



The Flourish Federation

Brookfield Infant School's Reading Spine

Year 2 Reading Spine

Welcome to the Year 2 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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WHERE THE WILD THINGS ARE



STORY AND PICTURES BY MAURICE SENDAK

Where The Wild Things Are

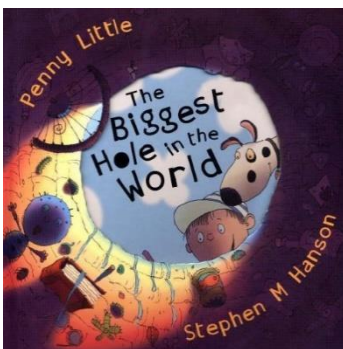
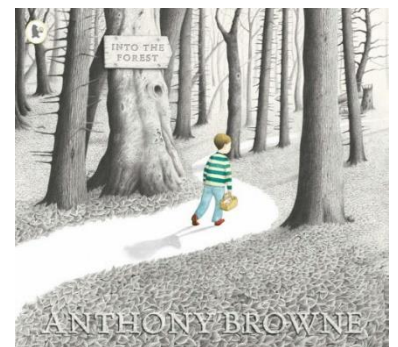
Maurice Sendak

A beautiful portal story. Look at the placement of the pictures with your child - do you notice how they build in size until they cover the double page spread and then shrink back down?

Into the Forest

Anthony Browne

With the moral of the story being 'keep your focus on good things, good people and don't be misled by distractions all around you', this is an interesting journey story. There are lots of links to different fairy tales throughout the book which children will enjoy spotting and discussing.



The Biggest Hole in the World

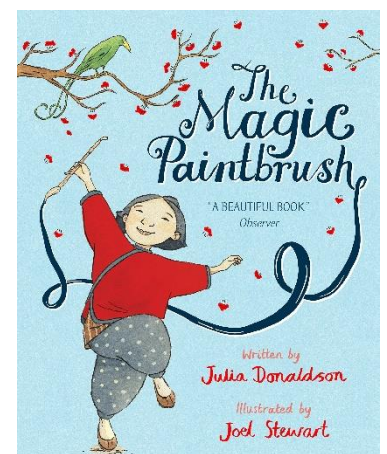
Penny Little

Another portal story - Charlie is visiting the beach with his dad, when he digs a big hole in the sand - and falls in! This is the start of a tremendous adventure through the centre of the earth, until he comes out the other side! A brilliantly conceived idea, this book physically embodies the hole as Charlie travels through the earth.

The Magic Paintbrush

Julia Donaldson

Magic Paintbrush retells an old folk story and does it very well indeed. Shen, a girl from a poor Chinese village, draws pictures in the sand when sent by her family to gather oysters for supper. A mysterious man gives her a magic paintbrush: everything painted with the brush will come to life! A wonderfully brilliant wishing tale which children love!

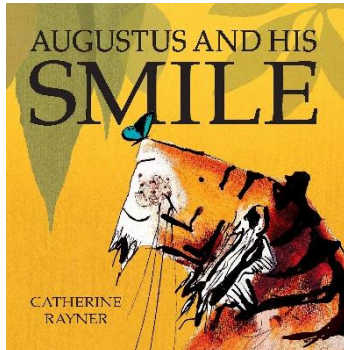




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Augustus and his Smile

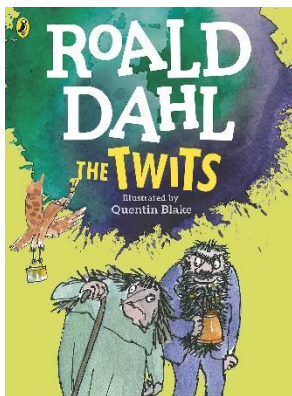
Catherine Rayner

Augustus is a tiger, who though large and fearless, is sad, because he has lost his smile. He goes on a journey to find it. Only when it begins to rain and a puddle forms does he find his smile staring back from his reflection, and realises that he will always have his smile, whenever he is happy. Adventurous artwork, playful vocabulary & the gentle underlying message make this a must read.

The Paper Bag Princess

Robert Munsch

This warning story has a strong moral - clothes definitely don't make the Princess! The Paper Bag Princess won the day, and rescued Prince Ronald from the dragon, by being brave and facing her fears, not because she was the best dressed Princess. A good book to challenge stereotypes!



