

Key Stage 1 Fiction

A Dog's Day by Rebecca Rissman

This is an unusually laid out story in that it is in two halves, telling the same story from two points of view. One story is from Rusty the dog and the other from his owner, Rosie.

Augustus and his Smile by Catherine Rayner

A 'finding' story where Augustus goes looking for his smile. And guess what? It is right there under his nose! A good story for structure and language.

Dear Mother Goose by Michael Rosen

A series of short letters from characters in fairy tales/traditional stories. Very good for the beginning of the year if children are familiar with the stories.

Don't Spill the Milk by Stephen Davies and Christopher Corr

A journey story about a little girl carrying milk to her father who is out in the fields watching the goats. A very similar plot to *Handa's Surprise* and *Fatou, Fetch the Water*.

Fatou, Fetch the Water by Neil Griffiths

See above but with more detail and a slightly more patterned text. We have seen wonderful writing based on this text.

How to Hide a Lion at School by Helen Stephens

This is a funny story about a little girl and her lion who goes everywhere with her. When the class take a trip to a museum, the lion goes too but has to hide. Eventually he is discovered but saves the day on the way home.

It's My Birthday by Helen Oxenbury

An interesting way of using instructions to create a birthday cake. Use this to create food for any celebratory occasion.

Knock! Knock! Open the Door by Michaela Morgan

A simple repetitive story based on 'Knock, knock who's there...' Also great for working on PSHE and feelings about people close to us.

Lord of the Forest by Caroline Pitcher

This is a highly patterned text at word, sentence and text level. It is a great text to use where children need to mirror the text structure closely. There is much to magpie in the language.

Man on the Moon – John Lewis Christmas advert

In the sequence this ad is used alongside *Baboon on the Moon* and focuses on the characters' feelings.

No-Bot, the Robot with no Bottom by Sue Hendra

A very funny story about a robot losing his bottom with an ending where he loses his arm. The book invites the reader to create their own story around this event.

Oi Frog! by Kes Grey

This book is based on simple rhyme which is ideal for children in the early part of Year 1. The cat can sit on a mat. A frog can squat on a log. A good way to continue Phase 1 of *Letters and Sounds* while developing phonics knowledge.

Orion and the Dark by Emma Yarlett

This book tells the story of Orion and his great fear of the dark. Dark, however, comes to visit Orion and helps him overcome his fear. Perfect for talking about fears and ways of overcoming them.

Story Box by Anne Laval

This is a box of story cards in jigsaw shapes that can be used to make up a traditional story. This sequence is based on a traditional story and children using the cards to generate an independent story.

Wanted: The Perfect Pet by Fiona Robertson

A lovely book set out in short chapters about a child who wants a pet. This is an ideal text to use when you want Year 2 children to produce an extended piece of writing. The story does include adverts.

Previously by Allan Ahlberg

Writing stories backwards!

Splat Says Thank You by Rob Scotton

A slightly longer picture book about Splat who wants to say 'thank you' to his best friend.

Story Path by Maddalena Matoso

This text is a 'make your own story' text. As you work through the book you choose your own characters, problems and resolutions. The book has sentence starters for each section and then prompts to support more detailed telling of the stories created.

Stuck by Oliver Jeffers

A very funny cumulative story where a kite gets stuck in the tree and then other things are thrown up to try and release it. A good text to use to teach structure.

The Boy Who Cried Ninja by Alex Latimer

A very funny book which is really an adaptation of 'The Boy Who Cried Wolf'. Children can be really inventive with their excuses.

The Day Louis Got Eaten by John Fardell

This is one of those wonderful books where the pictures tell more of the story than the text, providing a fantastic opportunity for children to fill in the gaps.

The Disgusting Sandwich by Gareth Edwards

This story has a repetitive pattern in the middle so an excellent text to focus on structure and a wonderful story for making your own disgusting food.

Traction Man is Here! By Mini Grey

An old favourite of many teachers. However, the book finds its time again because much of it is written in the progressive form. A great book for children to create adventures around toys.

What happens when...? By Delphine Chedrun

This book has questions and then a double page spread illustration to answer the question, e.g. Where do all the odd socks go? Children can use the illustration to answer the questions and can also create their own question and answer.

