



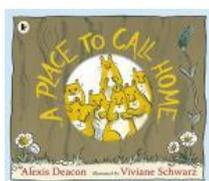
Recommended Books for Year 1 and Year 2 Children to Share with an Adult or Read Independently

Literature Collection

This book list is made up of texts which are ideal for adults to read to or alongside children. Whilst some children may not be able to read all the books independently, an important function of the collection is to give them access to a wider range of titles, authors and genres that they might not otherwise meet. For more experienced readers, this collection offers an increasingly challenging range of material.

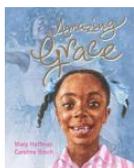
Books in this collection are likely to be:

- texts that are multi-layered - capable of being read at different levels
- books that deal with important themes
- books in which language is used in lively, inventive ways
- books by skillful and experienced children's writers and illustrators
- traditional and contemporary 'classics' of children's literature
- stories with different cultural settings
- texts that promote discussion and reflection



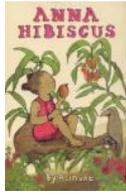
A Place To Call Home by Alexis Deacon

Seven furry brothers emerge from the warm womblike home they have outgrown and travel in search of a new place in the wider world.



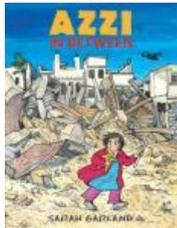
Amazing Grace by Mary Hoffman

A wonderfully affirmative story. Grace 'a girl who loved stories' is told that she cannot play Peter Pan in the school pantomime because she is black and female.



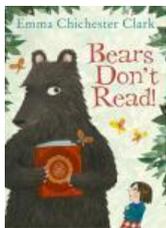
Anna Hibiscus by Atinuke

Stories about the life of a small girl who lives in Africa with her African dad and Canadian mum and a large extended family.



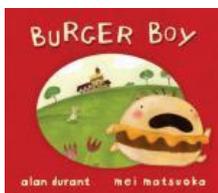
Azzi in Between by Sarah Garland

Sarah Garland uses a comic strip format to tell the story of Azzi who has to flee her own country with her parents, leaving her grandmother behind, and settle as a refugee in a new country.



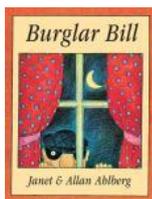
Bears Don't Read by Emma Chichester Clark

Bears don't read but George is a bear who desperately desires to do so. Finding a book beneath a tree in the forest, he heads for the town, determined to find someone who will teach him.



Burger Boy by Alan Durant

Benny hates vegetables and loves burgers. So much so, that his mum tells him he will turn into a burger and – lo and behold – he does!



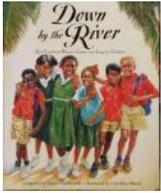
Burglar Bill by Allan Ahlberg

It is a brave author and artist who set out to make a burglar a hero - but Burglar Bill, who steals a box and finds there is a baby in it - has a heart.



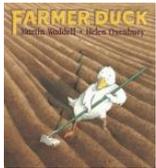
Clever Polly and the Stupid Wolf by Catherine Storr

Polly is visited over and over again by the Wolf, who is always plotting to eat her, but she is always just able to outwit him.



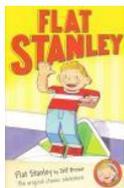
[Down by the River](#) by Grace Hallworth

A collection of African Caribbean rhymes, games and songs, many remembered from Grace Hallworth's own Trinidadian childhood.



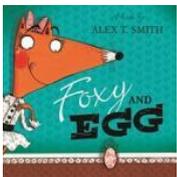
[Farmer Duck](#) by Martin Waddell

It may not be commonly recognised by children that a duck is female; but unless this is appreciated the feminist message of this picture book will be lost.



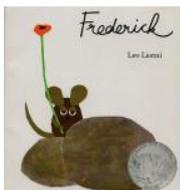
[Flat Stanley](#) by Jeff Brown

At first it seems a disaster when Stanley Lambchop is flattened by an 'enormous bulletin board'. However, he soon finds that it can have its advantages.



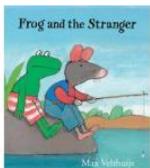
[Foxy and Egg](#) by Alex T Smith

Egg rolls up at Foxy DuBois' door and she anticipates a feast in store. First she tries to fatten him up but what finally hatches out of the egg is no chickenfeed!



