

Text rationales for Year 3

Text	Rationale
Leon and the Place Between	This extraordinary book by significant author-illustrator duo Angela McAllister and Grahame Baker-Smith was shortlisted for the 2010 CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal. The quality of the language alongside captivating illustrations, cut-out sections, fonts and fold-out pages will immerse children in a magical space to explore the power of imagination and curiosity. Children will recognise the enchanting styles of the famous names through their other titles such as Winter's Child and FArTHER.
Nen and the Lonely Fisherman	This picture book paints a beautiful story about love, acceptance and hope. Lyrical language and vivid imagery reflect subtle messages about the state of the world's oceans and the human impact on the environment, creating links to the science and geography curriculums. An important book for LGBTQIA+ representation, the story also lends itself to discussions around relationships and family.
The Heart and the Bottle	This book by prolific children's author Oliver Jeffers provides the context for children to understand the difficult topics of loss and grief. The narrative will help open discussion around how to deal with the emotions of losing something or someone we love. There are strong links to PSHE and a focus on holding on to hope to overcome hard times.
The First Drawing	This book is set in the Stone Age with a narrative which expresses the power of art through focussing on cave paintings. The story makes strong historical links, as well as exploring the awe and wonder – and sometimes fear and apprehension – around first-time discoveries. The First Drawing will inspire children to become artists themselves and provides a wonderful context for discussing dreams and desires to do something new and different.
The BFG	This is a classic novel by one of the world's most famous children's authors. Told in characteristic Roald Dahl style, this a narrative where children and the underdog champion over injustice. Children will be engaged by the witty – and sometimes entirely made-up! – language and the book will act as a springboard into the fantastical world of Roald Dahl's other titles. There are strong messages about being true to yourself, recognising that it's ok to be different and the importance of standing up for what you believe in.
The Barnabus Project	This is a poignant story of acceptance and belonging told by the prolific and award-winning Fan Brothers. Richly woven with themes of working together, accepting who you are and following your dreams, children will engage with the endearing cast of animal-like creatures on their journey to freedom. Raising questions around what is 'perfect', this tale will open up discussions around how to be ourselves and how we can deal with the pressures of the outside world. Yet again, the Fan Brothers have used their signature imaginative style to bring the story to life and children will enjoy exploring their other books after reading this one.
The Seed of Doubt	An allegorical story of aspiration and how a small seed of doubt can grow into something seemingly unmovable. But, with the right encouragement, this doubt can be overcome. The story explores the relationship between a boy and his father and how mentoring relationships are key to people achieving their dreams. Inspiring and thought-provoking, written by an acclaimed author and screenwriter, the book encourages children to dream big and be curious about the world, with stunning illustrations by Richard Jones.
The Tear Thief	The Tear Thief is a charming modern fairy tale by former poet laureate Carol Ann Duffy. The story is told using rich lyrical language and brought to life with luminous illustrations by Nicoletta Ceccoli from which children can infer parts of the story. Children will be captivated by the magical concept of how we express our feelings and there are obvious links to the PSHE curriculum where children will be able to discuss their emotions and how to deal with them.
The Tin Forest	This beautiful book by significant author Helen Ward has strong links with the topics of the environment, recycling and protection of the rainforest which are expressed through imagery presented in the illustrations. The narrative tells of the ultimate triumph of nature over the devastating impact of man and will open discussions around protection of the environment and holding on to hopes and dreams.

