A Few Good Reads - Year 2

The Adventures of Robin Hood - Marcia Williams

Marcia Williams has deservedly become a best-selling author with her colourful, action-packed comic-strip retellings of famous stories from around the world. Here are eleven of the best-loved stories about Robin Hood - the greatest hero of them all! Read how Robin becomes an outlaw, gets a ducking from Little John and encounters a disguised Maid Marian in the forest; enjoy the stories of Much the Miller's Son, Friar Tuck, Allan-a-Dale, Sir Richard of Leigh and the golden arrow. Meet Robin's sworn enemy Sir Guy of Gisborne, witness his visit from King Richard and see Robin fire his final arrow. If you like this, you will also enjoy Marcia's Sinbad the Sailor and King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.

Aladdin and the Enchanted Lamp - Philip Pullman

When the young Aladdin rubs a dirty old lamp a genie appears and offers the boy three wishes. Riches? Happiness? Excitement? Three wishes should bring Aladdin everything he wants. But, as he soon discovers, wishes are more complicated than they sound. Award-winning author Philip Pullman perfectly captures the magic and excitement of this timeless story from The Arabian Nights and his vivid retelling is perfectly matched by Sophy William's beautiful illustrations.

Arthur and the King's Sword - Tony Bradman

This is just one of a terrific series called *The Greatest Adventures in the World* by best-selling author, Tony Bradman, and it's a brilliant introduction to the tales of King Arthur. Arthur is only a squire, but he longs to be a knight like his older brother, Kay. When Kay's sword goes missing, Arthur must get him a new one quickly. But the special sword that Arthur finds will change his own life for ever. If you enjoy this, look out for the rest of this exciting series.

The Big Book of Betsey Biggalow - Malorie Blackman

This book is a great collection of funny and exciting stories, by former Children's Laureate, Malorie Blackman, set in the Caribbean and featuring the lively and likeable Betsey Biggalow and her family. Betsey may be small but she's full of bright and shiny ideas about new trainers, winning at marbles and even helping the world! If you enjoy this, you will probably also like Malorie Blackman's equally funny *Girl Wonder* series of books.

Black Dog - Levi Pinfold

This award-winning story is a timeless, thought-provoking book about facing up to anxiety, fears and the black dog that visits some of us from time-to-time. Only Small, the youngest of the Hopes, has the courage to face the Black Dog that appears outside the family's home. When it chases her through the forest she shows no fear, so it grows smaller and smaller.

Boy and a Bear in a Boat - Dave Shelton

A boy and a bear go to sea. Will the *Harriet*, their trusted vessel, withstand the violent lashings of the salty waves? And will anyone ever answer their message in a bottle? Brilliantly funny and tender, this beautiful book maps the growth of a truly memorable friendship and tells the story of how, when all becomes lost, the most unexpected joys can be found. Rich in atmosphere and gently humorous, this is a delightful small-scale but epic adventure. An award-winning book to savour.

A Cat Called Penguin - Holly Webb

For those who have not yet discovered the charming animal stories of this best-selling author, here is a great introduction. Alfie has always loved playing in the overgrown garden next door. It is here he plays with Penguin, an enormous black-and-white cat, a stray who Alfie has claimed as his own. But when his next door neighbour's granddaughter, Grace, comes to live with her, she decides Penguin belongs to her. What neither of them realizes is that while they thought Penguin was with the other one, he has actually disappeared... If you like this, you will love Holly's Animal Series featuring a whole host of endearing cats and dogs.

Year 2 List 03/18 Page 1 of 7

Chicken Clicking - Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

Award-winning team, Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross, go to the heart of a modern predicament in this cautionary tale about a young chick who hops into the farmer's house and starts exploring the delights of the internet. There's one-click shopping - a hive of bees, a motorbike, a diamond watch and 100 handbags. The farmer blames his wife - where has it all come from? And, most exciting of all, there is meeting a new friend! But just who will that friend turn out to be? Little Red Riding Hood for the iPad generation, this is the perfect book for teaching children how to stay safe online.

