

Text rationales for Year 2

Text	Rationale
Goldilocks and the Three Bears	This retelling of the classic fairy tale by Lauren Child is enchanting and playful. The photography and set design exquisitely depict a miniature world which was painstakingly created for this text by the theatre designer Emily Jenkins and photographed by the award-winning Polly Borland. This text gives children a wonderful introduction to the iconic fairy tale and could be read alongside <i>Princess and the Pea</i> (2006) which employs the same collaboration. Lauren Child CBE is a prolific, significant award-winning author/illustrator.
Me and You	This is an inventive and innovative retelling of the classic tale of Goldilocks and the Three Little Bears. This text has a modern setting and explores themes of class, family, happiness and inclusion. It is a great opportunity for children to deconstruct the original tale and discuss the subtle layers that Anthony Browne has teased out in this retelling. Anthony Browne CBE is an award-winning, iconic author and illustrator who was children's laureate from 2009 - 2011.
Goldilocks and Just the One Bear	This is a wonderful, award-winning sequel to the classic fairy tale Goldilocks and the Three Bears. This time it is Baby Bear – all grown up now – who is lost in the city and seeks refuge in a trendy, cosmopolitan home. Whose home could it be? This text provides an opportunity to positively imagine what Goldilocks becomes as an adult. Leigh Hodgkinson is a prolific, award-winning illustrator/author.
Wolves	This humorous text is a wonderful way to encourage children to think about the differences between fiction and non-fiction. Rabbit takes a book out of the library which explores facts about wolves... meanwhile, a fairy tale wolf is lurking hungrily in the background. This can open up discussion with children about what is real and what might not be so real. Links to science can be made, focussing on animals, habitats and food chains. Emily Gravett is a significant author/illustrator who has won the Kate Greenaway Award for illustration.
Jim and the Beanstalk	Raymond Briggs is an iconic author/illustrator who has distinctive style and has written many timeless stories. This text is a great introduction to Brigg's style and is a playful sequel, set in modern Britain, to the classic fairy tale Jack and the Beanstalk. It is a great opportunity for children to deconstruct the original tale and discuss how the plot structure had been retold by Briggs. It can also lead to discussion about helping others and looking after the elderly.
The Journey Home	This beautifully illustrated book tells the poignant story of a group of animals who set out to look for new habitats. This text is a powerful springboard into discussions about global warming, the environment and conservation with children – it is a call to action. This text can be accompanied by <i>There's a Rang-Tan in My Bedroom</i> by the same author. Frann Preston-Gannon is a prolific and significant author-illustrator who has won many awards, including the 'Sendak Fellowship' and was able to spend a month learning from the great Maurice Sendak.
We are Water Protectors	This inspirational book tells the story of the Dakota Access Pipeline protests from the point of view of a Ojibwe girl who joins the protests in order to protect the community's water supply. The story highlights the environmental effects of corrosive, unchecked greed and the importance of people power and protest. Indigenous culture is represented authentically through the highly poetic narration and award-winning illustrations.
House Held up by Trees	This book is a collaboration between Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Ted Kooser and award-winning illustrator Jon Klassen. The story subtly portrays the relationship between a father and his two children who become more estranged as they grow older. It also explores change in nature and the power of nature to reclaim spaces – a great opportunity to learn about trees and gardens. There is a cautionary note in amongst the sparse narrative about the consequences of trying to resist change and not being present for those people who need you.
Dear Earth	This inspirational picture book charmingly blends fiction with non-fiction as we journey through the varied landscapes and habitats of the world with main character Tessa. The story encourages children to appreciate the wonders of the natural world, including the varied animals, oceans and environments, as well as what can be done to protect it. Beautiful illustrations bring each location to life and will open up discussions about the problems the earth faces and the solutions we can all take responsibility for.

