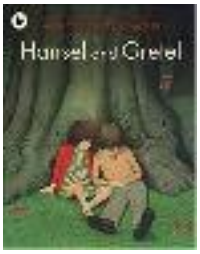
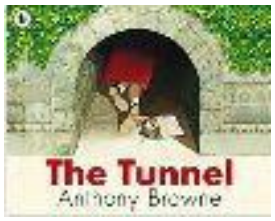
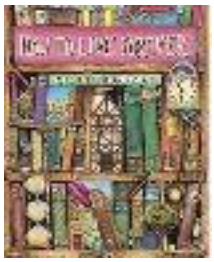
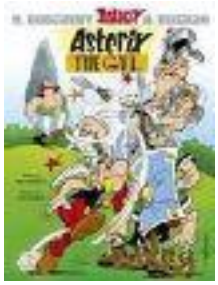
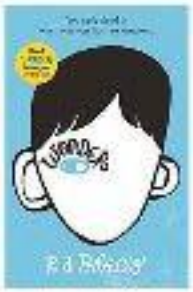
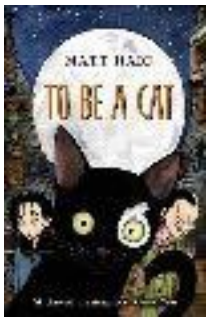
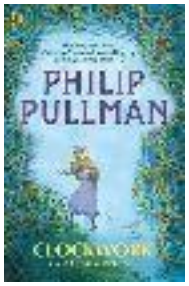
Year 5 & Year 6

Contemporary Fiction

 Hansel and Gretel Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm Anthony Browne	This book brings together one of the most popular and powerful of all fairy tales and one of the world's greatest picture book artists, Hans Christian Andersen Award-winner Anthony Browne.	• Picture book • Exceptional illustrations which provoke meaningful discussions about authorial intent • Recommended by Aidan Chambers- excellent resource for Book Talk • Compare to 'The Tunnel'
 FarTHER Graham Baker-Smith	A young boy, bewitched by his father's unrelenting passion to fly; a desperate craving that absorbs his every waking minute, finds himself entranced by the dream. When his father goes to war and does not return it seems the spell is broken. Much later, the boy, now a young man finds himself drawn once more to his fathers drawings and failed experiments. Finally able to make his fathers dream a reality he flies.	• Picture book • Complex themes around absence/presence, grief, ambitions and dreams. • We also recommend 'Leon and the Place Between' by the same author- for all ages
 The Adventures of The Dish and The Spoon Mini Grey	Part love story, part crime caper, *The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon* is the rags-to-riches and back again tale of the most dazzling crockery-cutlery duo of all time. Reminiscent of Bonnie & Clyde.	• Picture book • Full of wit and humour • Crime/adventure genre • Developed narrative of the nursery rhyme; (The Dish ran away with the Spoon) • Plentiful opportunities for writing outcomes
 The Arrival Shaun Tan	What drives so many to leave everything behind and journey alone to a mysterious country, a place without family or friends, where everything is nameless and the future is unknown? This silent graphic novel is the story of every migrant, every refugee, every displaced person, and a tribute to all those who have made the journey.	• Wordless picture book/graphic novel • Futuristic sci-fi setting • Deals with themes of migration, isolation, acceptance and family

