



The Flourish Federation

Brookfield Infant School's Reading Spine

Year 1 Reading Spine

Welcome to the Year 1 Reading Spine



What is our Reading Spine?

Our Reading Spine is list of standout books we believe children should be exposed to over and over again to help children develop their reading and writing, but most importantly, cultivate a love for reading!

How do we select our Reading Spine books?

We used Pie Corbett's Reading Spine (the guru of Talk for Writing) as a base list of books. We then worked together as a teaching team to select key texts which we have used to successfully teach different key components of reading and writing. They may be fantastic at character descriptions, paint beautiful settings in our mind, support the development of expression, inspire our imaginations or are reads that we love and decided simply couldn't be missed.

How do we use the Reading Spine in school?

Each classroom has a copy of our Book Spine texts and these are shared with the children again and again throughout the year. We pull books for our Talk for Writing from our spine books too, linking them by text type.

For example, choosing a focus journey story and supporting alternative journey texts to explore. From these, the children can imitate, innovate and invent their own pieces. Each year, we revisit which spine books we use for writing based on the needs and interest of the classes. There are also copies of all of our spine books in the school library for children to enjoy.

How can you use the Reading Spine?

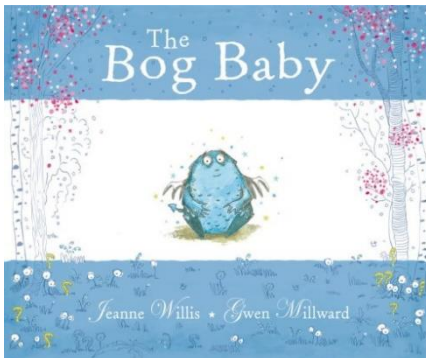
Use our Reading Spine as a handy guide of books to have at home. Share these regularly and enjoy them! As children get older, they will be able to read the books for themselves, but you reading to them and sharing your love of reading is just as important! Struggling with Christmas or Birthday ideas? Why not share this list with friends and family and ask them to buy a book from the list as a gift!



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The Bog Baby

Jeanne Willis

A tender 'finding' story with a big message. Two sisters playing by the pond find a magical tiny being complete with wings. It's a bog baby and the two girls decide to take the best care of it that they can. But, when the bog baby becomes ill, they realise that they'll have to let it go back to the wild.

The First Slodge

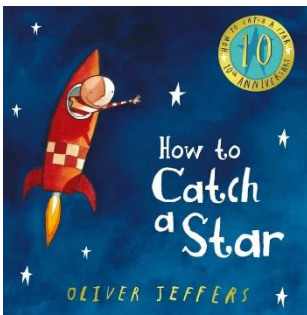
Jeanne Willis

Another from Jeanne Willis, this is a lovely little treasure to help introduce acceptance. Once upon a slime, there was a Slodge. The first Slodge in the universe. She saw the first moon and stars, the first fruits and flowers. Mine, all mine! she said. But when she meets another Slodge, she might have to learn to share after all....

THE
FIRST
SLODGE



JEANNE WILLIS · JENNI DESMOND



How to Catch a Star

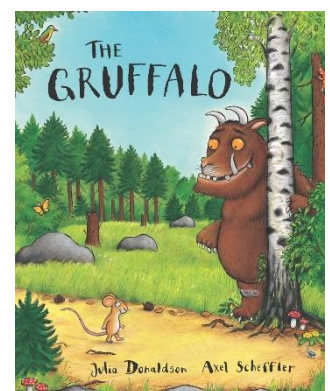
Oliver Jeffers

A beautiful wishing story based around the message of determination and dreams coming true. How to Catch A Star tells the tale of the boy as he goes on a quest to catch a star of his very own. Exploring, the boy's plots to seize his star - ranging from using a lifebelt as a lasso to jumping up and grabbing it.

The Gruffalo

Julia Donaldson

Everyone loves this book! Read and re-read it until the story is in your child's heart forever. Ask: Why do the animals ask the mouse to come to their houses? Why does the mouse tell the animals about the Gruffalo? How is mouse really clever? The sing-song nature of Julia Donaldson's books really calls to children and adults alike!

