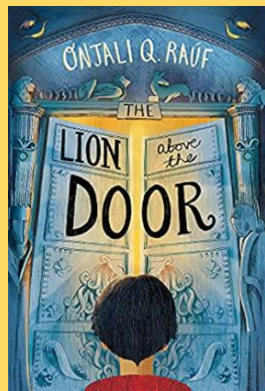


Spring 2022

GLPA STAFF READING RECOMMENDATIONS



Birch Class Y6 – Miss Egan: *The Lion Above the Door* by Onjali Q Rauf



This is an engaging story about a group of the least-popular kids in class who, following a school trip, are inspired to solve a real-life mystery, win a school TV competition and, in the process, discover all sorts of unexpected things about themselves.

The main characters, Leo and Sangeetha, are learning about World War Two in class and have become quite used to not seeing people of their ethnicity reflected in their history books. By chance, Leo finds his own name carved into a stone in Rochester Cathedral and this sets him on a quest that takes him and his friends delving back into their own family histories. Along the way, they have to deal with the awful school bullies and tackle all sorts of obstacles that test their determination and resourcefulness.

Onjali Q Rauf is a wonderful writer who has won many awards for her books including *The Boy at the Back of the Class* and *The Night Bus Hero*. Rauf is able to skilfully tackle issues of racism and prejudice, with a light touch and a good helping of humour. Her stories are told from a convincing child's point of view; you can't help but be carried along chapter after chapter. I would recommend the book for children from Year 4 up to Year 6.

Birch Class Y6 – Miss Egan: *The Young Magicians and Thieves' Almanac* by Nick Mohammed

Written by the comedian Nick Mohammed, his debut book is a quirky, funny adventure about a bunch of misfit wannabe magicians who are determined to gain admission to the famous Magic Circle. The group quickly become friends and in the process of practising their magic acts (which include picking pockets, hypnotism, card tricks and mixing science and magic!) they discover that the headquarters of the Magic Circle hold some intriguing secrets...

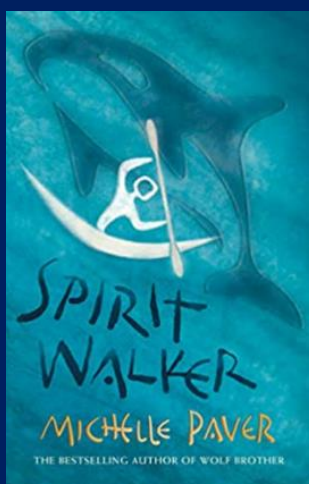
With a team of bank robbers -whose next target appears to be the Crown Jewels - on the loose in London, can the gang use their unusual skills to beat the criminals and at the same time, save the organisation that they are so desperate to join?



Sycamore Class Y6 – Miss Sykes: *Spirit Walker* by Michelle Paver

I thoroughly enjoyed reading *Wolf* so I was keen to see what came next in the Chronicles by Michelle Paver. This book follows the story of a young boy who is determined to vanquish the

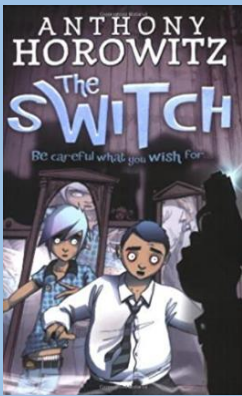
When a horrifying sickness threatens once again, he uses his unique gifts on a quest. Along the way, he encounters Spirit Walker, full of twists, turns and suspense. This book is best suited for free fantasy/adventure.



Brother in Year 5 and I was keen to see what came next in the adventures of Torak, a young boy who is determined to vanquish the Soul-Eaters...or die trying.

to wipe out the clans, Torak must quest across the sea in search of a cure. Along the way, he encounters Spirit Walker, full of twists, turns and suspense. This book is best suited for free fantasy/adventure.

Maple Class Y5 Miss Henighan – The Switch by Anthony Horowitz



Have you ever wondered what it might be like to swap lives with somebody else for the day? Have you ever wondered what it might be like to swap lives with somebody for a whole entire month? This story covers the tragic events of Tad Spencer, a boy born into fabulous wealth. Tad has everything in life he could ask for but still he makes the mistake of wishing for this to change.

That's when he wakes up one morning in a completely different bed, with scratchy sheets and a terribly disgusting stench rotting from what could only be himself...