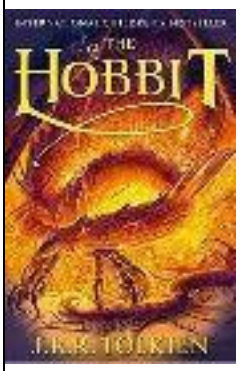
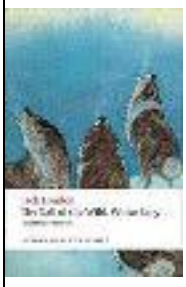
 The Tunnel Anthony Browne	A brother and sister who don't get along. One day they discover the tunnel. The boy goes through it at once, dismissing his sister's fears. When he doesn't return, his sister has to pluck up the courage to go through the tunnel too. She finds her brother in a mysterious forest where he has been turned to stone...	• Picture book- exceptional, thoughtful illustrations • Compare to 'Hansel & Gretel' by the same author/illustrator • Good for inference • Explores themes of fear, courage and sibling rivalry.
 How To Live Forever Colin Thompson	Colin Thompson's books are mystical and complex, they will appeal to children and adults alike and demand to be returned to as there is always a new image to see . . . something more to catch the eye. Peter and his family live among the Quinces in the cookery section of a mystical library, and at night, when the library comes to life, Peter ventures out of his home to find a missing volume: How To Live Forever.	• Picture book • Great for inference/interpretation • Mystical and complex • Rich illustrations with unexpected surprises • Meaningful moral • Could also read 'The Second Forever (How to Live Forever Trilogy)'
 Asterix the Gaul Renne Goscinny Albert Uderzo	In a tiny corner of Brittany, one small village of indomitable Gauls hold out against the almighty, all-conquering Romans. The Gauls are mighty fighters, but none more so than Asterix, a dauntless and cunning warrior who gets his tremendous strength from drinking a magic potion supplied to him by Druid Getafix. Together with his companion Obelix, he embarks on a series of adventures, beginning with rescuing Getaflix when he is captured by the Romans.	• Classic comic/graphic novel • Great for reading areas and history themed collections • First in a series so good for hooking readers for further reading • Puns, visual jokes and funny anachronisms would mean that an extract could be an interesting addition to guided reading/whole class reading focus on humour

 Wonder R.J. Palacio	Auggie wants to be an ordinary ten-year-old. He does ordinary things. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it. All he wants is to be accepted - but can he convince his new classmates that he's just like them, underneath it all?	• Narrative • Each chapter is told from different viewpoints- Great for exploring points of view • Lots of powerful themes to identify including difference, acceptance and courage • Sequel available- 'Auggie and Me'
 To be a Cat Matt Haig	Barney Willow's life couldn't get any worse. He's weedy, with sticky-out ears. Horrible Gavin Needle loves tormenting him - Barney has no idea why. And headteacher-from-hell Miss Whipmire seems determined to make every second of Barney's existence a complete misery! Worst of all, Dad has been missing for almost a year, and there's no sign of him ever coming home. Barney just wants to escape. To find another life. To be a cat, for example...	• Humour mixed with the macabre • Good for discussing narrative voice as the narrator speaks directly to the reader at certain points • Themes of loss, overcoming challenges, identity and self-esteem • Compare with 'They All Saw A Cat' by Brendan Wenzel
 Clockwork Philip Pullman	Tick, tock, tick tock! Some stories are like that. Once you've wound them up, nothing will stop them... A tormented apprentice clock-maker, a deadly mechanical knight...Wind up these characters, fit them into a story on a cold winter's evening and suddenly life and the story begin to merge in a peculiarly macabre-and unstoppable-way.	• Interesting structure- commentary fact style boxes and a narrative within a narrative • Good for discussing how language contributes to meaning & for effect • Scary

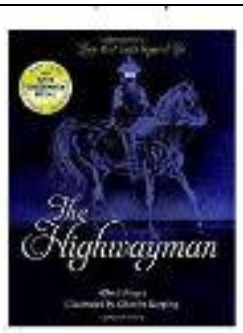
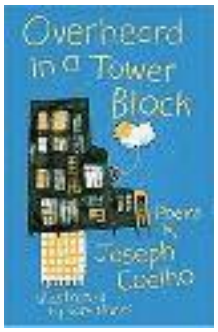
 Cogheart Peter Bunzl	Lily's life is in mortal peril. Her father is missing and now silver-eyed men stalk her through the shadows. What could they want from her? With her friends – Robert, the clockmaker's son, and Malkin, her mechanical fox – Lily is plunged into a murky and menacing world. Too soon Lily realises that those she holds dear may be the very ones to break her heart... Murder, mayhem and mystery meet in this gripping Victorian adventure.	• Set in Victorian England • Good for discussing how language contributes to meaning & for effect • Compare content/themes to 'Clockwork' and 'Hugo Cabret' • Sequel- 'Moonlocket'-is just as good