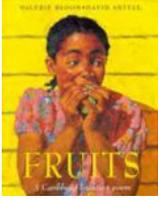
[Frederick](#) by Leo Lionni

Frederick doesn't join the other mice in storing up food for the winter. Instead he gathers the rays of the sun, colours and words, for he realises that he and his fellow creatures will not be sustained through the dark days by food alone.



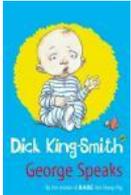
[Frog and the Stranger](#) by Max Velthuis

When Rat sets up home in their community, Frog is the only one prepared to get to know this 'stranger'.



Fruits by Valerie Bloom

A wryly amusing Caribbean counting poem enumerated in Jamaican Creole.



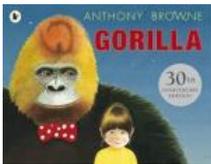
George Speaks by Dick King-Smith

Some young children seem wise beyond their years, but none has ever been as advanced as this.



Goldilocks and Just the One Bear by Leigh Hodgkinson

A solitary bear stumbles into the city and is as lost as a little girl might be in the woods. He enters a flat in a tower block where he finds food that's just right.



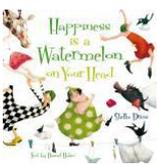
Gorilla by Anthony Browne

Hannah's father never seems to have time to spend with her. Disappointed with receiving a toy gorilla for her birthday instead of the real one she hoped for, she enjoys a night time outing with her new toy.



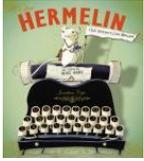
Grace & Family by Mary Hoffman

In this sequel to Amazing Grace, Grace travels to the Gambia to visit her father and has to adjust to new relationships with his new wife and family.

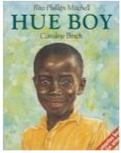


Happiness is a Watermelon on Your Head by Daniel Hahn

Three very grumpy women are determined to find out why their neighbour Miss Jolly is always so happy. Is the secret in her bizarre headgear?

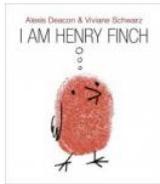


[Hermelin](#) by **Mini Grey** The opening spread of this picture book sets the scene for a tale of a mystery-solving mouse.



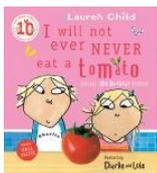
[Hue Boy](#) by **Rita Phillips Mitchell**

In a Caribbean village Hue Boy seems not to grow 'at all, at all'. All kinds of cures are tried.



[I Am Henry Finch](#) by **Alexis Deacon**

This is a story about the coming to consciousness of a small bird.



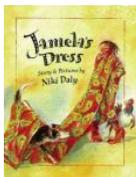
[I will not ever NEVER eat a tomato](#) by **Lauren Child**

Charlie's little sister Lola is a very fussy eater. She has a long list of foods she will not entertain passing her lips.



[Iggy & Me](#) by **Jenny Valentine**

Flo relates episodes about family life with her sister Sam who renames herself Iggy in the first chapter.



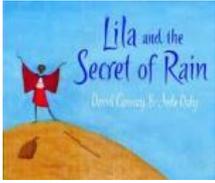
[Jamela's Dress](#) by **Niki Daly**

Jamela so loves the beautiful material that her mother has bought to make a dress to attend a wedding that she wraps it around herself and parades around the South African township where she lives.



[Katie Morag, Of Course!](#) by **Mairi Hedderwick**

A short chapter book containing three episodes in the lives of Katie Morag and her family and friends who live on the Scottish island of Struay.



[Lila and the Secret of Rain](#) by David Conway

There has been no rain in Lila's Kenyan village for many weeks and "Without water there can be no life", her mother says.



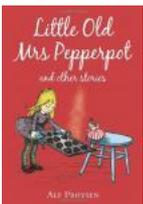
[Lion at School and other stories](#) by Philippa Pearce

A rich mixture of tales for reading aloud or for confident new readers to read for themselves.



[Little Evie in the Wild Wood](#) by Jackie Morris

A story with strong echoes of Red Riding Hood. Little Evie meets a she wolf in the wood.



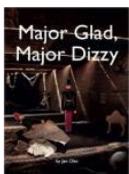
[Little Old Mrs Pepperpot and other stories](#) by Alf Proysen

Mrs Pepperpot is an old woman who shrinks unexpectedly at the most inconvenient moments and this leads her into humorous and sometimes dangerous situations.



