, empathy. • have a strong narrative that will sustain multiple readings. • extend children's vocabulary. • have illustrations which are engaging and reflect children from all backgrounds and cultures. • help children connect with who they are. • help children to understand the lives of people whose experiences and perspectives may be different from their own. They also include a range of stories set in the UK and around the world, both traditional and modern, as well as non-fiction.				
Statutory Requirements	Pupils should be taught to develop positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by ...				
	Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud. Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination. Recognise some different forms of poetry.				
Title and Author	Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books including fairy stories myths and legends and retelling some of these orally. Identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books.				
Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks. Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes.	Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.				
Title and Author					
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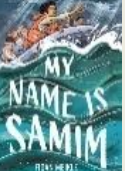
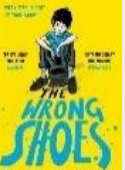
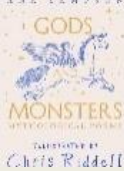
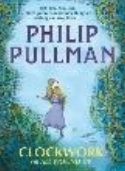
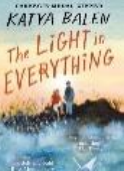
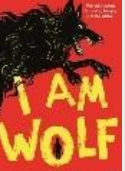
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Statutory Requirements	Pupils should be taught to develop positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by ...				
	Preparing poems and play scripts to read aloud. Discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination. Recognise some different forms of poetry.	Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books including fairy stories myths and legends and retelling some of these orally. Identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books.	Listening to and discussing a wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks. Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes.	Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.	
Title and Author	 Words Can Fly: Mindful and Uplifting Poems for Children Donna Ashworth Lovely poems that cover a range of emotions and situations.	 Rumaysa Radiya Hafiza. Blending 3 well known fairy tales in an Islamic setting. Richly descriptive and enjoyable story.	 Meanwhile Back on Earth: Finding Our Place Through Time & Space Oliver Jeffers A timeline of conflict on Earth with facts about the solar system. Thought provoking.	 Leo and Ralph Peter Carnavas A charming story looking at imaginary friends, difference and families.	
Title and Author	 Out of This World Michael Rosen Longer but very readable poems. Essential poet.	 The Lost Fairy Tales Isabel Otter 20 lesser known fairytales from around the world. Feature strong female characters.	 The Fossil Hunter: How Mary Anning Unearthed the Truth About the Dinosaurs Kate Winter Background information about Victorians and science of the time.	 Diary of a Future Billionaire Pamela Butchart Pacy and amusing story with range of non-stereotypical characters.	
Title and Author	 Red Sky in the Morning, Poet's Warning Alex Wharton Accessible, thoughtful and funny poems. Welsh poet.	 A Symphony of Stories: Musical Myths and Tuneful Tales James Mayhew Easy to read stories that have inspired famous music. Beautiful production.	 Super Sports Stars Who Are Changing The Game Rick Broadbent Biographies and facts about inspirational sports stars.	 Finding Bear Hannah Gold Vivid descriptions of the Arctic. Full of adventure and emotion.	
Title and Author	 A Passing on of Shells: 50 Fifty-Word Poems Simon Lamb Clever, short (50 word) poems illustrated by Chris Riddell. Scottish poet.	 Relic Hamilton Genie Hunter Joseph Coelho Rich world building in this pacy, exciting adventure.	 Letters to a Dog Piers Torday Lovely story, themes of hospitals, family, bereavement and letters.	 Solving Crimes is Not My Superpower Nathanael Lessore Great fun with likeable characters. Themes of friendship and being yourself.	