Boa's Bad Birthday by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

It's Boa the Snake's birthday but all his presents seem most unsuitable. Will any of his friends bring him a suitable present?

Daisy Doodles by Michelle Robinson and Irene Dickson

This book follows a common story pattern in children's literature where a bored child doodles and enters a fantasy world of amazing animals and adventures. The images are photographs when in the real world and drawn with crayons when in the fantasy world. The focus of the sequence is on the use of 'and' as well as speech bubbles, adjectives and alliteration.

Oxford Traditional Tales

Traditional Tales told in wordless picture books.

Naughty Bus by Jan and Jerry Oke

The story of a toy bus given to a child and the adventures they have together. The photographs are amazing.

Mrs Armitage and the Big Wave by Quentin Blake

Mrs Armstrong and her faithful dog Breakspear go surfing, and like all good surfers have to wait some time for the big wave. It is hot waiting, and so extra things are needed to make the wait more comfortable. A fantastic cumulative story.

Key Stage 1 Non-fiction

Chinese New Year (Festivals Around the World) by Grace Jones

This is a simple non-chronological report about a festival which includes captions and labels.

Could a Penguin Ride a Bike? By Bitskoff and Beydoyere

This is a really funny book which uses questions and answers to inform readers about the special features of the penguin.

Dino-Dinners by Manning and Granstrom

A dual text book using a poetic and informative voice, laid out in a particular way. Children can write about any large group of animals or objects.

Now you Know Science: Hot and Cold

A book that introduces the concept of hot and cold in things we use every day, e.g. how we keep warm and cool. (other titles in series: Bright Light, Move it!, It's Electric, What's it Made of?, Magnet Magic)

How to Catch Santa by Reagan and Wildish

This is a lovely set of instructions and essential tips about catching Santa. This does come from a series of books about 'How to...' by the same authors. Inventive and funny.

How to Dress up as a Book Character

This set of instructions would be great to use around World Book Day when children come into school dressed up. You could also use them with any topic where the children need to make a costume such as an assembly or school play or after an author study.

How to Wash a Woolly Mammoth by Robinson and Hindley

This is an imaginary set of instructions that are quite sparse but leave lots of room for children to write the parts that are not included. Funny.

Knights (from the Leapfrog Learners series)

A simple non-chronological report which can be used as a model to write about anything.

Penguins by Emily Bone

A simple non-chronological text to develop sentences and their punctuation.

Reptiles by Angela Royston

This is a simple non-chronological text about reptiles that will allow children to write about any large group of animals, toys, cars etc.

Transport

A non-chronological text with a range of features and presentation that children can choose to use in their own writing. The series also covers rivers, homes, school, seaside and shops. It would make a great text to write after a geographical study.

What Do you Do with a Tail Like This? by Steve Jenkins

Questions and answers using the 'If' construction.

Amelia Earhart by Isabel Sanchez Vegara

This book is part of a series 'Little People, Big Dreams' and tells the story of Amelia Earhart who set new flying records for women and took on challenging and dangerous missions. The sequence focuses on verb tense and the use of subordination.

Ellsworth's Extraordinary Electric Ears by Valorie Fisher

This is an alphabet like no other! Each page is based on a photograph including lots of alliterative objects made up from small-world play and photographed. It is full of challenging vocabulary combined in ways that make it hilarious! The sequence is focussed around vocabulary choices, specifically nouns and noun phrases, adverbs and the possessive

Outdoor Wonderland by Josie Jeffery

An information text that is packed full of instructions for things to make or do outside. Each double-page spread has an introduction, information and instructions.

This is How We Do It by Matt Lamothe

This is a fantastic information text which follows the lives of seven children from around the world. The book includes detail about their everyday lives and provides a genuine window into lives and traditions that may differ from our own.

Key Stage 1 Poetry

A First Poetry Book by Corbett and Morgan

This book is a collection of poems that will delight everyone. The sequence focuses on a range of the poems. In this sequence you can choose one of three elements to focus on: similes and alliteration; language, or word choice and rhyme.

On the Road by Susan Stegall

A wonderful poem for inspiring pupils to describe a journey.

