

Book Suggestions to Develop the Reader

Upper Keystage 2 (years 5 and 6)

Here is our selection of books for Years 5 and 6, carefully chosen to further develop the reader. There is a mixture of classics as well as lesser-known books to choose from.

Challenging & Developing Young Readers

There are five types of texts that it would be beneficial for all children have access to in order for them to successfully navigate reading a wide range of books with confidence. These texts are complex beyond the usual level of demand and require more from the reader than other types of books.

Archaic Language

The vocabulary, grammar and cultural references of texts over 50 or 100 years old are vastly different and usually more complex than texts written today.

Non-Linear Time Sequences

In most stories, time tends to unfold with consistency; a story is narrated in a given style with a structure that remains the same. In more complex books, time moves in fits and start. It sometimes doubles back. The only way to master such books is to have read them time and again and to be carefully introduced to them by a thoughtful teacher or parent.

Narratively Complex

Books are sometimes narrated by an unreliable narrator. Some books have non-human narrators such as the horse that tells the story in *Black Beauty*. Others have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines. These are far harder to read than books with a single plot line and children need to experience these as well.

Symbolic Texts

Texts which have metaphorical or symbolic meaning. This indirect approach creates complexity by attaching additional meaning to an object, action or name.

Resistant Texts

These are texts written to deliberately resist easy meaning-making by readers; perhaps half of the poems ever written fall into this category. Meaning has to be assembled around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues

ARCHAIC TEXTS

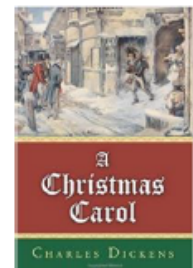


Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	1719	108
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	N/A
Swiss family Robinson	Johann David Wyss	1812	496
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	1838	374
A Tragic Story (poem)	William Makepeace Thackeray	1840	N/A
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	108
Tell-Tale Heart	Edgar Allen Poe	1843	64
The Raven	Edgar Allen Poe	1845	46
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	N/A
Charge of the Light Brigade (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1854	N/A
Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Jules Verne	1864	208
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	N/A
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	1876	288
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	1877	208
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	1882	250
The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood	Howard Pyle	1883	194
The Happy Prince and Other Tales	Oscar Wilde	1888	182
The Jungle Book	Rudyard Kipling	1894	256
Moonfleet	John Meade Faulkner	1898	256

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz	L. Frank Baum	1900	304
Just So Stories	Rudyard Kipling	1902	240
The Call of the Wild	Jack London	1903	66
The Highwayman	Alfred Noyes	1906	32
White Fang	Jack London	1906	272
Anne of Green Gables	Lucy Maud Montgomery	1908	416
Wind in the Willows	Kenneth Grahame	1908	288
If (poem)	Rudyard Kipling	1910	N/A
The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	1911	224
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	N/A
Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	N/A
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A
Swallows and Amazons	Arthur Ransome	1930	528
Ballet Shoes	Noel Streatfeild	1936	352
The Hobbit	J. R. R. Tolkien	1937	368
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	1956	304
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce	1958	240
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	1962	256
Tales of Terror Series <i>(archaic in style)</i>	Chris Priestly	2007	256

NON-LINEAR TIME SEQUENCES

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	1843	108
Around the World in 80 Days	Jules Verne	1872	304
Holes	Louis Sachar	1998	240
Not the End of the World	Kate Atkinson	2002	336
SilverFin (Young Bond)	Charlie Higson	2005	400
A Long Walk to the Water	Linda Sue Park	2010	121
Wolf in the White Van	John Darnielle	2014	224
An Eagle in the Snow	Michael Morpurgo	2015	272
Time Travelling with a Hamster	Ross Welford	2015	400
Five Children on the Western Front	Kate Saunders	2015	336
The Clockwork Sparrow	Katherine Woodfine	2015	336
The Nowhere Emporium	Ross Mackenzie	2015	288
Cosmic	Frank Cottrell-Boyce	2015	384
The Many Worlds of Albie Bright	Christopher Edge	2016	208
The Eye of the North	Sinead O'Hart	2017	352
1000 Year Old Boy	Ross Welford	2018	400
The Light Jar	Lisa Thompson	2018	240
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge	2018	176
Below Zero	Dan Smith	2018	304
The Storm-Keepers Island	Catherine Doyle	2018	320