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The Bear Under the Stairs	This gorgeous, lyrical text tells the story of a boy called William who is convinced that a bear is living under the stairs. As the story is told in rhyme and uses alliteration, it is a great way for children to review certain phonemes, particularly different ways to make the /a/ sound. The repetitive language 'wham, bang, thump' is also a fun way to encourage children to join in with the reading. It also has strong PSHE links, particularly around overcoming fears and speaking to a trusted adult. Helen Cooper is a significant and prolific author who won the Kate Greenaway award twice for two consecutive books.
The Minpins	This was the last work of literature published by Roald Dahl and was published posthumously a year after his death. This novella is a fantastic introduction to the iconic author and is a great way to talk to children about overcoming their fears and helping others as well as exposing them to the language of a master storyteller at work.
The Bear and the Piano	A magical tale of a talented bear who discovers fame and fortune through his piano playing skills. This text explores themes such as belonging, exploration and overcoming fears. It can encourage healthy discussions with children around what is important in life. This text is also part of a fun trilogy which follows the ups and downs of Bear's life. Award-winning David Litchfield is a significant author-illustrator.
The Owl and the Pussy-cat	This is a classic narrative poem first published in 1871 by pioneering poet Edward Lear who was famous for writing nonsense poetry. It is a great text to introduce children to the narrative poetry genre, providing lots of rhyme and repetition for children to join in with. It is a joyful poem that explores themes of love and adventure. The illustrations by award-winning Charlotte Voake create a vivid and colourful depiction of this fantastical world.
Tadpole's Promise	This lyrical tale tells the love story between a tadpole and a caterpillar. It has strong links to science and life cycles as well as being an allegory for how people and relationships inevitably change over time. There is certainly a cautionary note struck during the final twist of this tale. This text won the Nestle Smarties Book Prize Silver Award in 2003 as well as being longlisted for the Kate Greenaway Award. Jeanne Willis is an award-winning and prolific author and Tony Ross has illustrated many well-known books.
Grandad's Camper	This is an important text in terms of the representation of LGBTQIA+ relationships and portraying different family structures. It is also a story that deals with grief and the importance of sharing memories about cherished people who have passed. It highlights the importance of listening to others and finding ways to show love and care. This debut picture book from award-winning author-illustrator Harry Woodgate won the British Book Awards Nibbie for Children's Illustrated Book of the Year and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, was shortlisted for the Polari Prize, and named as an ALA Stonewall Honor Book.
If All the World Were...	A beautiful and poignant, poetic story for children to enjoy, dealing with issues of grief and loss with an uplifting sense of joy, hope and courage. The story highlights the importance of cherishing memories of people who have passed, and does this in an uplifting, life-affirming way. This story also represents BAME characters and families authentically. Joseph Coelho is an award-winning children's author and poet who is also the Waterstones Children's Laureate for 2022-2024.
The Dragon Machine	This enchanting story deals with issues around self-acceptance and feeling left out. After George has led the dragons out of the city, he realises that he is loved and missed by the world he left behind. This text could lead to further investigations of dragons, using the book Dragonology which also uses the talents of Helen Ward and Wayne Anderson amongst others – both are multi-award-winning. An exciting narrative that will have children wanting to learn all they can about mythical creatures.
Ocean Meets Sky	This text, which has won many awards and honours, combines the quality writing and luminous illustrations of the Fan Brothers. The story highlights the importance of cherishing memories of people who have passed, and does this in an uplifting, life-affirming way. This story also represents BAME characters and families authentically. The Fan Brothers are significant, award-winning author-illustrators and children can continue to enjoy their books following their studies of this text.

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The Great Fire of London	This is a superb book to teach the history of the Great Fire of London. The richly detailed illustrations and text work effectively together to portray 17th century London and the changes it went through during this turbulent time. James Weston Lewis' illustrations are colourful, vivid and bring this period of history to life, including city maps and drawings of London before, during and after the fire. The book highlights how people helped each other through the fire as well as how London and the fire service evolved afterwards.
Rosie Revere, Engineer	This lyrical text follows Rosie who absolutely loves engineering and inventing. Children can get to know Rosie and be inspired by her vision. A vital text, not only to ignite passions about design and technology, but to learn about problem solving and perseverance. It is also a super introduction to the Questioners, a group of children who are role models in different fields, from science to illustration to engineering. Andrea Beaty has a distinctive poetic style and is supported by David Roberts' technical illustrations.
A Walk in London	This is a fantastic book to explore London with children and open their eyes to the various landmarks in the capital. It also models non-fiction writing, factual language as well as the more personal language of a diary entry. Salvatore Rubbino's illustrations are colourful and bring the city to life. Children can also read A Walk in New York or A Walk in Paris to continue their city adventures.
Lizzy and the Cloud	The Fan Brothers are critically acclaimed author-illustrators known for their elegant, whimsical picture books and this is no exception. Children may know some of their other works such as Ocean Meets Sky and The Barnabus Project. Dealing with the emotions around loving something so much that you have to let it go, children will engage with the endearing central characters of Lizzy and Milo as they navigate their newly-established relationship with each other. Obvious links can be made with the water cycle, seasons and the weather, as well how to deal with difficult emotions as they arise.
Last Stop on Market Street	What happens if we look at the world in a different way? This question is explored sensitively as we ride with CJ and his Nana on their weekly bus journey through the city. From disappointment and dissatisfaction to recognition and gratitude, Nana opens CJ's eyes to the beauty all around him with her thoughtful observations and insights. Centring on the wonders of the local community, this book by award-winning duo Matt de la Peña and Christian Robinson will be a great way to open discussions around the diversity of children's own local environments. Lyrical prose reflects the rhythm of the bus and children will be treated to a host of poetic vocabulary which they can draw upon to enhance their own writing.