YEAR 5

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Statutory Requirements	Pupils should be taught to maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by...				
	Learning a wider range of poems by heart. Preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform.	Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and from other cultures and traditions. Identifying and discussing themes and conventions across a wide range of books.	Continuing to read and discuss an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks. Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes.	Drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.	
Title and Author	 Out There in the Wild: Poems on Nature Nicola Davies, James Carter and Dom Conlon A collection to provoke discussion.	 The Last Bard Maz Evans A funny, warm and clever story that references all of Shakespeare's plays.	 Tales of Scary Beasts: Six Hair-Raising Mysteries For You to Investigate If You Dare! Susan Martineau Good for information literacy and spotting fake news.	 Nate Yu's Blast from the Past Maisie Chan Adoption, same-sex parents, identity, and British-Chinese history are explored with warmth and humour.	
Title and Author	 On Poetry Street Brian Moses Entertaining poems to inspire young poets.	 Norse Tales: Stories of Odin and Loki on Middle Earth Kevin Crossley-Holland Atmospheric retellings with rich, imaginative language.	 Black Artists Shaping the World Sharna Jackson Short paragraphs about contemporary artists.	 Calling the Whales Jasbinder Bilan Exciting short adventure with well-developed characters. Themes of environmental responsibility.	
Title and Author	 Who Let the Words Out Joshua Seigal Creative wordplay and funny poems from award winning poet.	 The Fairy Tale Fan Club: Legendary Letters Collected by C.C. Cecily Richard Ayoade Wry and clever look at various character's sides of the story. Good for dipping in.	 Where? Jordan Collins Illustrated poem about shared human history and the irrelevance of racial division.	 Shrapnel Boys Jenny Pearson Exciting longer story with themes of war, politics, and moral integrity.	
Title and Author	 Stars With Flaming Tails Valerie Bloom. From the profound to nonsense verse and classic wordplay.	 The Wolves of Willoughby Chase Joan Aiken. Absolutely gripping tale. A great read aloud. Classic.	 The Way of Dog Zana Fraillon Draws the reader into the rhythms of the canine mind. A beautifully written and moving verse novel.	 After Padraig Kenny Well crafted dystopian story with skillfully drawn characters. A great read.	

YEAR 6

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Statutory Requirements	Pupils should be taught to maintain positive attitudes to reading and understanding of what they read by...			
	Learning a wider range of poems by heart. Preparing poems and plays to read aloud and to perform.	Increasing their familiarity with a wide range of books including myths, legends and traditional stories, modern fiction, fiction from our literary heritage, and from other cultures and traditions. Identifying and discussing themes and conventions across a wide range of books.	Continuing to read and discuss an increasingly wide range of fiction, poetry, plays, non-fiction and reference books or textbooks. Reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes.	Drawing inferences such as inferring characters’ feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence.
Title and Author	 A Poem For Every Question Brian Bilston 100 questions answered with fun-filled poetry and facts.	 Small Wonder Ross Montgomery Fast-paced action, with danger and suspense. Excellent plot and short chapters make a good read aloud.	 Undiscovered Heroes of the Second World War Yasmin Khan Great, diverse collection of stories with contextual information.	 My Name is Samim Fidan Meikle A child refugee tells his story through his interviews for asylum. Heartbreaking yet hopeful, a must read.
Title and Author	 Courage in a Poem: Poetry About Empowerment Tracey Turner Inspiring poems on a range of issues by many poets. Wonderful.	 The Lost Girl King Catherine Doyle Drawing from Irish myths and legends. A thrilling fantasy adventure.	 What’s the big Idea?: Important Ideas Simply Explained Tracey Turner Clear explanations of concepts such as astronomy and capitalism.	 The Wrong Shoes Tom Percival A sensitive look at child poverty. Highly readable story of resilience.
Title and Author	 Gods and Monsters: Mythological Poems Ana Sampson Diverse range of contemporary and classic poems. Illustrated by Chris Riddell.	 Birds and Beasts: Enchanting Tales Of India Priyal Mote (Illustrator) Lovely fable-like short stories from across India.	 The Final Year Matt Goodfellow Verse novel dealing with mental health, bullying and friendships. Excellent.	 A Different Kind of Freedom: A Romani Story Richard O’Neill A fascinating account of growing up in a Romany community. Themes of football and family loyalty.
Title and Author	 The Lost Spells Robert Macfarlane Acrostic poems celebrating British wildlife, beautifully illustrated by Jackie Morris.	 Clockwork Philip Pullman. Sinister gothic tale, excellent for reading aloud. Modern classic.	 The Light in Everything Katya Balen Told in dual narrative, children come to terms with new blended family.	 I Am Wolf Alastair Chisholm A gripping science fiction story with themes of self belief and choosing your own way.

Notes for the Framework for Reading Aloud

The books have been selected to cover a diverse range of experiences aimed at broadening, understanding, and developing empathy. Some topics may be challenging and teachers may need to be prepared to discuss issues raised. Teachers should read the books before embarking on reading them to the class.

Non-fiction has been chosen to validate this type of text as reading for pleasure.

Ideally these read aloud collections would be kept separate from book corners as a teacher's resource. Additional books, by some of the authors, could be made available for pupils to read independently.

The framework aims to provide exposure to a wide canon of literature. It should encourage and support teachers to read aloud from quality books every day as this is proven to foster a love of reading.

"As with younger children ... teachers should consider providing story time for every key stage 2 class at least four times for 20 minutes daily" p101 The Reading Framework.