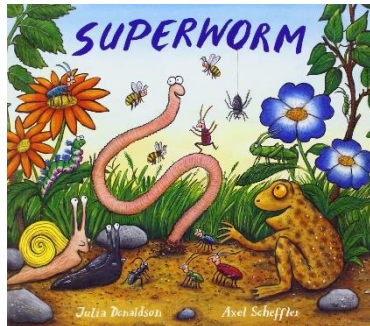




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Superworm

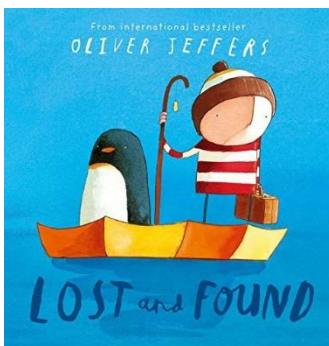
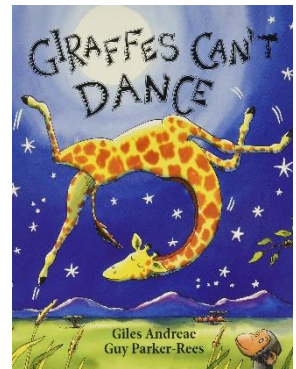
Julia Donaldson

Superworm is a hero with a difference. Super-long and super-strong, he's always on hand to help out all the other animals and insects - whether he's saving baby toad from an accident, rescuing beetle from falling down a well, or even good-naturedly offering himself up as a skipping rope for some bored bees. A lovely introduction to 'rescue' tales.

Giraffes Can't Dance

Giles Andreae

A wishing tale which raises issues regarding people's abilities. Gerald is a clumsy giraffe who would like to be able to dance, but cannot. The book provides an opportunity for students to discuss how they know what their abilities are.



Lost and Found

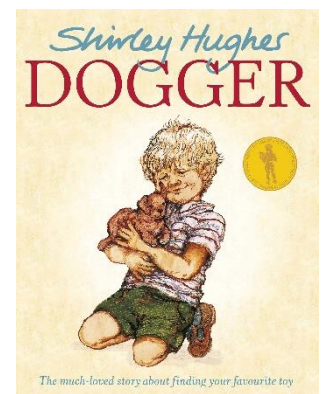
Oliver Jeffers

A finding tale of friendship and loneliness. Lost and Found tells the story of a little boy who one day finds a penguin on his doorstep. This book also discusses themes of bravery as the little boy sets out on a mission to find a home for the penguin.

Dogger

Shirley Hughes

This is a classic and necessary picture book for infants. It is about sacrifice or giving things up for other people to make them feel OK - though the moral doesn't need spelling out as the children will instinctively understand this truth. Obviously, this does however call for a big talk about special cuddly toys, mementoes and objects. Ask: What would you do if it were your cuddly?

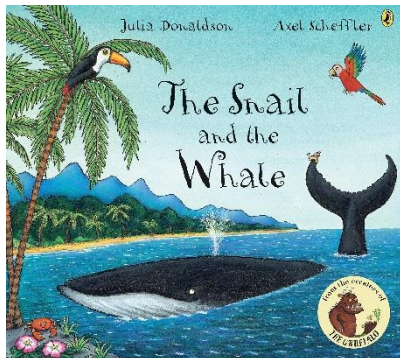




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The Snail and the Whale

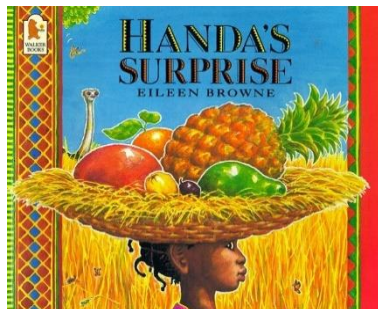
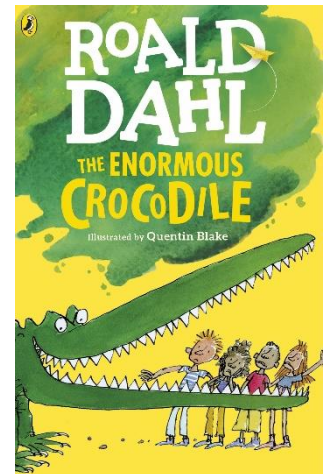
Julia Donaldson

An absolute winner - This book sends a strong message about confidence and the moral that if we try hard enough anything is possible. It also conveys the tale of bravery of the small snail as he tries to help his friend. Beautiful alliteration, repetition and onomatopoeic words make a this a great text for developing readers and writers.