The Twits

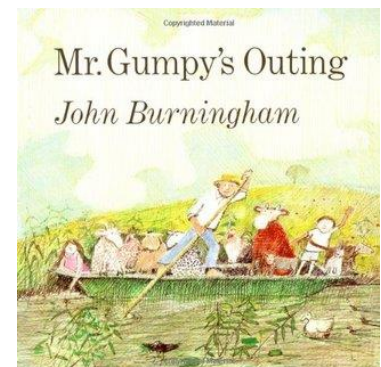
Roald Dahl

A much-loved warning tale. A hideous, vindictive, spiteful couple known as the Twits live together in a brick house without windows. They continuously play nasty practical jokes on each other out of hatred for one another. They also keep a family of pet monkeys, the Muggle-Wumps. A good book to really get into character descriptions with children!

Mr. Gumpy's Outing

John Burningham

Mr. Gumpy is off on a boat trip but a whole lot of other animals join him. Everyone is having a lovely time until the passengers start to misbehave and the boat starts to tip! A cumulative tale that can easily be adapted to help children make their own versions.





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Meerkat Mail

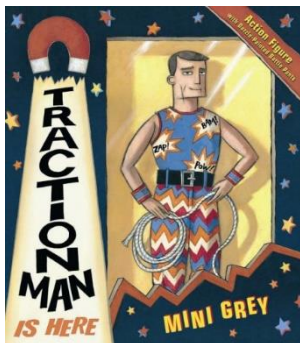
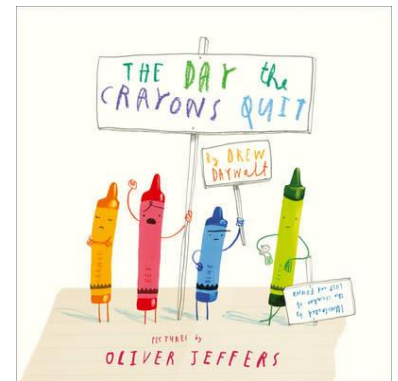
Emily Gravett

A journey story with some great Geography links, Meerkat Mail is a delightful tale of Sunny the Meerkat who lives in the Kalahari Desert. Bored with his life he goes off to seek adventure but things don't go quite to plan until... Why not use it to encourage your child to write postcards or letters to friends, family or their class?

The Day the Crayons Quit

Oliver Jeffers

Another good one for inspiring letter creating while introducing children to the style of persuasive writing. Smart, witty, and absolutely adorable with a touching message that emphasizes the importance of creativity, problem solving and inclusiveness - parents will love this one too!



Traction Man

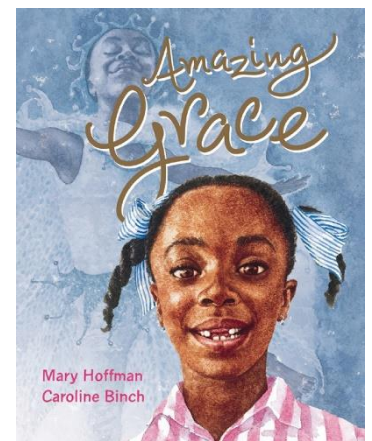
Mini Grey

Take time to explore the pictures carefully, looking for details. Discuss together any difficult words. Re-read a number of times and talk about how the characters feel. Ask: Are the adventures real? Who made them up? Can you think of any other adventures Traction Man could go on?

Amazing Grace

Mary Hoffman

The picture book Amazing Grace tells the story of Grace, who loves stories and especially loves acting them out. Filled with imagination and dramatic flair, Grace decides that she will play the part of Peter Pan when her teacher tells the class that they are going to perform the play. With the support of her family, Grace learns that she can be anything she wants to be, and the results are amazing!

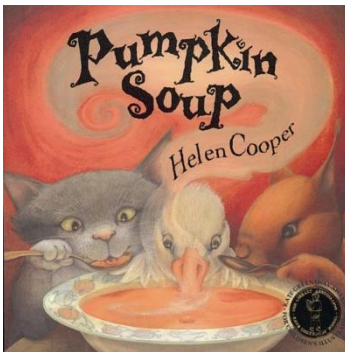




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Pumpkin Soup

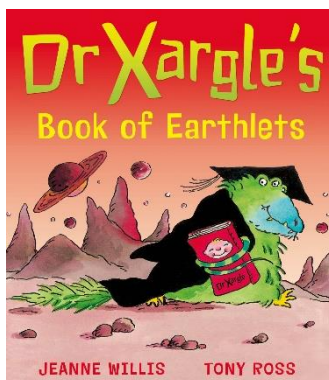
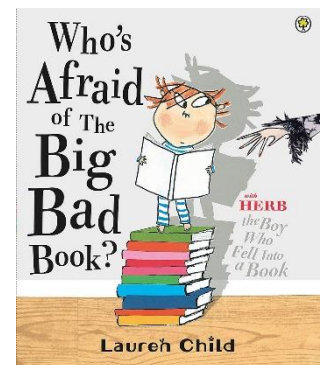
Helen Cooper

A funny, rhythmical story about friendship and sharing, with fabulous animal characters, illustrated in glowing autumnal colours. Cat, Duck and Squirrel live in an old white cabin, with a pumpkin patch in the garden. Ask the children: What causes the argument and who was right? Discuss how Cat and Squirrel's feelings change.

Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Book?

Lauren Child

Before reading this book, it is essential to know the stories of Goldilocks, Rapunzel, Dick Whittington and Cinderella - so start by retelling these stories or some of the wit will be lost! Herb is drawn into a book of fairy tales where he visits many magic places and meets several well-known characters. But he constantly gets into trouble and spends most of his time trying to escape from these dangerous situations.



Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets

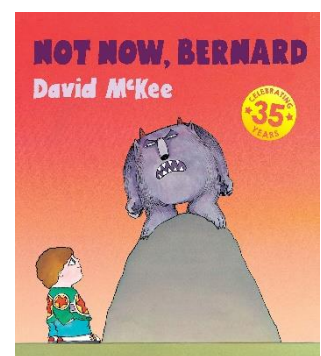
Jeanne Willis

Read and enjoy - then discuss the funny bits. Ask: What makes them amusing? You can collect some of the strange words that Dr Xargle uses and give them definitions, such as 'eggmangle', 'earthlet', 'hairdo of a sheep'. Ask: What other strange things might aliens not understand if they came to earth? A humorous story about aliens embarking on a field trip to Earth!

Not Now, Bernard

David McKee

Maybe more of a moral for parents - do not ignore your children or they might be eaten and replaced by a monster in the garden! Discuss the parents, the child and the monster. Ask: Who in the story is naughty? Are the parents ignoring the child or is he choosing the wrong moment? Are they too busy? Are they kind parents?

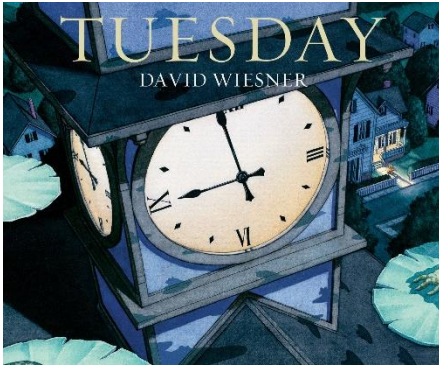




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Tuesday

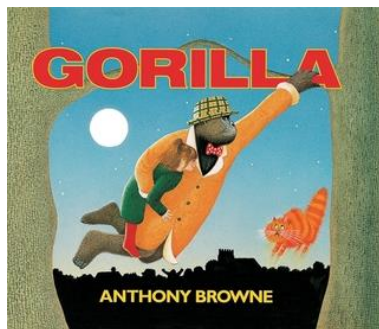
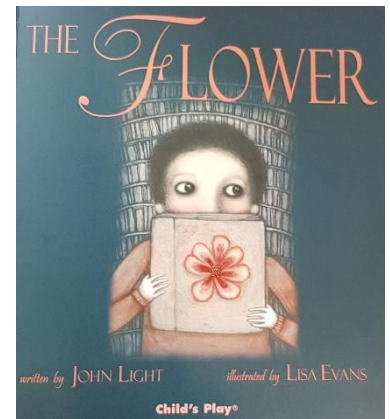
David Wiesner

A largely wordless picture book, Tuesday conveys the strange happenings one evening, when a fleet of frogs glide in on floating lily pads, alarming the natives of a quiet American suburb. Mysterious and atmospheric, Tuesday asks far more questions than it answers. Be a detective reader to explore the 'why' questions that arise from this book!

The Flower

John Light

Brigg lives in a small, grey room in a large, grey city. When he finds a book in the library labelled 'Do Not Read', he cannot resist taking it home. In it, he comes upon pictures of bright, vibrant objects called flowers. He cannot find flowers anywhere in the city, but stumbles instead on a packet of seeds. A poignant book which reminds us that books can work magic.