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Escape from Pompeii	This text engages children with the genre of historical fiction and links with topics of ancient Rome and natural disasters. Set against the backdrop of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79, it helps bring the topic to life and provides children with a rich background knowledge of a significant historical period.
The Pied Piper of Hamelin	We chose the Michael Morpurgo version of this folklore classic for the richness of the language which brings this classic historical tale to life. Children will be able to expand their knowledge of one of Britain's most celebrated children's authors. Covering social and environmental themes, the story creates links with the PSHE and geography curriculums and will provide a platform for discussions around fairness, equality and the consequences of our actions.
The Last Garden	Inspired by true events in Syria, this touching story will open up conversations around the impact of war and migration. Mirroring themes in the book, the story opens up a safe space to explore how people deal with conflict and what happens when people are forced to leave. This is ultimately a story of hope and healing which could pair well with aspects of the science and art curriculums as children explore the cyclical nature of life and the appreciation of beauty, even in times of hardship.
Cloud Tea Monkeys	This is a legend set in another culture in the centuries-old past but with close links to fair-trade and the food industry. The strong female protagonist fights to overcome traditional ideals in the name of family and eventual triumph. Shortlisted for the Kate Greenaway Medal, the text has clever use of language and a powerful narrative which carry important messages about loyalty and respect.
Small in the City	This picture book by award-winning author-illustrator Sydney Smith shows children that sometimes we can all feel a little overwhelmed. Told as much through the monochrome illustrations (which children could replicate in their own artwork) as the words on the page, the story provides gentle reassurances for how to survive when we experience those moments of feeling small. However, the revelation on the last page of the book is where most of the discussion will start!
Black Dog	This poignant story by author-illustrator Levi Pinfold won the CILIP Kate Greenaway Medal and provides the perfect springboard for discussing children's fears and how to confront them. Told as a metaphor and using repetition and rhyme, it lends itself well to the study of literary language. The visually stunning illustrations which accompany the text also help reinforce the metaphor and invite high levels of inference from the children. Strong PSHE links can be made throughout.
Cinderella of the Nile	Re-told by award winning and influential children's author Beverley Naidoo, this version of Cinderella supports learning around traditional tales. With clear links to ancient Greece and ancient Egypt, children will discover how one story can have many iterations around the world and throughout history. Alongside historical themes, the book could be used as a platform for discussions around human rights, enslavement and justice.
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick	This book is a treat for the imagination which throws up more questions than answers and will encourage children to infer at a deep level. The collection of mysterious images, each with an accompanying caption, provides the perfect stimulation for children's own story-telling and application of language. Chris Van Allsburg is two-time recipient of the prestigious Caldecott Medal and this book will be a starting point for children's explorations into his other works such as Jumanji and The Polar Express.
The Thames and Tide Club	This is an exciting story full of fast-paced adventure, zany characters and fantastical worlds written by the Carnegie medal-winning author Katya Balen. Rachel Dean is a well-known and prolific illustrator and she is also the illustrator for Dame Jacqueline Wilson. The text allows children to make connections with a rich tradition of books which take unsuspecting protagonists on a journey into a fantasy world: books such as Flotsam, Our Tower and The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe. This text also highlights the role of local groups and public spaces and how they play an essential role in building a sense of community for residents. The subject of mudlarking is an ideal way to get children outside and explore their local river or coastline, piquing their curiosity about history and geography.
How to Live Forever	This is a thought-provoking story told as much through the illustrations as the text on the page. Children will use deep levels of inference and draw upon critical thinking skills to discuss the story in detail. Touching on themes of keeping secrets, facing dilemmas and doing the right thing, links could be made with historical contexts or PSHE.

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Flotsam	Flotsam is a great example of a wordless picture book that creates engagement through its detailed sequence of images, rather than its text and, as such, requires a high level of inference. The author and illustrator, David Wiesner, is famous for creating other wordless texts, such as Tuesday and Free Fall. Flotsam won the Caldecott Medal in 2007 as well as being recognised by several other awards, and was chosen as the New York Times best illustrated children's book that year. At heart it is a humorous fantasy story that also looks closely at the cyclical nature of life, as well as the ultimate power of nature.
The Wilderness	This is the author-illustrator debut text from Steve McCarthy. McCarthy has a wonderfully distinct style and in 2015 his animation Song of the Sea was nominated for an Oscar. At the time of writing, The Wilderness has also been short listed for the Carnegie medal for Illustration and the UKLA book awards. This joyous text explores the importance of learning and growing through outdoor play and exploration whatever the weather. By taking risks and getting lost, October, our timid protagonist, goes on a voyage of self-discovery. The story deals with important themes such as overcoming fears, family relationships and finding new friendships in unlikely places. The vibrant illustrations, memorable characters and playful language are sure to inspire children with a sense of adventure.
Jim, a Cautionary Tale	One of the most well-known cautionary tales from the Victorian era, Hilaire Belloc's re-telling is both captivating and educational in equal measure. Illustrated by celebrated children's author Mini Grey, the story is presented in an engaging style with lift-the-flaps, fold-out and pop-up pages which mirror the historic setting of the book and will capture children's attention from the start. Discussions will lead naturally towards morals and how to behave appropriately and links could also be made with historical studies of the Victorians.
Our Tower	This magical story, written by influential and award-winning children's author and poet Joseph Coelho, will show children how to appreciate the things they have. The poetic narrative accompanied by enchanting illustrations will draw children into a fantastical world and provide a springboard for their own lyrical writing. Touching on themes of conservation and nature, links can also be drawn with geography and science and the book will act as a portal into the poetical world of this significant author.
Zebra's Great Escape	The Zebra's Great Escape is the debut picture book by multi-award winning and highly-acclaimed children's author, Katherine Rundell. Following on from the success of well-known novels such as Rooftoppers and The Good Thieves, The Zebra's Great Escape, with vibrant illustrations by Sara Ogilvie, is a fantastic way to introduce younger readers to Katherine Rundell's signature storytelling style filled with adventure and empathy. The story's simple yet engaging narrative blends wonder, whimsy and humour with adventure and intrigue, and deeper messaging about the natural world. With lively, rhythmic prose, this is a joyful text celebrating the themes of freedom, curiosity, confidence and caution and the magic of imagination.
The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish	This beautiful picture book, written by Chloe Savage, depicts a scientific exploration of the Arctic to search for the elusive Giant Arctic Jellyfish, and the magical illustrations will appeal to children's imaginations. The children will discover a community of scientists, who work through adversity as a team and show resilience, determination and a passion for preserving nature. Carefully interwoven with the narrative is a strong sense of positivity around female role models in STEM. Touching on themes of conservation and nature, links can also be drawn with geography and art. The book will give a sense of awe and wonder, as well as inspiring children to never give up on their dreams.