The Enormous Crocodile

Roald Dahl

The Enormous Crocodile is a beastly creature. He lives in "the biggest, browniest muddiest river in Africa," and he is just about the beastliest crocodile there. Where the Notsobig crocodile eats only fish, The Enormous Crocodile wants to eat everyone in the jungle, from The Roly-Poly Bird to Muggle-Wump the Monkey. The warning story is a must read!



Handa's Surprise

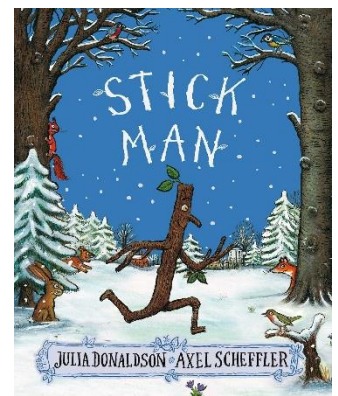
Eileen Browne

A wonderful, colourful book in which the pictures say more than the words. This journey story teaches children about some of Kenya's animals and fruits. Why not change the animals and fruit to invent a new version? Discuss what you know about Kenya from the story.

Stick Man

Julia Donaldson

Another journey story - Stick Man leaves his family tree and sets out on an adventure across the seasons in hopes of being back in time for Christmas. The morals of the story are, think about the risks you take in life (don't go for a jog around a park full of dogs if you look like a stick!) and, in life, you'll meet people who will try to help you.

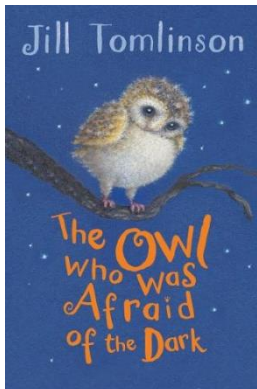




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Year 1 Reading Spine



The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark

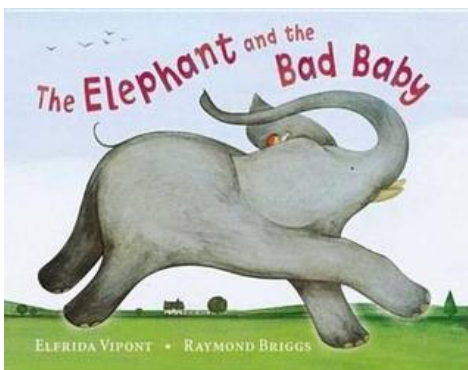
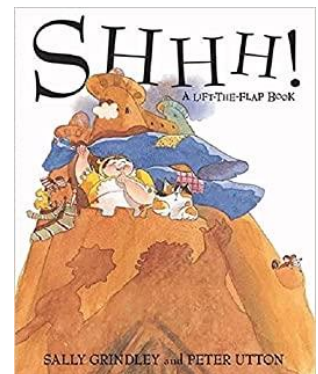
Jill Tomlinson

A story about overcoming fears, this book is full of gentle humour and comfort. If your little person has worries, this is a great conversation opener. List and discuss fears about the dark saying: you are only afraid of the dark because you don't know about it. What helped Plop overcome his fear?

Shhh!

Sally Grindley

This amazing book is very good to demonstrate to parents how to read with your child. Read, join in and enjoy the story many times. Look for clues about what is on the next page and look carefully at each page as there is plenty to notice and comment upon. Think about how the characters feel. Link to the story of Jack and his visit to a giant's castle.