Tell Me a Dragon by Jackie Morris

A beautiful book that is well known by many teachers. Imagine a dragon and then describe it. Perfect!

The Train Ride by June Crebbin

A poem for teaching how to write a 'journey' story with a clear sequence of events.

What I Like! Poems for the Very Young by Gervaise Phinn

This book contains a wonderful range of poetry to read to the class and enjoy.

I Love Bugs! by Emma Dodd

A poem about all the different sorts of bugs that the little boy loves. Guess what his favourite bug is!

Lower Key Stage 2 Fiction

Arthur and the Golden Rope by Joe Todd Stanton

This is a quest. Arthur sets off to save the town from the encroaching cold and ice when The Wolf puts out the fire. There are many obstacles for Arthur to overcome on his journey but Arthur is a born adventurer. Told through text and images, this is a wonderful story.

I Don't Believe It, Archie! by Andrew Norriss

This book is a very funny one where Archie sets off to do normal things but then gets waylaid by unusual happenings. He then forgets to do his original task. Organised by days of the week, this book is great for planning and writing a different type of plot. Each chapter has the blueprint of a comedy.

The Beasties by Jenny Nimmo

This book is constructed around the stories that creatures that live under the bed tell. The book ends with an invitation to tell your own story so this is what the sequence does.

Beyond the Stars by Sarah Webb

For those of you who were upset because the wonderful *King of The Birds* by Helen Ward is no longer available, we have a new version of the story whose language is every bit as rich and rewarding.

There is a sequence for this book in Y5 and 6 as well so if you have a whole KS class, this would be an excellent story to use.

Bill's New Frock by Anne Fine

This must be a modern classic by now, covering the problems that happen when you wake up and you are the opposite sex. A great way to show children how we respond differently to people.

Dragons: Truth, Myths and Legends by David Passes

This book contains stories about dragons with non-chronological reports at the end about each type of dragon.

El Caminante available on YouTube

This narrative unit focuses on the use of film to support the development of language to tell the story.

Fair's Fair by Leon Garfield

A modern classic. Wonderfully written, the sequence focuses on writing the middle to end of the story.

Firebird by Saviour Pirotta

This book is an extended, more complex traditional story based on Stravinsky's ballet. The sequence focuses on the quality of language.

Gregory Cool by Caroline Binch

This book allows children to explore another place with its own customs and traditions. The narrative building block that it develops is the change in attitude of the main character, Gregory, to the place. It could also be used to develop the integration of dialogue in narrative.

Grendel, A Cautionary Tale about Chocolate by David Lucas

This is a lovely story based on the story of King Midas, using chocolate instead of gold. The story structure is quite basic which leaves children the space to think about dialogue and what it can show about a character.

Jack and the Dreamsack by Laurence Anholt

This is a fantasy story that allows children to create imaginary happenings and describe them.

Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister

This is a magical book with gorgeous illustrations. There are places in the text that children can create their own settings such as 'the space between'. To do this they can use the style of writing used throughout the book. The use of fonts can be investigated and included in the final piece of writing, giving children choices about how they present their text.

Little Evie and the Wild Wood by Jackie Morris

This is a wonderful story based on a little girl going into the wild woods and meeting a wolf. However, the wolf is not a baddie. The language is rich – as you would expect from Jackie Morris.

Meerkat Mail by Emily Gravett

This book looks simple but it isn't really. How to create postcards showing feelings about a place that get worse and worse as the week goes on. Fabulous!

Mimi and the Mountain Dragon by Michael Morpurgo

This is a slightly extended version of a tale that again can be used to develop telling longer stories. It could be used in winter time as it is linked to Christmas Eve.

Mirror by Jeannie Baker and **The Day of Ahmed's Secret** by Florence Parry Heide

The National Curriculum talks about books structured in different ways and *Mirror* is one that is. Use the style of *The Day of Ahmed's Secret* to tell the story of the child in Australia and then the child in Morocco.

Paddington goes to Town by Michael Bond

Children write the story of one of the older versions of a Paddington story on video.

The Paperbag Prince by Colin Thompson

A favourite author/illustrator with very strong adverbial language to describe a place.