Gorilla

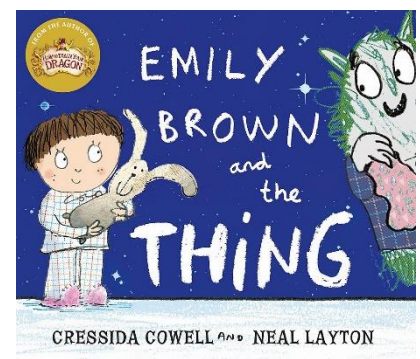
Anthony Browne

This multi-layered book explores themes of loneliness and friendship. An endearing story about a little girl whose father never has time for her. She wishes for a real gorilla for her birthday but gets a soft toy one from daddy. Not being too pleased about this she tosses it aside before going to bed... whatever could happen next?

Emily Brown and the Thing

Cressida Cowell

In this warm-hearted and witty take on a classic theme - being scared of the dark - Emily and Stanley find a 'Thing' crying outside their window. They embark on a series of adventures to find everything he needs for a good night's sleep. Take note of the change of font with your child. Ask: Why has the author changed the font?

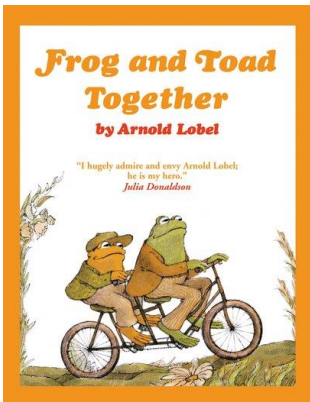




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Frog and Toad Together

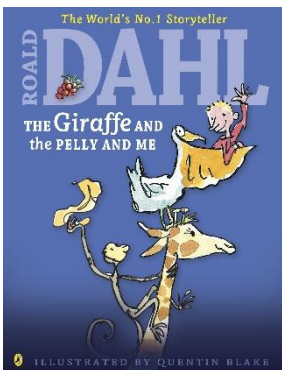
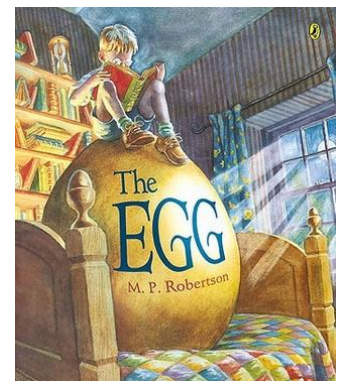
Arnold Lobel

An enduring book about true friendship. Frog and Toad are excellent friends because they seek the other's good more than their own, imperfectly, with renewed attempts in each of the little tales within this book. Do not over look this little gem of two friends, lovingly encouraging each other to be better.

The Egg

M. P. Robertson

Another tale of friendship, this fantasy story beautifully illustrates the journey between a young boy and dragon who drops into his life quite by surprise. A good book to read alongside other dragon stories to inspire the imagination!



The Giraffe and the Pelly and Me

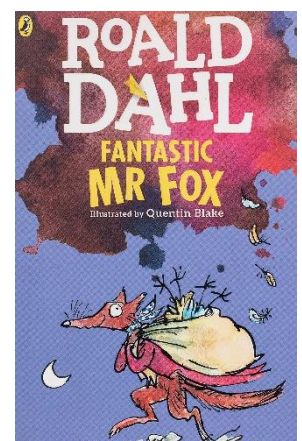
Roald Dahl

The Giraffe, and the Pelly and Me is a short story that allows its readers to imagine, to dream and to believe that sometimes with our little talents (no matter what others say) can be of help to others and can fulfil our wildest dreams. This is a meaty read so take your time and enjoy the adventures learning new vocabulary along the way.

Fantastic Mr Fox

Roald Dahl

A hilarious book that readers will adore. Three horribly cruel, but also entertaining farmers are out for revenge against Mr. Fox, who has been stealing their livestock to provide for his wife and four baby foxes. Reading these longer books will help children learn more complex sentence structures while they enjoy finding out if Mr Fox can stay one step ahead!