The Elephant and the Bad Baby

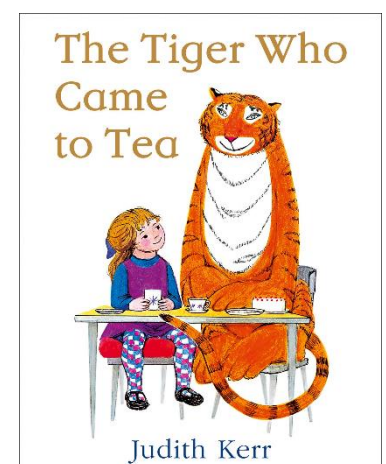
Elfrida Vipont

A cumulative story, the Elephant takes the Bad Baby for a ride and they go 'rumpeta, rumpeta, rumpeta down the road.' They help themselves to ice creams, pies, buns, crisps, biscuits, lollipops and apples, and the shopkeepers follow them down the road shouting and waving. All ends well as the Bad Baby learns to say 'Please'. Ask: Which other stories end with the characters having tea?

The Tiger Who Came to Tea

Judith Kerr

Sophie and her Mummy are having tea in the kitchen when in walks a hungry tiger who asks to stay to tea. After eating everything, he moves on to Daddy's supper and for good measure also cleans out the fridge and drinks all the water from the tap. Vibrant, colourful illustrations and a simple but charming story make this a perfect book to enjoy reading together.

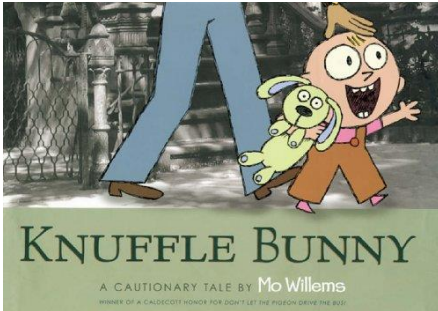




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Year 1 Reading Spine



Knuffle Bunny

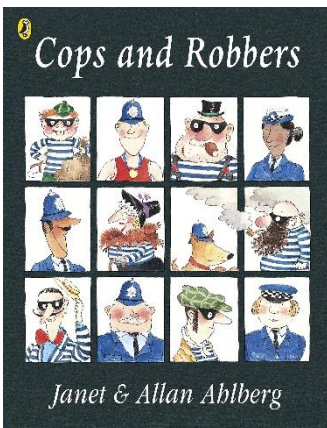
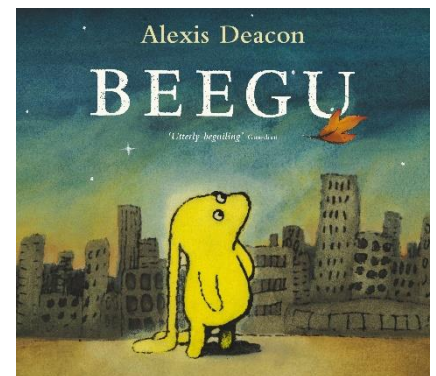
Mo Willems

Another story about loss (Dogger has a similar plot). The key to the story involves knowing what an 'errand' and a 'Laundromat' might be! Explain these words to your child before reading. The inside title page provides some interesting background detail worth discussing.

Beegu

Alexis Deacon

A beautifully gently losing and finding story. Read slowly and give time for children's spontaneous comments. Re-read and track the ups and downs of what happens and what Beegu feels and might be thinking. Encourage imaginative play where Beegu's character arrives in different settings and tries to make friends.



Cops and Robbers

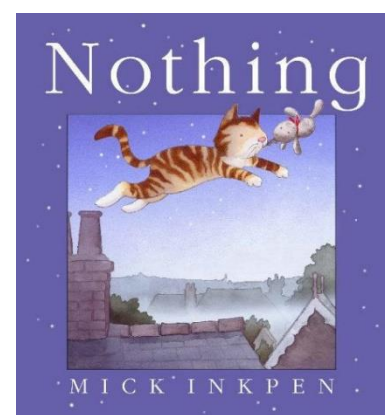
Janet & Allan Ahlberg

The robbers of London town plan a desperate crime one Christmas Eve - to steal all the toys they can lay their hands on! Fortunately, the robbers meet their match in brave officer Pugh who leaps into action and arrests the villains - all except Grandma Swagg who manages to get away. Quite a lot of vocabulary to explore - from crowbars to truncheons!