Literary Heritage		
 Goodnight Mister Tom Michelle Magorian	Young Willie Beech is evacuated to the country as Britain stands on the brink of the Second World War. A sad, deprived child, he slowly begins to flourish under the care of old Tom Oakley - but his new-found happiness is shattered by a summons from his mother back in London . . . Winner of the Guardian Children's Fiction Award.	• Deals with deep issues and themes- read ahead to ensure not too upsetting for individuals • Evacuation during WWII
 Carrie's War Nina Bawden	It is wartime and Carrie and her little brother Nick have been evacuated from their London home to the Welsh hills. In an unfamiliar place, among strangers, the children feel alone and find little comfort with the family they are billeted with. When Carrie and Nick visit Albert, another evacuee, they are welcomed into Hepzibah Green's warm kitchen. With Albert, Hepzibah and Mister Johnny, they begin to settle into their new surroundings. But before long, their loyalties are tested: will they be persuaded to betray their new friends?	• Opening with a flashback • Set during WWII- evacuation story • Compare/contrast with Goodnight Mr Tom- particularly Mr Evans and Mr Tom • Classic language good for developing vocabulary

 Treasure Island Robert Louis Stevenson	Peg-legged pirates, colourful parrots, and plundered riches—they're all here in Robert Louis Stevenson's original seafaring adventure. When young Jim Hawkins decides to follow a map to buried treasure, he must befriend or outsmart memorable characters such as pirate Long John Silver, captain Billy Bones, and island man Ben Gunn. Mutinous plans, mysterious deaths, and a tangle of double crosses keep Jim guessing all the way to the prize.	• Essential classic read • Rich, challenging language- good for widening literary vocabulary • Wonderful pirate adventure that will appeal to all
 Tom's Midnight Garden Philippa Pearce	When Tom is sent to stay at his aunt and uncle's house for the summer, he resigns himself to endless weeks of boredom. As he lies awake in his bed he hears the grandfather clock downstairs strike . . .eleven . . . twelve . . . thirteen . . . Thirteen! Tom races down the stairs and out the back door, into a garden everyone told him wasn't there. In this enchanted thirteenth hour, the garden comes alive - but Tom is never sure whether the children he meets there are real or ghosts . . .	• Won The Carnegie Medal when it was first published in 1958. • Classic time slip story • Strong description • Lots of unfamiliar vocab for children to explore • Twist at the end
 The Secret Garden Frances Hodgson Burnett	When spoiled child Mary Lennox loses her family to a cholera outbreak, she moves to her uncle's manor surrounded by a massive garden. Within, Mary discovers a whole new outlook on life thanks to a supportive household and the garden's power of healing.	• Rich description • Superb for widening literary vocabulary • Good for developing empathy and comparing how characters change and grow within a text

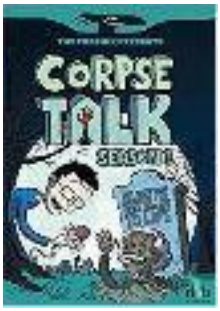
 The Hobbit J.R.R.Tolkien	The Hobbit is a tale of high adventure, undertaken by a company of dwarves in search of dragon-guarded gold. A reluctant partner in this perilous quest is Bilbo Baggins, a comfort-loving unambitious hobbit, who surprises even himself by his resourcefulness and skill as a burglar. Encounters with trolls, goblins, dwarves, elves and giant spiders, conversations with the dragon, Smaug, and a rather unwilling presence at the Battle of Five Armies are just some of the adventures that befall Bilbo.	• Obvious choice for modelling fantasy adventure • Graphic novel available (abridged version of original) and film, which could be interspersed with the written text if time an issue
 Alice in Wonderland Lewis Carroll	Alice's Adventures in Wonderland is an 1865 novel written by English author Charles Lutwidge Dodgson under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll. It tells of a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures. The tale plays with logic, giving the story lasting popularity with adults as well as with children. It is considered to be one of the best examples of the literary nonsense genre.	• Useful for exploring themes • Plot, structure, characters and imagery have been very influential in literature, especially in the fantasy genre.
 The Call of the Wild, White Fang and Other Stories Jack London	Both are world famous animal stories. Set in Alaska inthe late 1890s, The Call of the Wild is about Buck, the magnificent cross-bred offspring of a St Bernard and a Scottish Collie. The story records the 'decivilisation' of Buck as he answers 'the call of the wild'. In contrast, White Fang relates the tale of a wolf born and bred in the wild which is civilised by the master he comes to trust and love.	• Compare and contrast both stories • Could make links to evolution unit in Science