Oliver and the Seawigs by Reeve and McIntyre

A very funny book telling the story of the adventurous Oliver and how he overcomes the baddie. Our favourite part of the sequence is making your own seawig!

Rapunzel by Charlotte Guillain

A simple retelling of Rapunzel but with an animal twist. Very useful if you have groups of children who are not familiar with common fairy stories/traditional tales.

Story Path by Kate Baker and Madalena Matoso

This is a wonderful book, which allows children to choose and create their own story. Characters, settings and events can all be chosen and if the prompts for story telling on each page are used, a great story can be made. There are also sequences for this book in KS1 and Upper KS2.

Mog's Christmas Calamity – Christmas advert

The story of Mog and how she saves the day at Christmas.

The Julian Stories by Ann Cameron

A warm, loving story about two little boys and the adventures that they get up to. The writing is fantastic, highly patterned and rich.

The Whistling Monster by Jamila Gavin

This is a book of short stories from around the world retold by Gavin. They have wonderful, sometimes poetic language and sentence constructions. This sequence is based on the first story.

Chalk by Bill Thomson

This sequence also draws on two other books by the same author: *Fossil* and *The Typewriter*. A boy takes chalk from a bag and draws a dinosaur. See what happens when they come to life.

The Most Wonderful Thing in the World by Vivian French

A gently satirical fairy tale. A king and queen promise to marry their daughter to the man who can show them the most wonderful thing in the world. Roses, jewels and exotic gifts follow, but it is only when a shy young man steps forward that they realise what the most wonderful thing really is.

Blue John by Berlie Doherty

This is the story about the creation of the stone Blue John told beautifully.

Snow Globe

This short story is a magical mystery: the snow globe has powers to help the main character come to terms with changes in her life.

Monster Slayer by Brian Patten

This is the story of Beowulf retold by Patten in the wonderful Little Gems series from Barrington Stoke. The book is small with thick cream pages and illustrated by Chris Riddell. The telling is action packed, a little gory in places, with poetic use of language.

Lower Key Stage 2 Non-fiction

Alexander Calder (Meet the artist) by Patricia Geis

This is a delightful biography of the artist Alexander Calder. The book takes you through his life and the different types of art he has made, including some that you can too. The paragraphing is clear and easy to mimic. There are several in the series. The Pablo Picasso biography would be suitable for Upper KS2.

Ask Dr K Fisher by Claire Llewellyn

A non-chronological text based on letters between Dr K Fisher and animals with problems. Very funny!

A Walk in London by Salvatore Rubbino

This is a dual-voiced text about a trip around London. The main voice is the excited child, the second voice being information about the various places. Great for securing dialogue and comparing different types of writing.

Beatrice's Dream Life in an African Slum by Karen Lynn Williams

This recount allows for exploration of another culture with a description of Kibera at the end of the book. Strong, uncomplicated sentences that allow children to see different constructions clearly. This text demonstrates the value of only incorporating relevant information.

How to Invent (Beyond the Rubik Cube) by Lynn Huggins-Cooper

This book has a range of text types included in it such as chronological reports and non-chronological reports all organised by the steps necessary to become an inventor.

This is a perfect book for giving children the choice about how they present their work.

Grow Your Own Lettuce

A set of instructions about growing lettuce surrounded by other information such as types of lettuce, harvesting and a calendar. There is a set of instructions about sowing lettuce seed but in fact the whole book is a set of extended instructions. A really useful book to move away from the one page set of simple instructions.

How Santa Really Works by Alan Snow

If you know and love How Dogs Really Work by the same author, then this book is one for you. The whole text is an explanation but with other elements included. Wonderful!

Marvin and Milo Adventures in Science (available on website <http://www.physics.org/marvinandmilo.asp>)

Great for writing in science.

Penguins by Penelope Arlon

This is a lovely book organised non-chronologically but with sections that are chronological, such as the development of a penguin from emperor egg to chick. The images are stunning and so layout on a page would be something for children to explore.

Rainforest Rough Guide by Paul Masson

A text organised around a diary but also including letters, fact files and emails. A good text to use if you want to see how children handle a hybrid text.

Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals by Gabrielle Balkan

This book holds truly amazing information about the bones of animals. It is written as a 'Who am I?' guessing game, almost like a riddle and then a page of information about the animal providing a connection between animal bones and behaviour. It is also very funny.

