



Hardwicke Parochial Primary Academy Reading Spine:

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Year 3</u>	<u>Year 4</u>	<u>Year 5</u>	<u>Year 6</u>
We're Going on a Bear Hunt Elmer	The Gruffalo Julia Donaldson The Lion Inside Julia Bright	Saint George and the Dragon by Louie Stowell	The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain	A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park	Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo	A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson
After the Storm The Hedgehog's Balloon Stick Man	The Snail and the Whale Julia Donaldson Repunzal	The Nutcracker by Emma Helbrough	Farm Boy by Michael Morpurgo	Letters from The Lighthouse by Emma Carroll	Wonder by R. J. Palacio (Lots of the values!)	The Last Year by Matt Goodfellow
Jack and the Beanstalk Jody's Beans Frog in Love	Percy and the Park Keeper The Three Little Pigs	The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame	The Iron Man by Ted Hughes	The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman	The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie	The Missing by Micheal Rosen
The Very Hungry Caterpillar The Superworm	Where the Wild things are Peace at Last	The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett	Charlotte's Web by E.B. White	The boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf	Oranges in No Man's Land by Elizabeth Laird	The Silver Sword by Ian Serrallier
Handa's Surprise Rumble in the Jungle	Gorilla Cinderella	It was a Dark and Stormy Night by Janet and Allan Ahlberg	The Lion the witch and the wardrobe by C.S. Lewis	When the Mountains Roared by Jess Butterworth	Clockwork by Philip Pullman	Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird
Katie and the Dinosaurs T-Rex on Tour	The Tiger who came for tea	The Railway Children By Enid Nesbit	Nim's Island by Wendy Orr	Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin	Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundall

Our School Values:

Friendship	Courage	Service
Forgiveness	Perseverance	Respect



Possible Background Knowledge Opportunities:

<u>Reception</u>	<u>Background knowledge</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Background knowledge</u>	<u>Year 2</u>	<u>Background knowledge</u>
We're Going on a Bear Hunt Elmer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Exploring nature (e.g., forests, rivers, caves). Adventure and perseverance. Animal habitats, especially bears. Patterns and colours in nature. Elephant behaviour and habitats. 	The Grufallo Julia Donaldson The Lion Inside Julia Bright	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Woodland animals, predator-prey relationships. Animal characteristics, behaviours (e.g., lions and mice). Bravery, and confidence building. The concept of inner strength and self-belief. 	Saint George and the Dragon by Louie Stowell	Myths and legends from different cultures. The concept of bravery and heroism. Medieval knights, castles, and dragons.
After the Storm The Hedgehog's Balloon Stick Man	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Weather patterns and storms. Helping others and community problem solving. Forest animals and their homes. Hedgehog characteristics and habits. The physics of balloons and air. Problem solving and teamwork. Seasonal changes and weather. 	The Snail and the Whale Julia Donaldson Repunzal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Oceanic exploration, teamwork, and adventure. Geography and travel (e.g., mountains, icebergs, coral reefs). Traditional fairy tales and their elements. Castles, towers, and medieval life. 	The Nutcracker by Emma Helbrough	The story of The Nutcracker ballet and its music by Tchaikovsky. Christmas traditions and celebrations. Magical realism and imagination.



	Family roles and reunions. The importance of trees in ecosystems.				
Jack and the Beanstalk Jody's Beans Frog in Love	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traditional fairy tales and storytelling. Plant growth and life cycles (e.g., beans). Morals of greed versus bravery. 2. Planting and growing beans. The patience needed for gardening. 3. Amphibian characteristics and behaviour. Expressing emotions and forming connections. The concept of love and relationships. 	Percy and the Park Keeper The Three Little Pigs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The role of park keepers and caring for green spaces. Seasonal changes in nature. Forest animals and their activities. 2. Construction materials and their properties (e.g., straw, wood, bricks). Problem-solving and critical thinking. Themes of preparation and hard work. 	The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame	River and woodland habitats and animals. Friendship and camaraderie. Edwardian life and traditions (e.g., boating, picnics).
The Very Hungry Caterpillar The Superworm	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lifecycle of a butterfly, days of the week, and healthy eating. 2. Worms and their role in soil health. 	Where the Wild things are Peace at Last	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Family roles and problem solving. 2. Family roles and dynamics. Nighttime routines and the 	The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett	Gardening and plant growth. The concept of healing through nature. Life in Victorian/Edwardian



	The concept of superheroes and helping others.		importance of sleep. Soundscapes and noises in different environments.		England, including class differences.
Handa's Surprise Rumble in the Jungle	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. African culture, fruits, and kindness. 2. Jungle habitats and animals. Rhyming patterns and playful language. Environmental awareness. 	Gorilla Cinderella	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gorilla behaviour and habitats. Parent-child relationships and emotional connections. Imagination as a tool for exploring feelings. 2. Fairy tales and their traditional storytelling elements. Kindness, perseverance, and fairness. Symbolism in stories (e.g., the glass slipper). 	It was a Dark and Stormy Night by Janet and Allan Ahlberg	Elements of suspense and mystery in storytelling. Camping, wilderness, and outdoor survival. The role of creativity in overcoming fear.
Katie and the Dinosaurs T-Rex on Tour	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dinosaur species and their characteristics. Fossils and palaeontology. Adventure and exploration. 2. Dinosaur exhibits and museums. T- 	The Tiger who came for tea	Table manners, imaginative play, and animal behaviour.	The Railway Children By Enid Nesbit	Early 20th-century England and life near the railways. The role of railways in transportation and industry. Themes of family resilience, kindness, and community.