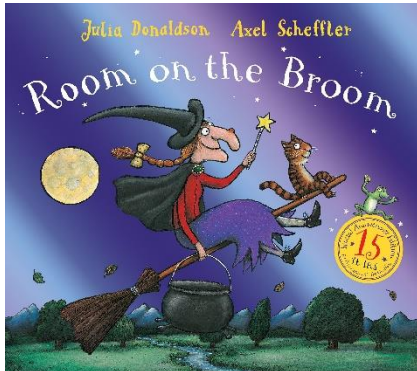




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Room on the Broom

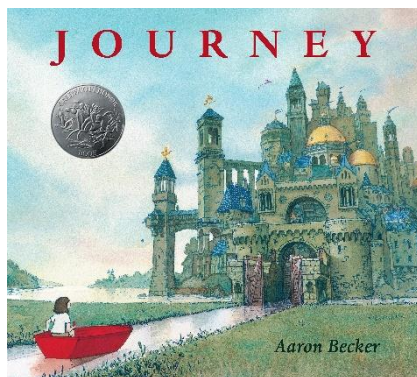
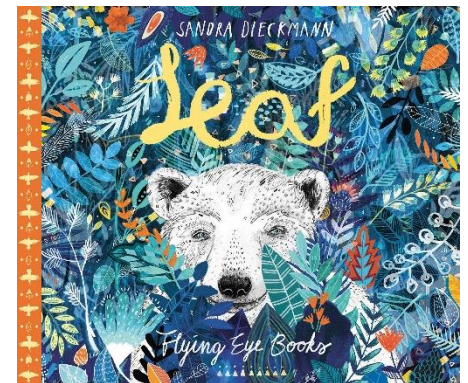
Julia Donaldson

Who doesn't love this one? With themes of friendship, helping others and team work, this is a brilliant beating the baddie story. Join the kind witch who invites a collection of animals to join her on her broom, though her cat thinks it will get too crowded. Before long, the witch is threatened by a fearsome dragon... who can help?

Leaf

Sandra Dieckmann

This is a book to truly treasure. A portal story with outstanding artwork, join a polar bear who arrives unexpectedly in the woods where the animals fear and avoid him. With strong links to climate change and the plight of the polar bears, will this one make it home or does he need some help?



Journey

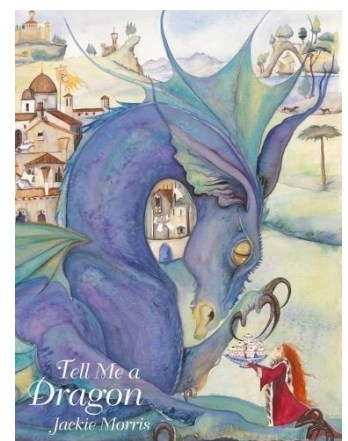
Aaron Becker

Another kind of portal story - Follow a girl on an elaborate flight of fancy in a wondrously illustrated, wordless picture book about self-determination — and unexpected friendship. A lonely girl draws a magic door on her bedroom wall and through it escapes into a world where wonder, adventure, and danger abound.

Tell Me a Dragon

Jackie Morris

This book is brimming with lyrical descriptions of dragons of every hue. Ones that live in the city, the countryside or under the sea, delighting in water, fire and ice. At the end of the book, the reader is invited to imagine their dragon. This needs to be on your bookshelf - once you have opened it, you won't want to close it!

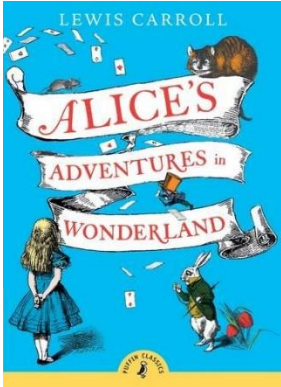




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Alice's Adventures in Wonderland

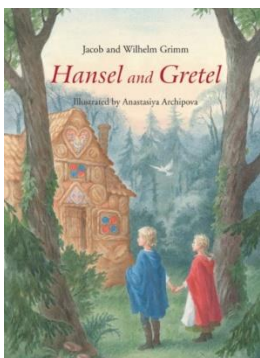
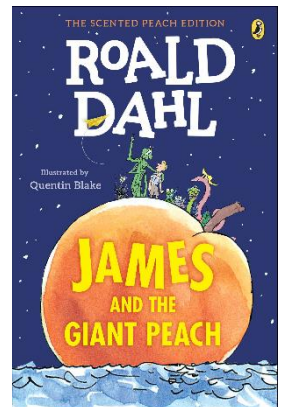
Lewis Carroll

Children will likely know the film version of this well but reading the book really adds another layer. This portal story will open up your child's imagination ready for their own story writing. Though taking risks can be scary, standing still can be scarier - Alice shows us that without taking risks and challenging ourselves, we don't grow. Oh, and that curiosity often leads to trouble!

James and the Giant Peach

Roald Dahl

This tale of overcoming obstacles tells us of a young boy who escapes an unhappy home (after his parents are killed by a rhinoceros and he is sent to live with his two horrid aunts) inside a magical peach! Along the way, he makes new friends, and discovers the joys of freedom and friendship, which had previously been alien ideas to him.



Hansel and Gretel

Various authors

A well-known classic which can really help children work on their description, especially when thinking about that delicious sweetie house or the wicked, cruel witch! This story teaches many lessons to children. But the most important lesson of all is not to trust strangers and understanding that not everyone is who they seem at first.