[Magic Beans](#) published by David Fickling Books

A compendium of fourteen famous fairy tales interpreted by highly regarded children's writers.



[Major Glad, Major Dizzy](#) by Jan Oke

An innovative book to share with children which will help them gain a conceptual understanding of history.



[Man on the Moon \(a day in the life of Bob\)](#) by Simon Bartram

It's Bob's job to keep the Moon clean and tidy. He also welcomes tourist spaceships and gives guided tours.



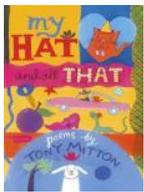
Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett

Sunny finds life with his typically close meerkat family somewhat claustrophobic and sets off to see the world.



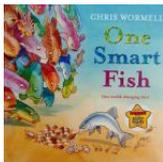
Mrs Cockle's Cat by Philippa Pearce

Mrs Cockle's cat Peter disappears from their London home in search of fresh fish.



My Hat and All That by Tony Mitton

A poetry collection for younger children, featuring everyday things written about in everyday language.



One Smart Fish by Chris Wormell

A (r)evolutionary fable of how one fish, smarter than all the others in the ocean, longs to walk upon the land.



Orion and the Dark by Emma Yarlett

Orion has a whole list of things he is scared of which are comically mapped out on the page. But the one thing that scares him more than anything else is ... the Dark!



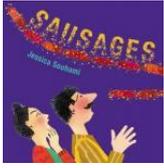
Poems to Perform by Julia Donaldson

A careful selection of poems both familiar and new that lend themselves to being performed in a range of collaborative ways.



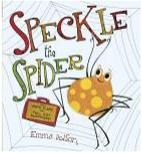
Rama and the Demon King by Jessica Souhami

An eloquent retelling of the story, taken from the Indian epic the Ramayana, of how Prince Rama rescues his wife Sita and destroys Ravana, the ten-headed king of all the demons, with the help of Hanuman and the Monkey army.



Sausages by Jessica Souhami

A retelling of a folk tale about being careful what you wish for. John the woodcutter rescues an elf who grants him three wishes.



Speckle the Spider by Emma Dodson

Speckle knows he is a special spider but he is just not appreciated at home so he hitches a ride on a banana boat from the Bahamas.



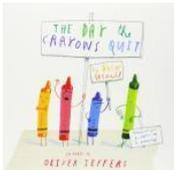
The Colour of Home by Mary Hoffman

This picture book lets us into the world of Hassan, a young boy who has just arrived in Britain from Somalia.



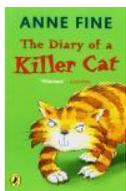
The Dark by Lemony Snicket

Join a brave boy on his journey to meet the dark, and see why it will never bother him again.



The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Duncan's crayons desperately want to communicate with him so each of them writes him a letter.



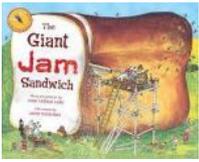
The Diary of a Killer Cat by Anne Fine

A cat's eye view of a week in which his family fail to appreciate the results of his hunting - and blame him for killing next door's rabbit when it wasn't him.



The Dragon with a Big Nose by Kathy Henderson

These are odes to the urban environment - a single poet collection for younger children.



[The Giant Jam Sandwich](#) by John Vernon Lord

The story, told in rhyming couplets, of how the resourceful villagers of Itching Down, hatch an ingenious plan to rid their community of a plague of wasps.



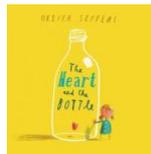
[The Girl with the Parrot on her Head](#) by Daisy Hirst

A picture book about friendship and fears that demonstrates subtle psychological awareness.



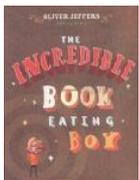
[The Great Piratical Rumbustification](#) by Margaret Mahy

The pirates are restless and longing for a party – ‘a peppery, parrot party, a pirate party’.



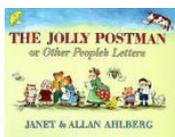
[The Heart and the Bottle](#) by Oliver Jeffers

A curious child, saddened by loss, shuts away her heart in a bottle and seals off her wonderment at the world.



[The Incredible Book Eating Boy](#) by Oliver Jeffers

Henry loves to consume books, quite literally.



[The Jolly Postman](#) by Allan Ahlberg

Sub-titled ‘Other People’s Letters’, this is a stupendous and original picture book.