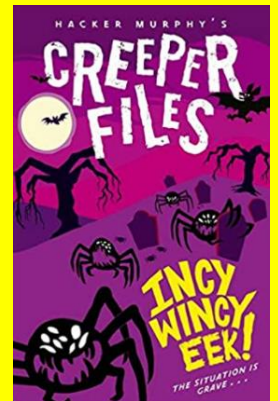
Read *The Switch* to discover the deep, dark secrets that are hidden within the Spencer household. Will Tad ever find his way back to his own body or will he be forced to live a life of crime and poverty for the rest of his life?

Larch Class Y5 – Mrs Mir: Creepier Files INCY WINCY EEK by Hacker Murphy

Are you brave enough to start the *Creepier Files*?

Jake had been excited when his dad announced that he had won a holiday, and even more so when he said his best friends Liam and Sarah were to come along with them. 'Jake had been hoping for Spain, or Tokyo – Florida; instead the trip was taking them from their hometown of Larkspur-on-Sea to Lower Larkspur!'

As the children begin to explore the house (built in the 18th century) and the places around it (woods, graveyard, sweet shop), they soon encounter ghostly figures and eight-legged menaces. Sarah and Jake do not believe in ghosts but when 'a dark sinister shape was floating in the woods behind the gardener, hovering a half metre off the ground,' they begin to have second thoughts.



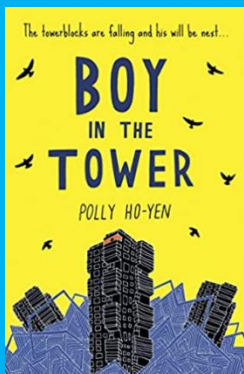
Liam, Sarah, and Jake are in for a big surprise because the creeper is hatching a plan and soon the full scuttling horror will be revealed. 'The wall of webs was stuck to Liam's hands. The web line snared around him. Pinning the top part of his arms to his side. His hands were tied together in front of him.'

Will Jake and his friends escape from the danger that is threatening to wrap them in cocoons and totally ruin their holiday...?

This is a page turner, with spooky and creepy events at every corner. The chapter titles entice the reader and the cliff-hanger at the end of each chapter, makes the reader want to read on.

The author has explored different structures throughout the story. It starts with a newspaper report; 'Large spider stows away in supermarket bananas,' which creates a great hook to the story. The illustrations and the connection with the reporter of the news story add another dimension to the book, along with the black pages and white writing used to draw the reader in. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this and will be heading straight towards the other books in the series.

Chestnut Class Y4 – Mr Brough: Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen



Recommended for Y5 up.

Ade is a young boy living at the top of a tower block, he loves living there as he feels like he can see the whole world! He is currently caring for his mother, whilst also trying to balance his schoolwork and friendships. But those aren't his only worries, tower blocks all around him are beginning to collapse! Nobody knows which tower will fall next, many people have evacuated. However, Ade and his mam are trapped! Will they escape or are they doomed? This was a brilliant book to read, it has lots of twists and turns!!

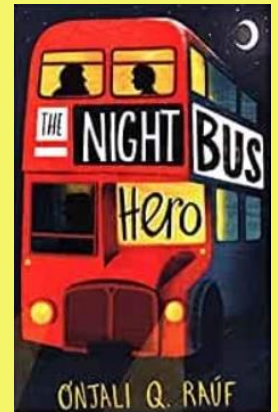
Mrs Waddington – Hazel Class: The Night Bus Hero by Onjali Q Rauf

Hector was always in trouble, which was not unusual as he was ALWAYS in trouble! He didn't usually mind because some of his best, most brilliant ideas came from sitting in detention.

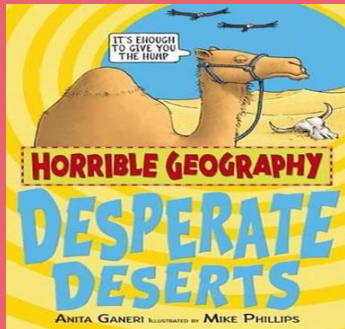
Yes, unfortunately Hector was a bully and was best friends with other bullies!

However, Hector felt that no one believed him about anything - even when he WAS actually telling the truth! Unfortunately, it only got worse as he decided to play a prank on the homeless, old man who lived in the park.

