



Year 6

These selection of books are intense reads and meaty books that are crafted beautifully. It is important as a teacher to read them first before using them to teach.

(See Pie Corbett's Reading Spine for more detailed teaching notes)

Title	Author	Notes for teaching
Holes	Louis Sachar	Keep a diary of the key events as the children are reading it. Draw two timelines to track past and present events. Make a comparison with the PG Film.
Clockwork	Philip Pullman	Explore the meaning of the phrase 'clockwork' – how are our lives like 'clockwork'? How does Philip Pullman create suspense?
The Hobbit	J.R.R. Tolkien	Can the children write their own messages in runic code? Invite children to write letters to Bilbo and write sets of instructions such as 'How To Trap a Troll'. Write riddles and poems about a magical ring. Can they write their own magical quest story?
Skellig	David Almond	Discuss Mina's views on education. Luke to 'The Tyger' by William Blake. Write diary entries from Mina's view and in response to the story – write story from Mina's view.
Fireweed	Jill Paton Walsh	Children would benefit from having prior knowledge of bombing in London in 1940 and the evacuation. Discuss each character's thoughts and feelings. Why is the story called Fireweed?
River Boy	Tim Bowler	Discuss the relationship between the painting and the river boy and Grandpa. By the end of the book, who has changed and how?
The Arrival	Shaun Tan	Picture book. Explore the meaning of immigration and migration – especially migration at the end of the 19 th century (Ellis Island). Explore what is happening in the story and how the characters might be



School Reading Spine



feeling. Write diary entries for the characters and explore their feelings.

Other Recommended Books for Year 6

Title	Author
Around the World in 80 Days (Archaic)	Jules Verne
Journey to the Centre of the Earth (Archaic)	Jules Verne
Oliver Twist (Archaic)	Charles Dickens
Black Beauty (Archaic)	Anna Sewell
The Jungle Book (Archaic)	Rupyard Kipling
The Light Jar	Lisa Thompson
Time Travelling with a Hamster	Ross Welford
The Nowhere Emporium	Ross McKenzie
Silverfin	Charlie Higson
The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day	Christopher Edge
Wonder	R.J. Palacio
Pax	Sara Pennypacker
A Series of Unfortunate Events	Lemony Snicket
Cogheart	Peter Bunzl
Northern Lights	Phillip Pullman
The House with Chicken Legs	Sophie Anderson
The Lost Thing (compare with the Arrival)	Shaun Tan
The Girl of Ink and Stars	Kiran Millwood Grave
The Mysteries of Harris Burdick	Chris Van Allsburg
The Pobble Who Had No Toes	Edward Lear
Check Mates	Steward Foster
Armistice Runner	Tom Palmer
The Dream Snatcher	Abi Elphinstone
A Wrinkle In Time	Madeleine L'Engle
Percy Jackson	Rick Riordan
Storm Breaker	Anthony Horowitz
Nevermoor	Jessica Townsend
Malamander	Thomas Taylor
The Eye of the Wolf (Wordsmith)	Daniel Pennac
Wild Animals of the North	Dieter Braun
Great Adventurers	Alastair Humpreys
Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans
The Island at the End of Everything	Kiran Millwood Grave
Can You See Me?	Libby Scott
Ella on the Outside	Cath Howe
Viking Boy	Tony Bradman
Kick	Mitch Johnson
Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo
No Ballet Shoes in Syria	Catherin Bruton



School Reading Spine



Suggested books linked to Themes		
Theme	Title	Author
Yosemite National Park/Plas Gwynant/Warley Woods	Yosemite National Park	Harley McAllister
	My Yosemite	Mike Graf
	Wild Animals of the North	Dieter Braun
	Great Adventurers	Alastair Humphreys
What did the Greeks do for us?	Who Let the Gods Out?	Maz Evans
	Hopeless Heroes: Here Comes Hercules!	Stella Tarakson & Nick Roberts
	Beasts of Olympus: Beast Keeper	Lucy Coats
	The Ancient Greek Mysteries	Saviour Pirotta & Freya Hartas
The First Crusade	The First Crusade: A New History	Thomas Asbridge
	The Crusades	The Way for the Holy Land
Were the Vikings always victorious and vicious?	Viking Boy	Tony Bradman
	How to Train Your Dragon	Cressida Cowell
	100 Facts: Vikings	Fiona MacDonald
	The Time-Travelling Cat and the Viking Terror	Julia Jarman