A Child of Books - Oliver Jeffers and Sam Winston

A lyrical picture book by award-winning author Oliver Jeffers about a little girl who sails her raft 'across a sea of words' to arrive at the house of a small boy. There she invites him to come away with her on an adventure where they can journey through 'forests of fairy tales', 'across mountains of make-believe' and 'sleep in clouds of song'. Guided by his new friend, the boy unlocks his imagination and a lifetime of magic lies ahead of him But who will be next? Oliver's elegant art is combined with Sam's astonishing typographical landscapes beautifully shaped from excerpts of children's classics and lullabies to create a celebration of all that books can do and all that books can become, and to encourage readers of all ages to have an immersive and unforgettable reading experience that they will want to pass on to others.

The Church Mouse - Graham Oakley

This is the first heart-warming story in Graham Oakley's classic award-winning series. The witty text and stunning, detailed and humorous illustrations tell the entertaining story of how Sampson the cat and Arthur the mouse take over the local church despite the reservations of the congregation! Every picture is stuffed full of tiny details to pore over. Look out for the other equally entertaining adventures of Sampson and the Church Mice.

The Classic Tales of Hans Christian Andersen - retold by Margaret Clark

Here are eight of Hans Christian Andersen's best-known stories - The Ugly Duckling, Thumbelina, The Steadfast Tin Soldier, The Emperor's New Clothes, The Little Match Girl, The Little Mermaid, The Nightingale, and The Princess and the Pea - carefully retold by successful children's author, Margaret Clark, and beautifully illustrated by Christian Birmingham. These classic tales should be part of everyone's childhood!

Claude in the City - Alex T Smith

This is the first in a brilliantly written and illustrated series of books about our hero, Claude, which have very rapidly become best-sellers. Claude is no ordinary dog - he leads an extraordinary life! When Mr and Mrs Shinyshoes set off for work, Claude decides what adventure he wants to have that day. Today he and Sir Bobblysock go to the city for the very first time. The have tea in a cafe, go shopping and visit a museum. It is all very normal until...Claude accidentally foils a robbery and becomes the local hero! If you enjoy this, there are several other books about Claude and his friends to discover.

Daisy And The Trouble With Life - Kes Gray

Daisy's troubles are many and they are so familiar! Life is just so unfair! She is grounded and that means her life is quite impossibly boring. But, should she have been grounded in the first place? Listen to Daisy tell her own story in this fresh, first person narrative. You can read more about Daisy and her troubles in the many other books in this fun series.

The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish - Neil Gaiman

This is a hugely entertaining - and rather scary - adventure written by prize winning author Neil Gaiman and brilliantly illustrated by Dave McKean. Desperate to have his friend's two goldfish, a boy swaps his father for them - despite the warning from his sister. Predictably, Mum is not pleased and demands he gets his dad back. But getting Dad back proves to be harder than you'd think as he has now been swapped for several other things since...

Dirty Bertie: Fleas - Alan Macdonald & David Roberts

Just one of a series of wacky and hilarious books by this hugely successful author/illustrator team about Dirty Bertie - a boy with nose-pickingly disgusting habits! He's full to bursting with madcap plans and crazy ideas, and if it's trouble you're after, look no further - Bertie's sure to be up to it!

Year 2 List 03/18 Page **2** of **7**

Dr Xargle's Book of Earthlets - Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross

Another hit from this winning team. 'Good morning, class. Today we are going to learn about Earthlets.' In this way Dr Xargle, our friendly alien teacher, begins to teach his class about humans and babies. This is a hysterically funny book, with a particularly wry look at the way we bring up babies: look out for the 'eggmangle' - will you ever want to eat egg again? If you enjoy this, you should not miss Dr Xargle's introductions to many other aspects of life on Earth.

The Emperor of Absurdia - Chris Riddell

Welcome to Absurdia: a strange and wonderful land where nothing is quite what it seems. Trees are birds, umbrellas are trees, and the sky is thick with snoring fish. Join one small boy as he tumbles out of bed into a crazy dreamland of wardrobe monsters, dragons - and amazing adventure. This gloriously rich and beautiful picture book by the award-winning Children's Laureate, Chris Riddell, is an extraordinary example of wonderful storytelling.

Fairy Dust - Gwyneth Rees

When Rosie finds a tiny, tartan sock in her bedroom she's sure it could only fit one thing - a fairy! Mum tells Rosie not to be so silly, fairies don't exist. Then the old lady who live next door tells Rosie that Mum's the one who's silly, fairies are everywhere if you know how to look. Rosie's not sure who to believe until she sees something in the grass at the top of the moor and then she can hardly believe her eyes. It's fluttering and tiny and magical. Could it really be a fairy...? This is the first in a series of magical books.