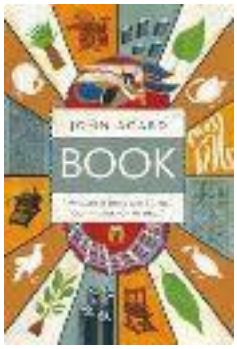
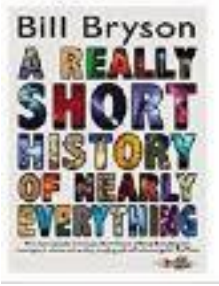
Poetry and Playscripts

 The Highway Man Alfred Noyes	Alfred Noyes's thrilling poem is charged with drama and tension. Ride with the highwayman and recoil from the terrible fate that befalls him and his sweetheart Bess, the landlord's daughter. The vivid imagery of the writing is matched by Charles Keeping's haunting illustrations which won him the Kate Greenaway Medal.	• Poetry • Picture book • Recommended by Aidan Chambers • Classic narrative poem
 Overheard in a Tower Block Joseph Coelho	Gazing at the stars from five storeys up, smelling the bins from five storeys below. Overheard arguments, overheard laughter. A disappearing father and a Mermaid-Queen mother; statues that sing for flesh and blood; bullies who kick you under the table; perfect red trainers - and the things that lurk in the library...Award-winning poet Joseph Coelho's astonishing new collection is a powerful and moving poetic narrative about growing up in the city.	• Series of poems that together tell the overarching narrative of a young boy's coming of age from adolescence to fatherhood • Deals with bullying, parental breakdown, absent parents

 Booked Kwame Alexander	Twelve-year-old Nick is a football-mad boy who absolutely hates books. In this follow-up to the Newbery-winning novel *The Crossover*, football, family, love, and friendship take centre stage as Nick tries to figure out how to navigate his parents' break-up, stand up to bullies, and impress the girl of his dreams. These challenges – which seem even harder than scoring a tie-breaking, game-winning goal – change his life, as well as his best friend's. This energetic novel-in-verse by the poet Kwame Alexander captures all the thrills and setbacks, the action and emotion of a World Cup match.	• Novel in free erse • Would appeal to football fans but deals with 'bigger' issues such as family breakup, bullying, racism

Non-Fiction

 Corpse Talk: Season 1 Adam Murphy	The dead are rising! Up out of the mouldering pages of history comes the chat show that digs the dirt on some of history's most famous, infamous and downright incredible men and women. What was the secret of Cleopatra's irresistible personality? Why did Genghis Khan become obsessed with world domination? Which scientist is still radioactive, almost 100 years after her death? Join your host, ADAM MURPHY, as he gets the answers to these questions and many more, on CORPSE TALK, the show that brings the dead famous to life!	• Graphic novel based on a talk show format where all the guests happen to be zombies • Great for reading areas- will appeal to those interested in history, comic fans and those with a taste for the gruesome • First in a series so great for hooking readers • Recommended by Jenny Holder, LLP

 Book John Agard	Books are one of humankind's greatest forms of expression, and now Book, in a witty, idiosyncratic voice, tells us the inside story. A wonderfully eccentric character with strong opinions and a poetic turn of phrase, Book tells of a journey from papyrus scrolls to medieval manuscripts to printed paper and beyond--pondering, along the way, many bookish things, including the evolution of the alphabet, the library (known to Egyptians as "the healing place of the soul"), and even book burning. With bold, black-and-white illustrations by Neil Packer, *Book* is a captivating work of nonfiction by one of England's leading poets.	• Inventive 'autobiography' of the book • Includes quotes/poems
 A really Short History of Nearly Everything Bill Bryson	Bill's story-telling skill makes the "How?" and, just as importantly, the "Who?" of scientific discovery entertaining and accessible for all ages. In this exciting edition for younger readers, he explores the mysteries of time and space and how, against all odds, life came to be on this wondrous planet we call home. Along the way we meet several bizarre scientists, crackpot theories which held sway for far too long, and some accidental discoveries which changed the way science developed.	• A great non-fiction text to read for pleasure. • Jam-packed full of facts • Combination of text, diagrams, illustrations and photographs
 The Way Things Work Now David Macaulay	Get to grips with how things work inside hundreds of machines with this extraordinary book that explains the science behind technologies and inventions. In this extensive encyclopaedia, packed full of simple science for kids, David Macaulay's beautiful illustrations show the inner workings of each machine from clocks and watches, to jet engines and the internet.	• Great illustrations and funny explanations