Everything you need to know about Snakes by John Woodward

This is a sequence that can be used with a whole KS class or a Y3/4 one. The book is a fascinating look at scaly reptiles and contains a range of text types. It is a visual delight.

Until I Met Dudley by Michael Rosen

An explanatory text based on an imaginary way something works and then the real way. Short chunks of writing which allow children to focus on the sentence construction and precise word choice.

Fantastically Great Women who Changed the World by Kate Pankhurst

This very accessible and fascinating book contains thirteen biographies of women from different periods of history. It includes well-known people such as Anne Frank and Amelia Earhart but also other less known women such as Agent Fifi and Sacagawea. The layout invites and intrigues the reader with visual details and pathways through the text.

Lower Key Stage 2 Poetry

Poetic Form – any anthology such as The Works for KS2 or poems found online

This sequence looks at different forms of poetry and ways in which children can respond to poems.

Paint me a Poem by Grace Nichols

This poetry book is based on the idea of poetry in response to works of art. Wonderful. Visit your local gallery/museum and write about their works of art.

A River by Marc Martin

A beautiful book with incredible illustrations that add significantly to the message.

Poetry Pie by Roger McGough

McGough is a well-known poet in schools and this book also deserves to be in all school libraries. Many of the poems play with words. This sequence is based on the poem 'Poetry Pie' and looks at the reader's response to poems. The outcomes of this sequence are to perform and write poetry.

Upper Key Stage 2 Fiction

A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula Le Guin

This narrative unit focuses on writing openings through revealing information, using the backstory of the main character, giving clues to the story and describing the setting. The text is provided with the sequence as it is freely available online.

Antigone by Ali Smith

A wonderful poetic retelling of an ancient story. This book would fit into the 'literary heritage' range included in the curriculum.

A Word in Your Ear by Tony Ross

This sequence is based around the first story in the book – Art. Each narrative unit is based around a building block necessary for fiction writing. This one focuses on building extended description.

A Thief in the Village by James Berry

This is a wonderful book of short stories. The sequence is based around 'The Mouth Organ Boys' and focuses on the use of speech in narrative involving dialect. This would be a good text to explore the balance between dialogue and narrative.

Beowulf by Kevin Crossley Holland

This classic story sequence focuses around a fight and the highly patterned language and constructions.

Black and White by David Macaulay

This is four stories which become one as you move through them. The focus in writing is on handling narrative structure.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and the Race Against Time by Frank Cottrell Boyce

This is a great adventure story where the Tooting family go backwards and forwards in time. There is of course a villain in the form of Tiny Jack who has captured Nanny. A funny, fast-paced book, which takes the family to the time of dinosaurs, the 1920s and 1966.

Christmas Tales by StoryWorld

This resource is a pack of cards containing characters and prompts that are often found in Christmas stories. This sequence asks the children use the cards to create a Christmas story for a younger age group in the school.

The Chronicles of Harris Burdick by Chris Van Allsburg et al

This book is a set of short stories written around Van Allsburg's incredible pictures. This book is a favourite of many teachers.

How the Whale Became by Ted Hughes

Traditional stories told in beautiful language.

Kensuke's Kingdom by Michael Morpurgo

This sequence is focused on one chapter where the island is explored. Description is a key element to this writing along with its relationship to the character's feelings and the plot.

The Day The Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Although this book may not look very complicated on first glance, the way the humour is conveyed is more sophisticated. For example understanding about the colour beige is necessary to appreciate the letter from the beige crayon.

Ice Bear by Jackie Morris

A traditional story where the sequence focuses on structure and language choices.

The Princess' Blankets by Carol Ann Duffy

A beautiful story that teaches quality of language and structure of the story.

The Shadow Cage and other Tales of the Supernatural by Phillippa Pearce

This narrative unit focuses on the building of suspense based around a mystery object.

Story Path by Maddalena Matoso

This is a fantastic book that allows children to choose their own pathway to create a story. We have a sequence for each key stage based on this book. For Upper KS2 the children will create their own version of the book based on a different genre and then write their own story.