Nothing

Mick Inkpen

A little creature lies in the attic, alone and forgotten. It cannot even remember it's own name. One day, the attic door is flung open and so begins Nothing's search to discover who he really is. Nothing is completed with a beautiful fold out page at the end

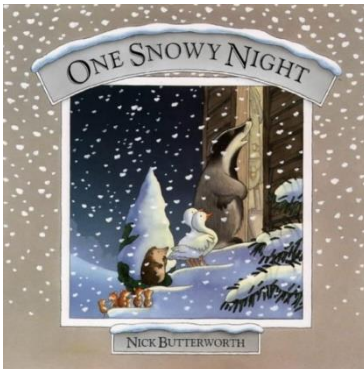




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One Snowy Night

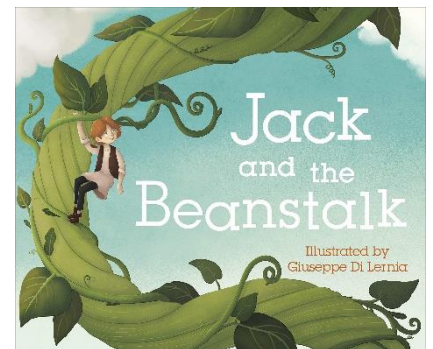
Nick Butterworth

Percy the Park Keeper always feeds the animals in the park where he lives. But one cold winter's night Percy discovers that his little friends need more than food and he must find a way to help them find a warm place to sleep for the night. A heart-warming story which teaches children to look and think about the world around them.

Jack and the Beanstalk

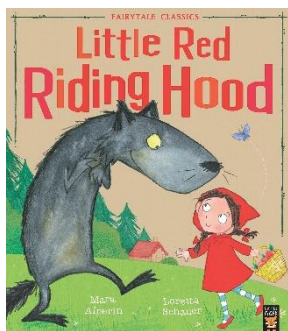
Various authors

Full of morals, from listening to your mother to not touching something that isn't yours, this is a fun, easily adaptable tale. Children love the repeated verse of Fee-fi-fo-fum... and it's great to develop children's character voices! Try changing the characters or the objects that Jack steals to make the story into your own!



Little Red Riding Hood

Various authors

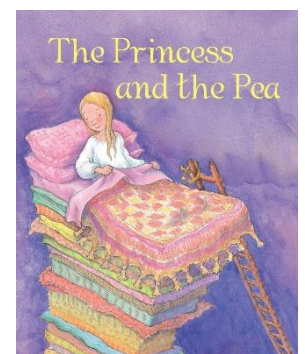


With the underlying message of not talking to strangers, this well-known classic gets children squealing as they join in with 'But Grandma, what big teeth you have!' A great tale to talk about the sequence of stories and bad and good characters. A warning tale which all children should know where of course, the woodcutter beats the baddie!

The Princess and the Pea

Various authors

The story tells of a prince who wants to marry a princess but is having difficulty finding a suitable wife. When there is an unexpected visitor, the queen places a pea at the bottom of 20 mattresses and 20 blankets for her. When she claims she has slept badly because she felt something hard, the royal family is convinced that she is a real princess. A fairy-tale about not judging on first impressions.

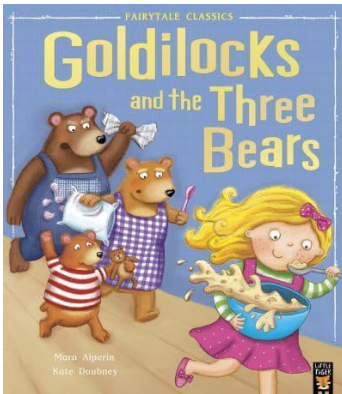




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Goldilocks and the Three Bears

Various authors

A little girl who is looking for where she fits in - One day, Goldilocks stumbles upon the home of the three bears. She tries out three porridges, three chairs, and three beds before finding one of each that fits her perfectly. A tale highlighting the need to respect the privacy and property of others and a reminder of how your actions can hurt.