COMPLEXITY OF THE NARRATOR

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Black Beauty	Anna Sewell	1877	208
The Mixed Up Files of Mrs Basil E. Frankweiler	E.L. Konigsburg	1967	160
Watership Down	Richard Adams	1972	528
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	1982	190
Clockwork	Philip Pullman	1996	96
The Pebble in My Pocket	Meredith Hooper	1996	40
A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lemony Snicket	1999	192
The Wanderer	Sharon Creech	2000	240
Not the End of the World	Kate Atkinson	2002	336
When My Name Was Keoko	Linda Sue Park	2002	208
The Power of Five Series	Anthony Horowitz	2005	400
The Underneath	Kathi Appelt	2008	336
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	2009	288
A Tale Dark and Grimm	Adam Gidwitz	2010	208

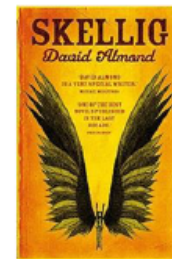
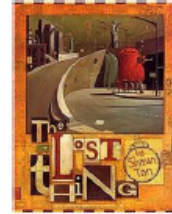


Because of Mr Terupt	Rob Buyea	2010	304
Wonder	R.J. Palacio	2012	316
Varjak Paw	S F Said	2014	256
How to Fly with Broken Wings	Jane Elson	2015	304
Cogheart	Peter Bunzl	2016	368
Pax	Sara Pennypacker	2016	288
All the Things That Could Go Wrong	Stewart Foster	2017	320
Sky Song	Abi Elphinstone	2018	288
Tin	Padraig Kenny	2018	352
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge	2018	176
1000 Year Old Boy	Ross Welford	2018	400
Below Zero	Dan Smith	2018	304
Can You See Me?	Libby Scott	2019	368

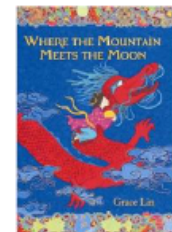


COMPLEXITY OF PLOT/SYMBOL

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
Daffodils (poem)	William Wordsworth	1807	N/A
The Lady of Shalott (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1832	N/A
The Eagle (poem)	Alfred, Lord Tennyson	1851	N/A
A Ballad of London (poem)	Richard Le Gallienne	1866	N/A
Silver (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1907	N/A
The Listeners (poem)	Walter de La Mare	1912	N/A
In Flanders Fields (poem)	John McCrae	1915	N/A
Fog (poem)	Carl Sandburg	1916	N/A
Dreams (poem)	Langston Hughes	1926	N/A
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien	1937	368
The Giver	Lois Lowry	1993	256
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman	1995	448
Clockwork	Phillip Pullman	1996	96
Harry Potter	J.K. Rowling	1997	352



Skellig	David Almond	1998	176
Shakespeare Stories	Leon Garfield	1998	N/A
The Lost Thing	Shaun Tan	2000	32
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2006	128
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	2008	304
Where the Mountain Meets the Moon	Grace Lin	2009	288
When You Reach Me	Rebecca Stead	2009	208
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	240
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Hargrave	2016	240
Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans	2017	368
The House with Chicken Legs	Sophie Anderson	2018	336
Cicada	Shaun Tan	2018	32



RESISTANT TEXTS

Name of Book	Author	Year	Pages
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	2010	128
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	2015	416
Pseudonymous Bosch	The Secret Series	2012	N/A
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	2011	240
Baaa	David MacCauley	1985	61
Jabberwocky (poem)	Lewis Carroll	1871	N/A
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake	1794	N/A
The Pobble Who Had No Toes (poem)	Edward Lear	1850	N/A
Sky in the Pie (poem)	Roger McGough	1983	N/A
Ozymandias (poem)	Percy Bysshe	1818	N/A
The Island	Armin Greder	2008	32
The Middler	Kirsty Applum	2019	272
Once	Morris Gleitzman	2006	160

