



Feniscowles Primary School
Striving for Excellence



Literature Spine

Year 6

The Feniscowles Literary Journey

At Feniscowles Primary School, our school curriculum places reading at the heart of its design and implementation, fostering a love of reading for all (including teachers!).


Each text in our English curriculum has been carefully selected with the following in mind:

- The context of our school
- The barriers our children face
- Our aim to develop a broad and rich experience of different stories, authors and cultures
- Our intention to provide a wide range of purposeful cross-curricular links


From this, we have created a Literature Spine for every year group. Our carefully chosen literature spine from EYFS to Year 6 includes a range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Our writing process is built around text led units of work which develop vocabulary, reading and writing skills. Key texts are explored through the areas of learning in Early Years or in detail through English Learning Journeys . This is by no means an exhausted list of the texts we read with our children.

We read EVERY day from a wide range of resources.

Year 6 – Autumn 1

Core Texts	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes: Genre and specific significant writing opportunities.
	<p>Here We Are: Notes for Living on Planet Earth, Jeffers The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse, Mackesy The Invisible, Percival Dulce Et Decorum Est, Owen</p>	<p>Narrative – Description of trenches Persuasive – Political pamphlet (Horses) Recount – Newspaper article Discussion - Speech (for/against being a conscientious objector) Poetry – Poem based on the theme of war (classical)</p>
<p>Why these texts? 'War Horse' is poignant and moving story of World War I told from the perspective of Joey, a young farm horse. Joey's story provides the perfect stimulus to develop emotive language and recount writing. 'Archie's War' also offers a unique insight into the realities of daily life during the war through the eyes of a ten year old boy. As the children are able to see a variety of perspectives through the different accounts of war within the book, this text allows the children to provide different viewpoints and evidence for these viewpoints within discussion writing.</p> <p>Why now in their journey? In Year 6, in History, the children begin a learning journey around world conflict. These texts explore the experiences of people and animals during the war, allowing the children to draw upon their historical knowledge and vocabulary to inform their learning in English.</p> <p>How do these texts contribute to the 'Feniscowles Child'? 'War Horse' touches upon themes of friendship, bravery and courage. The story helps to promote the notion that it is important to show endeavour and perseverance when confronted with challenges. The texts studied as part of the English learning journey enable the children to explore the value of diversity by showing that people can hold hugely differing viewpoints to political issues such as war and highlighting the importance of considering the perspectives of others.</p>		

Year 6 – Autumn 2

Core Texts	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes: Genre and specific significant writing opportunities.
	<p>My Secret War Diary by Flossie Albright, Williams The Story of the Second World War for Children 1939-1945, Chrisp Rose Blanche, McEwan and Innocenti Battle Bunny, Scieszka, Barnett, Myers The Christmas Truce, Duffy and Roberts</p>	<p>Persuasive - Innovating Chamberlain's Speech Recount – Diary of the day war was declared Narrative – Story of the evacuation retold from the perspective of Willie Instructional – How to survive the Blitz Narrative – Retelling part of the story Explanatory/Manifesto – Writing in the role of Battle Bunny, Plan for World Domination Recount – Soldier's letter home</p>
<p>Why these texts? The modern classic 'Goodnight Mister Tom' contains poignant and powerful writing and looks at World War II through the child Willie's perspective, specifically the impact of the war evacuation on people's lives. The story provides an excellent stimulus for recount and narrative writing as the children are able to empathise with young Willie. 'War Boy' raises interesting questions and leads to thoughtful discussions about this period of history. The children are able to draw upon knowledge and vocabulary acquired from their reading within cross-curricular writing opportunities.</p> <p>Why now in their journey? In the second part of the Autumn term, the Year 6 children study the period of history during World War II. These texts support the children's learning in History as it enables the children to express their views about key aspects of the war.</p> <p>How do these texts contribute to the 'Feniscowles Child'? In the story of 'Goodnight Mister Tom', Willie's life with Tom is better than his life with his mother, raising sensitive discussions about the family life that Willie has left. The themes of friendship, love and compassion are strong with the story. Willie and Tom's relationship shows the positive impact that caring from others, despite initial differences, can have upon your life.</p>		

Year 6 – Spring 1

Core Texts	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes: Genre and specific significant writing opportunities
 	<p>Polar Survival Handbook, Green Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet, Winter How to Make the World a Better World: For Every Kid that wants to Make a Difference, Swift Snow and Snow, Hughes Flotsam, Wiesner A Polar Bear Explorers' Club, Bell & Tomic</p>	<p>Persuasive - Letter of application for joining Shackleton's Crew Recount – Diary from perspective of member of Shackleton's crew Report – Information about the Antarctic Instructional – Survival guide Poetry – Personification poem based on the theme of snow Report – Impact of climate change on the world Narrative – Letter to the world about what has happened in role of camera</p>

Why these texts?

'Shackleton's Journey' is a thought-provoking, work of non-fiction in which Gill retells the true, heroic story of Shackleton and his crew's expedition in the Antarctica. This text is a wonderful stimulus for persuasive and recount writing opportunities. 'Climate Change' is an important part of the children's literary journey as we strive to develop our children's awareness of global issues and help the children to become responsible citizens. The children are able to draw upon the factual information and vocabulary explored within the context of the text in cross-curricular writing opportunities.

Why now in their journey?

The texts chosen have connections with the Year 6 Geography learning on the climate and how it is affecting our world. As the children will soon be embarking on their new chapter at high school, 'Shackleton's Journey' supports the idea that the children can achieve their dreams if they show commitment and face new challenges with a determined, positive attitude.