[The Julian Stories](#) by Ann Cameron

Emotionally warm stories about an African-American family told in the first person by Julian, the elder of two young brothers.



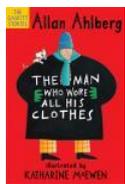
The Magic Bojabi Tree by Dianne Hofmeyr

There is a drought on the plains of Africa and the animals are hungry.



The Magic Finger by Roald Dahl

The narrator of this tale is a young girl whose finger has magic powers which become active when she is angry.



The Man Who Wore All His Clothes by Allan Ahlberg

In a book which crosses the divide between picture books and first chapter books, readers are introduced to the Gaskitt family.



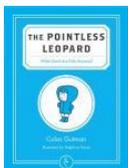
The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark by Jill Tomlinson

A cunning story that will help children who are afraid of the dark to appreciate it and be unafraid.



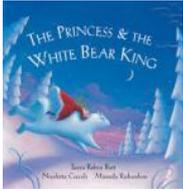
The Pirates Next Door by Jonny Duddle

Matilda is delighted when her new neighbours turn out to be a pirate family, the Jolley-Rogers. The rest of the inhabitants of the dull seaside town where she lives are less than thrilled.



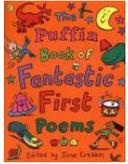
The Pointless Leopard by Colas Gutman

All children love going to the countryside, don't they? Not Leonard, whose parents assume he must appreciate its splendour.



The Princess and the White Bear King by Tanya Robyn Batt

An amalgam of Scandinavian folk tales The Black Bull of Norraway, The White Bear King and East of the Sun, West of the Moon which also has resonances with many other traditional stories.



The Puffin Book of Fantastic First Poems by June Crebbin

A lively collection of poems which are excellent to read aloud.



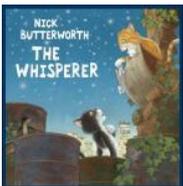
The Shrimp by Emily Smith

When his new teacher asks her class to do a wildlife project over the summer holidays, Ben Shrimpton takes the opportunity to expand his knowledge of seashells.



The Story Tree by Hugh Lupton

The seven stories in this collection include familiar European tales as well as African, American, Indian and Jewish stories.



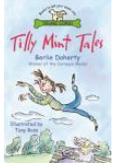
The Whisperer by Nick Butterworth

A story in the tradition of Romeo and Juliet and West Side Story – Monty and Amber fall in love despite the fact that their families form rival gangs.



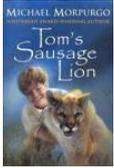
There Are Cats in This Book by Viviane Schwarz

An inventive interactive book in which three playful cats directly address the readers, imploring them to keep turning the pages to make new discoveries.



Tilly Mint Tales by Berlie Doherty

Like a modern day Mary Poppins, whenever Mrs Hardcastle looks after Tilly Mint magical adventures always happen.



Tom's Sausage Lion by Michael Morpurgo

When Tom goes out to fetch some logs on Christmas Eve he sees a lion with a string of sausages hanging from its mouth.



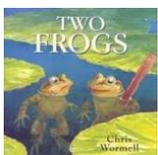
Toys in Space by Mini Grey

Seven toys are left out in the garden one summer night and Wonder Doll tells them a story to help the hours of darkness pass.



Traction Man is Here! by Mini Grey

A boy receives an action figure as a Christmas present and the first half of this inventive picture book shows Traction Man's exciting adventures.



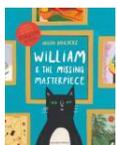
Two Frogs by Chris Wormell

Two frogs sit on a lily pad in a blue and green watery environment that seems to stretch to infinity but is in fact a large pond.



Wild by Emily Hughes

Wild eyed with wonder, a small girl stares out from the cover of this picture book, the pupils of her eyes wide and luminous.



William & the Missing Masterpiece by Helen Hancocks

William is a cat with an international reputation for solving mysteries.



Winnie-the-Pooh by A A Milne

A well-established classic which many children may have met only through Disney cartoons.



Winter's Child by Angela McAllister

Tom wishes that winter would last forever. He inhabits a winter wonderland full of sparkling snowflakes and iridescent icicles.



Zeraffa Giraffa by Dianne Hofmeyr

A picture book inspired by the true story of a giraffe sent as a gift to the King of France by the Great Pasha of Egypt in the 1820s.