Fantastically Great Women Who Changed the World - Kate Pankhurst

Kate Pankhurst, descendent of Emmeline Pankhurst, has created this wildly wonderful and accessible book. Packed full of beautiful illustrations and astounding facts, it is the perfect introduction to just a few of the most incredible women who helped shaped the world we live in - Jane Austen, Gertrude Ederle, Coco Chanel, Frida Kahlo, Marie Curie, Mary Anning, Mary Seacole, Amelia Earhart, Agent Fifi, Sacagawa, Emmeline Pankhurst, Rosa Parks and Anne Frank.

Fergus Crane - Paul Stewart & Chris Riddell

A deservedly prize-winning title, Fergus Crane is a delightful, fantastical romp with a nautical theme. A mysterious flying box appears at the window of Fergus Crane's quayside home and Fergus is plunged headlong into an exciting adventure when the box is followed by a winged horse that whisks him off to his long lost uncle and a mission to rescue his father. Wonderful illustrations by Children's Laureate Chris Riddell embellish the fanciful details beautifully. If you enjoy this, there are two other books in the series which you will also love - *Hugo Pepper* and *Corby Flood*.

Giant Jim and the Hurricane -Jeremy Strong

This is a great introduction to Jeremy Strong's books which are all full of fun and excitement. Giant Jim isn't a dangerous sort of giant and the children love him. Sadly, he's so big that he seems to cause nothing but trouble wherever he goes. But when a terrible hurricane strikes, Giant Jim is the only one who can help.

Grandad's Island - Benji Davies

Subtly told, this beautifully illustrated book tackles the difficult emotional topic of losing a grandparent with great sensitivity and depth. Syd and Grandad's tropical adventure tells a much bigger story and conveys an important message about loss and love. Grandad's house is at the bottom of Syd's garden and Syd can go round any time he wants. One day Grandad isn't in any of his usual places and Syd finds him in the attic. There's a big metal door at one end, and through it a ship, ready to take Grandad and Syd to a faraway island. Grandad doesn't need his stick on the island and is very much at home with the cheery parrots and bright flowers. He decides to stay behind, though he'll miss Syd very much.

Greek Tales: The Lion's Slave - Terry Deary

This is one of four very entertaining stories based on real historical events in Ancient Greece and written by Terry Deary, author of the Horrible Histories. If you enjoy this, don't miss the other three Greek Tales and look out for Terry Deary's equally exciting Roman, Egyptian and World War One stories too.

Year 2 List 03/18 Page **3** of **7**

Grubtown Tales 1: Stinking Rich and Just Plain Stinky - Philip Ardagh

This is the first in a hilarious prize-winning series. You won't find Grubtown on any maps. It's certainly a town and certainly grubby - except for the squeaky clean parts - but everything else we know about the place comes from Beardy Ardagh, town resident and author of these tales. Grubtown is full of oddballs - from the singing Grumbly girls to a family of duck-haters, and an out-sized mayor who's knitting a new house - but Manual Org is too repulsive even for them. Getting him to leave town is top priority, until the discovery of a humongous diamond changes everything... If you like this, don't miss the equally entertaining sequels.

The Hodgeheg - Dick King-Smith

This is a charming modern classic from one of Britain's all-time favourite authors. *The Hodegheg* has everything - humour, adventure, inspiration and plenty of advice for youngsters on the issue of safety when crossing roads! Max is a hedgehog who lives with his family in a nice little home, but unfortunately on the wrong side of the road from the Park, with its beautiful lily pond, and more importantly its juicy slugs, worms and snails! The busy road is a dangerous barrier but Max notices that humans seem to cross it quite easily. If they can, why can't hedgehogs? So Max sets out on a quest to find a safe way to reach the Park. His first attempt ends in a nasty bump on the head, and Max finds when he tries to speak his words are all mixed up. He is now a Hodgeheg, not a hedgehog, but he is still determined to fulfil his mission. After some careful detective work, Max eventually discovers the best way to cross the road - with the help of the lollipop lady, of course!

How To Live Forever - Colin Thompson

Colin Thompson's books are fascinating and complex - each time you read them, there is always a new image to see . . . something more to catch the eye. Peter and his family live among the Quinces in the cookery section of a mystical library, and at night, when the library comes to life, Peter ventures out of his home to find a missing volume: How To Live Forever...