The Wolves of Carrumpaw by William Grill and **Wild Animals I Have Known** by Ernest Thompson Seton

The Wolves of Carrumpaw by Grill is a retelling of Seton's work and so this sequence focuses on retelling another of these stories. The sequence also focuses on the images and layout of the text and pictures. It would be a perfect sequence to do towards the end of the year

Spanish Lottery Christmas Advert

Released in November 2015, this is a beautiful advert to show the sharing nature of Christmas.

The Tear Thief by Carol Ann Duffy

Another narrative that focuses on the quality of language including the use of similes. An easy structure to mimic for independent writing.

Varjak Paw by S.F. Said

This sequence is based around building a chase scene so although it is a longish novel, the children are developing one aspect of the writing.

Weslandia by Paul Fleischmann

The story of a child creating his own civilisation as a response to being an outsider. Clear, colourful images with different framing devices. Some sophisticated themes such as non-conformists conforming. Spend some time cracking the code on the endpapers to find a message from the illustrator.

Flood by Alvaro F Villa

A wordless picture book showing the devastating consequences of a flood. A family is forced to leave their home behind. Beautifully atmospheric illustrations means that there is lots of scope for pupils to add their own descriptions and write a compelling story.

Classics Unfolded: The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Pupils produce their own Classics Unfolded for an extended novel of their own choice.

Blackberry Blue by Jamila Gavin

In this collection of stories, Jamila Gavin creates new fairy tales in different settings and times but interwoven with subtle echoes of stories familiar to us all. The challenge for the children is to see if they can emulate this writer to create their very own fairy tale.

Cloth Lullaby by Louise Bourgeois

This is a beautifully written and illustrated biography of Louise Bourgeois, an artist and weaver. The lyrical text in the book is contrasted with the factual biography at the end of the book so there is an opportunity for children writing at greater depth to demonstrate assured and conscious control over vocabulary and grammatical structures along with the register appropriate to audience and purpose.

Harry Potter: A Journey Through a History of Magic by the British Library's curatorial team

This book is a fascinating and eclectic collection of all things relating to magic through the ages. The thread linking them all is the Harry Potter books and the integration of the exhibited items into the story plots. Just as in an exhibition, the organisation enables the reader to move back and forth, follow a trail of interest through the pages, dip in and out or read in greater depth. Snippets of JK Rowling's original handwritten or typed drafts, her drawings, notes, details on the illustrations by Jim Kay and quotations from the books weave their way across the pages creating a book that is truly hard to put down..

Upper Key Stage 2 Non-fiction

A Drove of Bullocks by Patrick George

This text is a series of short non-chronological reports using very poetic language and sentence structures.

Animalium by Jenny Broom

A scientific book organised around the tree of life. It is organised chronologically over a vast period of time. It contains information about the animals and their habitats. This is short text, 2 or 3 paragraphs and is impersonal.

There is now a history version of this book available called *Historium*, set out in exactly the same way so you could use that for an historical theme.

Are Humans Damaging the Atmosphere? by Catherine Chambers

This is a detailed information text with a very clear structure and layout, which could be used to write about anything children are interested in. Questions are used for a variety of purposes throughout the text.

Charles Dickens: Scenes from an Extraordinary Life by Manning and Granstrom

This biography provides a perfect model for an author study. Within the text there are snippets of information and comic strips. Children could consider the best ways to present the information in their own text. There is a similar book about William Shakespeare.

Dragonology from Templar Publishers

This book is a formal, non-chronological text about an imaginary animal. Again, the format would allow children to choose how they present information in their own text.

Eats, Shoots and Leaves for Children: Why Commas Really Do Make a Difference by Lynne Truss and Bonnie Timmons

This is a short, 1 week sequence looking at the use of commas to avoid ambiguity.

Extreme Animals by Nicola Davies.

A non-chronological report told in a variety of forms, e.g. comic strip. It is very funny and would link well to writing about adaptation linked to science.

How to Live Like a Stone Age Hunter by Anita Ganeri

This would be a perfect book to use towards the end of the year if you are looking for writing where children can show shifts in formality. An excellent information text.

Incredible Edibles by Stefan Gates

This is a book of mad recipes, each of which has an introductory paragraph plus other information such as micro facts. Each recipe generally takes a double page spread and it would be interesting for children to devise their own layout using text and images.

