

The St Patrick's Reading Spine

In his book 'Reading Reconsidered', Doug Lemov points out that there are five types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence. These are complex and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

The five text types are:

Archaic Language

The vocabulary, usage, syntax and context for cultural reference of texts over 50 or 100 years old are vastly different and typically more complex than texts written today. The children need to be exposed to and develop proficiency with antiquated forms of expression to be able to read more complex texts.

Non-Linear Time Sequences

A story is narrated in a given style with a given rhythm but in the best books time moves in fits and starts. It doubles back, may include flashbacks, time travel, multiple plots happening at different times or the start of the book being the end result. These books enable children to restructure the events chronologically in their mind as they read.

Narratively Complex

Some books have multiple intertwined and apparently (for a time) unrelated plot lines, or different types of narrators. They may be told by a narrator who isn't aware of everything which happens in a story. Other books have non-human narrators such as the horse who tells the story in Black Beauty.

Figurative/Symbolic Text and Complexity of plot

Texts which can be interpreted to reveal a hidden meaning, typically a moral or political one. For example, Jiminy Cricket represents a conscience in 'Pinocchio'. These texts can also present more complicated plots which are interwoven throughout the narrative.

Resistant Texts

This refers to texts which are difficult to understand, texts that deliberately resist comprehension. You have to assemble meaning around nuances, hints, uncertainties and clues. Many poems also fall into this category.

Ofsted's English report (March, 2024) outlines *"the choice of texts for English lessons should be based on literary merit."*

The texts selected have been chosen with this in mind and to ensure all year groups cover the 5 Plagues of Reading. Furthermore, the texts are chosen to reflect the diversity of our children and enhanced through our in class diversity libraries.

	Advent 1 Narratively complex	Advent 2 Archaic	Lent 1 Non-linear time sequence	Lent 2 Figurative/complexity of plot	Pentecost 1 Archaic: Shakespeare or Traditional Tales	Pentecost 2 Resistant texts
Year 1	The day the crayons quit The Comet The enormous crocodile The 3 little wolves and the big bad pig	Where the wild things are Aesop Fables x 2: Hare and the tortoise Sun and the wind The Nativity Story	The Perfect Fit Oh the places you'll go The proudest blue Gruffalo's child	Leo and the Octopus Cloud Babies Lost Clean up	Ghanian Goldilocks Three Billy Goats Gruff The Ugly Duckling	I want my hat back Lost and Found Ning Nang Nong (poem)
Year 2	Meerkat mail Vlad and Great Fire of London Esiotrot Little Red and the very hungry lion	Magic Faraway Tree Aesop Fables x2: The boy who cried wolf Lion and the mouse The Night before Christmas	When the rain comes Sulwee Who's afraid of the Big Bad Book The wall and the wild	Everything changes The chickens build a wall It's a no money day The 3 little pigs and the big bad book	Puss in Boots Princess and the Pea Jack and the beanstalk	Colour Monster Books with no pictures Ning Nang Nong (poem)
Year 3	James and the Giant peach The Case of the Lost Boy	How to Train your Dragon How the camel got his hump	The Butterfly Lion Dominic grows sweetcorn	Dragon post The Girl who never makes mistakes	Hurly Burly: Macbeth Mayhem	Rhythm of rain The Journey
Year 4	Witches The Great Chocoplot	Minotaur The Emperor's new clothes	Swimming against the storm The Abominables	The Girl who stole an Elephant The Song of Dolphin Boy	Fortune's Fool: A Romeo Rollercoaster	Varjak Paw The mysteries of Harris Burdick
Year 5	War Horse Pig Heart Boy	Merry Adventures of Robin Hood Jungle Book Rumaysa: A Fairytale	Holes The Explorer	All the things that could go wrong	Macbeth	Secret of a Sun King A Kind of Spark