However, there is a twist in the tale! Hector is a bully but decides to prove everyone wrong and become a hero! Is he successful? Read this book and you will find out! Loved reading this book!



Rowan Class Y3 – Mr Bright: Desperate Deserts by Anita Ganeri



I'm not ashamed to admit it – I have been, and always will be, a geographer at heart. I've loved the subject since a young age. Taking this into account will explain why I was tempted to pick up and try 'Horrible Geography – Desperate Deserts' by Anita Ganeri and illustrated by Mike Phillips. Previous years teaching in Year 3 meant I had seen how much the children enjoyed the Horrible Histories series so I thought I would give this a go!

I wasn't disappointed – there was lots of great humour as you'd expect but also some really interesting geographical facts. For example, did you know the Nazca Desert in Peru is covered in patterns of lines and animal pictures, drawn about 5,000 years ago? No one really knows why they're there. Here is another fact for you – did you know that the Sonoran Desert is one of several North American deserts? It's prone to earthquakes because it lies close to the shaky San Andreas Fault, a colossal crack in the earth.

This book is a must for any children who enjoy desert animals, deserts or geography in general. Even for those who are not yet perhaps keen geographers, this book will inspire them to become one as they delve into stories of famous desert explorers and incredible facts!

Oak Class Y3 – Mrs Harrison: I swapped my Brother on the Internet by Jo Simmons

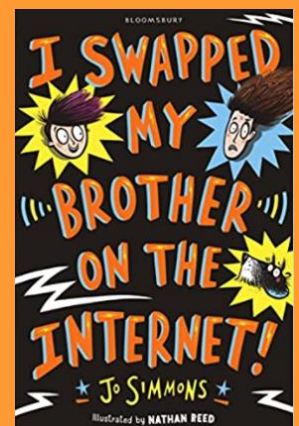
Have you got a brother or a sister who you're fed up with? Have you ever wondered if you could swap them for someone better?

Well, if you have, maybe you'll enjoy reading this story about a young boy named Jonny who did just that! He actually swapped his brother on the internet for a better brother! However, Jonny soon realised that finding the 'perfect' brother wasn't as easy as he had originally anticipated.

When he joins an online site named 'siblingswap.com' he thinks this will be the answer to all of his problems. Jonny soon discovers that it's not only human boys the same age as his brother who are up for swapping online...

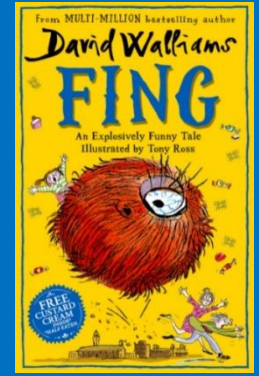
Will he ever find a better brother?

This is a great story that lots of children will be able to relate to and if you're at all like me, it will have you laughing throughout!



Oak Class Y3 - Miss Walker: Fing by David Walliams

This is a must for anyone who likes to laugh! Fing is the story of Myrtle Meek, a spoilt, rotten-to-the-core child, who never gives her parents a moment's peace. Her demands are never ending. From being carried to school to insisting she has a constant supply of sweets in front of the TV, Mr and Mrs Meek are always there to make sure Myrtle is happy... not an easy job! However, nothing can prepare the Meeks for Myrtle's latest outrageous and most outlandish request yet. Follow Mr Meek as he fights through the 'deepest darkest jungliest jungle' to make Myrtle's dreams come true and read on to find out what happens when she finally gets her wish! This hilarious book is beautifully illustrated and well worth reading. If you want to find out what happens when Myrtle's long suffering parents finally stand up to her, then this is a must. My daughters and I give this book a 5 star rating.



Willow Class Y2 – Mr Buckley: One Little Bird by Sheryl Webster



Rosa is a little bird who loses her home when a man cuts down a tree. In protest, she builds a nest on the top of his house and refuses to budge. News of her protest spreads through the animal kingdom, causing other creatures to take over the houses of humans. This is a funny children's story that addresses important environmental issues. Everyone who reads will come away feeling more concerned for our planet and all that we share it with.

Elm Class Y1 – Mrs Wadsworth: The Most Magnificent Thing by Ashley Spires

The Most Magnificent Thing by about a girl with an imagination importance of never giving up on

A girl has a vision of creating building things with her little dog after another, she isn't happy just didn't come out like she walks away from all of her and finally she realizes that and every one of them.