Karlson on the Roof - Astrid Lindgren

Imagine Smidge's delight when, one day, a little man with a propeller on his back appears hovering at the window! It's Karlson and he lives in a house on the roof. Soon Smidge and Karlson are sharing all sorts of adventures, from tackling thieves and playing tricks to looping the loop and running across the rooftops. Fun and chaos burst from these charming, classic stories by the much-loved author of *Pippi Longstocking*. If you enjoy this, don't miss the further adventures of Karlson - *Karlson Flies Again* and *The World's Best Karlson*, and you will probably also like Astrid's stories about the irrepressable Lotta.

The Legend of Spud Murphy - Eoin Colfer

A great introduction to the books of Eoin Colfer, best-selling author of the *Skulduggery Pleasant* series for older children. During the holidays, Will and his big brother Marty are packed off to the library, the home of the dreaded librarian Spud Murphy, who has forgotten that books are for enjoying and uses a spud gun on kids who put a foot wrong. Eventually, Will and Marty discover a love of books and that Mrs Murphy isn't so bad after all. You can read about more of Will and Marty's adventures in *The Legend of Captain Crow's Teeth*.

Loudmouth Louis - Anne Fine

Anne Fine, the former Children's Laureate, writes books filled with realistic detail that every child can relate to and this is a great example. Everyone knows that Louis is a loudmouth, he never stops talking and drives everyone crazy. No one believes him when he announces that he's going to do a sponsored silence to raise money for the new school library. But Louis is determined, just for once, to keep his mouth shut. To his surprise he finds that he actually enjoys listening, that lessons are much better when he's really involved in them - and that it's very satisfying to raise money for the school.

Macavity! - T. S. Eliot and Arthur Robbins

The slippery exploits of Macavity, just one of the much-loved cats from the classic Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, is vividly captured in the cheerful illustrations in this picture-book version. Arthur Robbins has worked his magic on several other T S Eliot's poems cat poems, including Mr Mistoffelees and Skimbleshanks, so don't miss those.

Year 2 List 03/18 Page 4 of 7

Marvin Redpost 1: Kidnapped at Birth - Louis Sachar

The first of several great adventures by the prize-winning author of *Holes*, about an ordinary boy with a big heart and a strong desire to work things out even when they're complicated. Meet Marvin Redpost. He has red hair and blue eyes. And he is left handed. And he thinks he is really Robert, the missing son of the King and Queen of Shampoon. Eagerly Marvin sets out to find out about the perks of being Royal but very soon he decides being royal is not such a good idea after all! If you enjoy this book, you should definitely read all of Marvin's other adventures too.

Mr Cleghorn's Seal - Judith Kerr

What do you do if you find an abandoned seal pup on a rock in the middle of the sea? Well, take it home with you to your flat, of course. At least that's what Mr Albert Cleghorn thought, though perhaps he hadn't considered all the complications...This is the story of what then happened to Mr Cleghorn and Charlie the seal in their determination to find a home for Charlie and, incidentally, happiness for them both. Sometimes funny, sometimes sad, Mister Cleghorn's Seal is a classic in the making from the inimitable Judith Kerr, much loved author of The Tiger Who Came to Tea and the Mog the cat books, amongst many others.

Mr Majeika - Humphrey Carpenter

Magic carpets don't usually turn up in schools, but this is exactly what happens when Class Three's new teacher flies in through the classroom window on one and lands on the floor with a bump. Mr Majeika can behave just like any ordinary teacher if he wants to, but sometimes (not always!) magic is the best way to sort out little problems in class. Clearly, with Mr Majeika in charge, it's going to be the most exciting school term ever. This is the first in a very funny series about this extraordinary teacher.

A Necklace of Raindrops - Joan Aiken and Jan Pienkowski

Here are eight gloriously imaginative stories by the much loved author of more than 100 brilliant children's books, Joan Aiken. There's a flying apple pie, a cat that's bigger than an elephant, a house that lays an egg, storybook animals that leap out of their books at night, and a wealth of other wonderful characters and ideas, all with the colourful, dreamlike quality of the very best fairy tales. This edition is beautifully illustrated with striking silhouette images by award-winning artist, Jan Pienkowski.