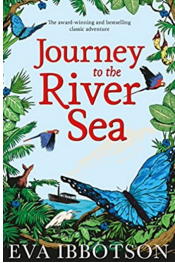
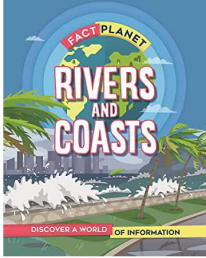
How do these texts contribute to the 'Feniscowles Child'?

'Shackleton's Journey' helps to promote the value of endeavour. The inspiring story and bravery shown by Shackleton and his crew shows that when you 'strive for excellence' absolutely anything is possible.

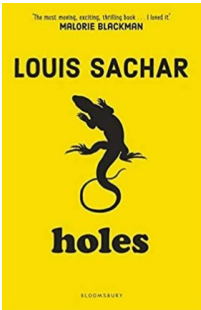
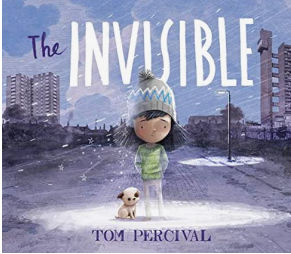
Year 6 – Spring 2

Core Texts	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes: Genre and specific significant writing opportunities
 	<p>Macbeth #Killingit, Shakespeare & Carbone Macbeth United: A Football Tragedy, Rosen and Ross How to Cook Children, Howard and Stimson Children who Changed the World: Incredible True Stories about Children's Rights, Williams The Undefeated, Alexander The British, Zephaniah Red: A Crayon's Story, Hall</p>	<p>Narrative – Rewriting scene within the play Instructional – How to cook a child Recount – Biographical writing about the impact of a child's actions on the world Poetry – theme of identity Recount – Emotive letter</p>
<p>Why these texts? We feel that it is important for our children to experience texts by a variety of writers, including one of the most famous poets and playwrights in the world, William Shakespeare. Studying the archaic text 'Macbeth' helps to prepare the children for their learning in KS3. It is emotionally demanding and provides the perfect stimulus for endless writing opportunities. The text 'The Extraordinary Life of Malala Yousafzai' is highly topical in light of the events taking place in Afghanistan at the moment. The story of her life inspires our Year 6 children and provides a great stimulus for biographical writing.</p> <p>Why now in their journey? In Year 6, in R.E., the children study the religion of Islam. The book of Malala's life helps to support the children's religious and cultural understanding.</p> <p>How do these texts contribute to the 'Feniscowles Child'? The story of Malala Yousafzai's life so far promotes a highly inspirational message, showing our children what can be achieved when you stand up for what you believe in, using peaceful means. With the context of our school being predominantly white British, the book helps to broaden children's understanding of a different culture and shows how diverse the world is. Her story highlights the importance of treating people with respect and the equality of men and women.</p>		

Year 6 – Summer 1

Core Texts	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes: Genre and specific significant writing opportunities
 	<p>Tuesday, Weisner Rivers and Coasts, Geographic The River, Bloom I Asked the River, Bloom Poems from the Green and Blue Planet, Mahfouz River Stories, Knapman, Lindsay & Montano Nen and the Lonely Fisherman, Eagleton & Mayhew</p>	<p>Persuasive – Letter writing Narrative – Story from the perspective of one of the frogs Explanatory – Rivers Poetry – Based upon Bloom’s poems</p>
<p>Why these texts? ‘Journey to the River Sea’, set in the early 1900s in South America, helps to broaden the children’s experiences beyond their present time, location and cultures. It provides a wonderful opportunity for descriptive writing and opens up other different writing opportunities led by the children’s needs and interests, allowing them to use their English skills to showcase what they are able to do. The informative text ‘Rivers and Coasts’ provides a wonderful stimulus for explanatory writing about rivers in which the children are able to explore different levels of formality.</p> <p>Why now in their journey? In Geography, in Year 6, the children study the features and processes of rivers, as well as investigating the importance of mountains. The theme of the importance of the natural world runs through ‘Journey to the River Sea’, linking nicely with the children’s learning in the wider curriculum. The carefully chosen texts provide meaningful curriculum links and the non-fiction texts particularly help to support the children’s geographical understanding.</p> <p>How do these texts contribute to the ‘Feniscowles Child’? Following on from the story of Malala, the book ‘Journey to the River Sea’ raises interesting discussions about respect and gender equality. Themes of friendship run through the story and the importance of showing kindness and compassion towards others, regardless of any of your differences.</p>		

Year 6 – Summer 2

Core Text	Wider Reading	Writing Outcomes Genre and specific writing opportunities
 	<p>Body Talk, Zephaniah You Are Awesome: Find your confidence and dare to be brilliant at (almost) anything, Syed & Triumph</p>	<p>Non-Chronological Report Recount – Diary from their own perspective Report – Letter to the Major</p>

Why these texts?

'Holes' is a compelling novel and includes characters which the children are able to empathise with. Although 'Holes' and 'Invisible' are contrasting texts in many ways, the theme of empathy also runs through the moving picture book. Both texts provide the perfect stimulus for emotive language and recount writing.

Why now in their journey?

As the children are making their transition from Feniscowles Primary School to High School, 'Holes' raises interesting discussions about the consequence of choices. 'Invisible' allows us to explore the theme of identity and encourages the children to see that we all have the right to belong somewhere.

How do these texts contribute to the 'Feniscowles Child'?

The important themes of endeavour and the value of friendship run through 'Holes'. It highlights that we can learn from mistakes in our life and make positive changes. The story 'Invisible' opens up discussions about inequality and poverty, which can help us to navigate the challenges that may come our way in a VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) world.