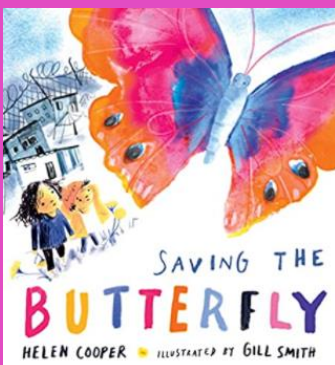


Ashley Spires is a children's book and teaches readers about the yourself.

something magnificent. She starts assistant. As she builds one thing with any of her new creations. They imagined they would. Disgusted, she creations to take her dog for a walk there's something great about each

Children will stay engaged with the story while viewing and enjoying the colourful illustrations on a black and white background. The author does an amazing job of teaching children about the emotions that we feel and how sometimes it's good to take a break and return at a later time. I love the message that it sends and think every child should read it. This is a perfect character-building book for reading at home with a child.

Beech Class Y1– Mrs Hunt: Saving the Butterfly by Helen Cooper



This powerful story follows two siblings who have had to find a new home because they are refugees. It compares how they both cope with making new friends and dealing with the changes they encounter. It is a simple book but it offers an opportunity for discussion about complex issues with younger children. The illustrations are beautiful, and they become noticeably more colourful as the story develops. It will leave you asking lots of questions – which is always a good thing!

Cherry Class – Reception – Mrs Coughtrey: A Fruit is a Suitcase for Seeds by Jean Richards

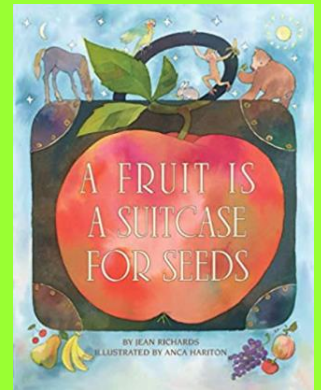
(Perfect as a sharing book for EYFS children or KS1 independent reading book.)

Have you ever wondered...?

What's the difference between a fruit and a vegetable?

Do all fruits come from flowers?

Why don't seeds grow in your tummy?

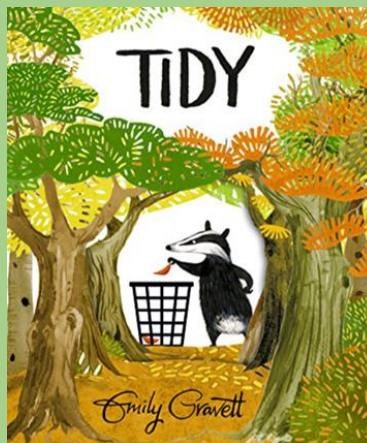


This beautifully illustrated picture book has all the answers and is perfect if you want to learn more about seeds, growth and change. It explains how seeds travel to different places via wind or water, or even inside the fruit itself- like a suitcase for seeds! After reading, you will discover some interesting facts and learn new vocabulary like 'pit' and 'ear'. You may even discover some new fruits that you'd like to try - they all look delicious! You will learn what seeds need to survive and be inspired to ask questions as you discuss the pictures on each page. If you would like to learn how to plant seeds and what to expect, there are clear instructions and little experiments to try which will produce great results in a short space of time. You will become a seed expert and even know which tree produces the world's biggest seed!

Pear Class Reception – Miss Key: Tidy by Emily Gravett

(Great for a EYFS and KS1

Meet Pete the badger who and tidy. However, how do from leaves and other wonderful illustrations along teach us really important preservation, which is a huge Engross yourself in the book overenthusiasm for cleanliness



sharing book)

loves everything to be neat you keep a forest tidy, free fantastic plants? The with the comic rhyming style lessons about environmental talking point at the moment. to find out how Pete's takes an unexpected turn.

Apple Class Nursery – Miss Cameron: Neon Leon by Jane Clarke



Leon, the neon chameleon, tries his best to be like the others and 'blend' in. On his quest to find a setting that matches his neon orange colour, the reader has opportunity to interact, spot rhyme, and count. I found that this book was engaging and kept the reader guessing about where he might head next. It was also great for the children to 'help' Leon by reciting some text and feel like they had helped him achieve his goal.