	Rex facts and popular culture.				
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Year 3	<u>Background knowledge</u>	Year 4	<u>Background knowledge</u>	Year 5	<u>Background knowledge</u>	Year 6	<u>Background knowledge</u>
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	American history in the 19th century (e.g., life on the Mississippi River). Rafts and river travel. Friendship and themes of freedom. Understanding historical context and attitudes (slavery and equality).	A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park	Geography of Africa, particularly Sudan. Access to water and its importance in daily life. The experience of refugees and the challenges of displacement. Resilience and the impact of community projects like water wells.	Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo	World War I: life in the trenches and the role of soldiers. The impact of war on families and communities. Themes of loyalty, courage, and sacrifice. Understanding historical attitudes and values of the time.	A Boy Called Hope by Lara Williamson	Understanding family dynamics and the impact of separation. Exploring emotions like hope, love, and resilience. Developing empathy for children navigating personal challenges. Themes of self-discovery and acceptance.
Farm Boy	Farming practices and rural life in the past. Generational relationships and family heritage. Changes in technology in farming over time.	Letters from The Lighthouse by Emma Carroll	World War II: The Blitz, evacuation, and life on the home front. The role of lighthouses in navigation and safety. Friendship and resilience during wartime.	Wonder by R. J. Palacio (Lots of the values!)	Empathy and understanding for people with facial differences. The importance of kindness and inclusivity. The impact of bullying and the power of friendship. Valuing individuality and diversity.	The Last Year	Covers issues relevant to Year 6 pupils: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SATs stress • Secondary school transition • Changing friendships Themes: Grief and loss (related to Nate's family situation).



			Understanding of codes and secret messages.				Friendship breakdown and loyalty. Creativity and self-expression as emotional outlets. Mental health – recognising and managing strong feelings. Poverty and resilience – the challenges of a low-income home are present but sensitively portrayed.
The Iron Man	Robots and artificial intelligence. Recycling, conservation, and the environment. Themes of friendship, redemption, and cooperation.	The Firework Maker's Daughter by Philip Pullman	Fireworks: how they work and their cultural significance. Asian cultural traditions and myths. Themes of courage, ambition, and the bond between parent and child.	The Nowhere Emporium by Ross MacKenzie	The concept of magical and mysterious places. Creativity and imagination in storytelling. Themes of belonging, loyalty, and discovery. Understanding fantasy as a literary genre.	The Missing by Micheal Rosen	World War II and the Holocaust. The importance of family histories and uncovering the past. Empathy for those who suffered during the Holocaust. Themes of memory, loss, and reconciliation.
Charlotte's Web	Life on a farm (e.g., animals like pigs and spiders). Spider characteristics and web-making.	The boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf	Refugee experiences and the challenges of starting over in a new place. Empathy and kindness toward others.	Oranges in No Man's Land by Elizabeth Laird	The Lebanese Civil War and its effects on children. The role of courage in dangerous situations. Exploring the concept of "no man's land."	The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailier	World War II: the impact on children and families in Europe. Refugee experiences and the challenges of survival.



	Themes of friendship, loyalty, and life cycles.		The importance of friendship and inclusion.		Themes of family, resilience, and overcoming prejudice.		Exploring themes of resilience, hope, and courage. Understanding the importance of friendship and family bonds.
The Lion the witch and the wardrobe.	Fantasy and magical worlds (e.g., talking animals, enchanted forests). World War II and evacuation in England. Themes of courage, sacrifice, and good versus evil.	When the Mountains Roared by Jess Butterworth	Himalayan geography, wildlife, and conservation (e.g., leopards). Adventure and survival in challenging environments. Environmental awareness and protecting endangered species.	Clockwork by Philip Pullman	The history and mechanics of clocks and automata. Themes of fate, choices, and consequences. Germanic folklore and fairy tale elements. Understanding allegory and symbolism in storytelling.	Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird	The Syrian Civil War and the refugee crisis. Understanding the challenges faced by displaced families. Exploring cultural differences and fostering empathy. Themes of resilience, family unity, and perseverance.
Nim's Island	Island habitats and wildlife. Survival skills and self-sufficiency. Imaginative adventures and independence.	Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver	Prehistoric life and hunter-gatherer societies. Forest and wilderness survival skills. Relationships between humans and animals. The significance of ancient myths and shamanic traditions.	Where the Mountain Meets the Moon by Grace Lin	Chinese folktales, Chinese landscapes, traditional tales, life in rural China	Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundall	Life in Russia and its harsh, snowy landscapes. The role of wolves in ecosystems and their symbolism. Themes of bravery, loyalty, and standing up for what's right. Understanding human-animal relationships and survival skills.