Jungle Survival Handbook by Jen Green

This book contains a range of text types but is organised chronologically around the preparation and trip. The information is presented in a range of different ways, e.g. comic strip.

My Secret War Diary by Marcia Williams

This diary provides a good revision of some key areas taught in Y3 and 4 but is an extended text. It contains different bits of information presented in letter/poster/card format.

Persuasive Speech – text included with sequence

Ripley's Mighty Machines

A non-chronological text with information presented in a range of ways.

Shackleton's Journey by William Grill

A chronological report with incredibly powerful images. A great book to use if you have the topic theme explorers or for writing in a different way about a residential visit.

Everything You Need to Know About Snakes by John Woodward

This is a sequence that can be used with a whole KS class or a Year 5/6 class. The book is a fascinating look at scaly reptiles and contains a range of text types. It is a visual delight.

The Secrets of Stonehenge by Manning and Granstrom

Chronologically organised around the history of Stonehenge, this book is fantastic for managing time through the use of adverbs and for language that suggests that we are not sure. This would link well with a history topic that looks at one aspect over time. The book is particularly good for discussing historical evidence/sources – what we know and what we can surmise about it from the known facts. Brilliant!

Stuff You Should Know! by Fardon and Beattie

A funny look at how things work. The text is quite serious, formal including the use of the passive voice but the diagrams add the humour.

Survival at 40C Above by Debbie S Miller

A chronological text based on a day in the Simpson Desert in Australia. The language and sentence constructions are literary rather than informational. It would link well to a scientific study of a particular or imaginary environment.

The sequence can also be adapted for use with Survival at 40 Below

The Usborne Illustrated Thesaurus

This is a wonderful book for developing a rich bank of language before starting a teaching sequence. The thesaurus contains pages of themed words and it is these that are used in the sequence.

Wallace and Gromit Cracking Contraptions

The texts are explanatory, formal and impersonal in contrast with the hilarious contraptions!

Women in Science – 50 Fearless Pioneers by Rachel Ignotofsky

This is a book of 50 mini – biographies based on some women you may have heard of and many that you will not have done. Each person has a double page spread and when you see this book, it will not be a surprise to find out that Ignotofsky is a graphic designer. You can download an extract from this book on Lovereading here. <http://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/book/13883/Women-in-Science-by-Rachel-Ignotofsky.html?cb=41798>

Upper Key Stage 2 Poetry

Bethlehem – A Christmas Poem by Carol Ann Duffy

This wonderful poem describes Bethlehem in a lyrical way. A useful, short sequence for use around Christmas time. The children could write about their homes during Christmas time.

Cloud Busting by Malorie Blackman

A narrative told through a range of types of poetry. The outcome of this sequence is to tell the story from a film (suggestions given and available on YouTube) in poetic form.

The Call by Charlotte Mew

This sequence uses images and film to support writing poetry. A good sequence to develop writing atmosphere.

I Am Cat by Jackie Morris

Wonderfully rich language to explore.

Where My Wellies Take Me by Michael and Clare Morpurgo (part 1)

This book is a first person recount of a favourite walk around a familiar environment. The sequence links well to the Geography Curriculum. The book is particularly appealing visually. It lends itself to children choosing the audience and format for their final piece of writing.

Where My Wellies Take Me by Michael and Clare Morpurgo (part 2)

This sequence focuses on adding poetry to the key outcome produced above. The main focus is about becoming familiar with a wide range of poetry rather than writing own poetry.

Is This a Poem? by Roger Stevens

This is a wonderful book to use with children who think all poetry rhymes or who are not clear about different forms of poetry. The sequence focuses on poems that delight the eyes and challenge the brain, poems that interest the ears and poems that paint interesting pictures. There are so many activities included in this sequence that it would be possible to use it over two poetry units of work.

The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane

This is the most beautiful book of spells about words from nature that the Oxford Junior Dictionary decided to drop as they were no longer used by children, including 'acorn', 'bluebell' and 'otter'. Although the poems are all acrostics, it can take a few readings to realise that this is the case because they are such crafted, fantastic word play that the form seems almost irrelevant.