The No. 1 Car Spotter - Atinuke

This is the first in an exciting series set in the Nigeria of Atinuke's birth and starring the bright, plucky and resourceful Oluwalase Babatunde Benson, better known as Number 1. His hobby is car spotting but he is also great at solving all sorts of problems for his village. When the family's cart breaks down and there's no way of bringing goods to market, it's Number 1 who devises the Toyota Cow-rolla and saves the day. He runs errands for his family and helps Mama Coca-Cola feed the busloads of people who stop for her delicious fried akara. Number 1 even helps Grandmother get to the medical centre when she can't afford treatment.

The Owl Tree - Jenny Nimmo

A wonderfully atmospheric story by prize winning author, Jenny Nimmo, about a boy's efforts to save a magical tree. The owl-tree is not like any tree Joe has ever seen. It's huge and leafy and shivers like a person; it even seems to speak. Granny Diamond once saw an owl perched among its branches and she has loved the tree ever since. It means the world to her. But her neighbour, Mr Rock, wants to cut it down. Why does he dislike the owl-tree so much? Does it have a secret to tell Joe? And how can he, a boy too scared even to climb the tree, be the one to save it?

The Sandman and the Turtles - Michael Morpurgo

This is a charming adventure from former Children's Laureate Michael Morpurgo, the master storyteller. The book's hero, Michael, loves his grandfather's stories about the Sandman and the turtles, but he doesn't believe that they are real. But that's about to change, because the Sandman is very real indeed...and Michael and his cousins Barry and Polly are going to need his help.

Snow White and the Seven Aliens - Laurence Anholt

This prize winning book is just one of Laurence Anholt's many topsy-turvy retellings of traditional fairy tales, including *Daft Jack and the Beanstack*, *Ghostyshocks and the Three Scares* and *The Emperor's Underwear*. They are all hilarious and easy to read.

Year 2 List 03/18 Page **5** of **7**

Sophie's Snail - Dick King-Smith

This is the first of six stories by the wonderful Dick King-Smith, author of *The Sheep Pig*, about the inimitable Sophie. Sophie loves animals of all kinds, but how will she grow up to be a farmer if she is not allowed any of her own? She goes looking for creatures to keep in her menagerie, but all she seems to find is trouble - yikes! And there is one pest she certainly doesn't want around: her prissy new neighbour, Dawn...

The Spider And The Fly - Tony DiTerlizzi and Mary Howitt

Will you walk into my parlour, said the Spider to the Fly... is easily one of the most recognized and quoted first lines in all of English verse. But do you have any idea how the age-old tale of the Spider and the Fly ends? This enduring verse from Mary Howitt dates back to the nineteenth century, but its warning - to beware those who use sweet words to hide their not-so-sweet intentions - remains today as relevant as ever. This prize-winning version of the quintessential cautionary tale is by celebrated artist Tony DiTerlizzi, co-author of the Spiderwick Chronicles, and shines a cinematic spotlight on Mary Howitt's warning.

Stone Girl Bone Girl - Laurence Anholt

Mary Anning, born in England in 1799, made an astounding discovery at age 12 when she unearthed the first full skeleton of a giant ichthyosaur in the cliffs above her home in Lyme Regis. This incident -- in which she was helped by a little dog she rescued from a cemetery -- was the beginning of a long career that saw Mary become the world's best-known fossil hunter. Best-selling author Laurence Anholt turns Mary's fascinating life into a perfect story which is beautifully illustrated by Sheila Moxley.

Stink, The Incredible Shrinking Kid - Megan McDonald & Peter H. Reynolds

This is the first book in the hilarious series by this bestselling duo. Stink is short. And now he's shrinking! Every day he makes his moody older sister, Judy, measure him. When one day he measures up shorter, Stink decides that the time has come to take action! But gelling his hair into spikes fails, and Stink soon realizes that maybe being short isn't such a problem - he'll just have to wait till he's older if he wants to be taller. A must for comic book fans, this book features inventive comic strips of Stink and his larger-than-life adventures!

The Strongest Girl in the World - Sally Gardner

The first of a great series of books about children who for one reason or another become empowered with magical gifts. Josie Jenkins, aged eight and three quarters, can do a few tricks, but she astonishes herself and everyone else when she finds she can lift a table, a car and even a bus with no effort at all. Josie becomes famous, and Mr Two Suit sweeps in with a contract and swoops the whole family off to New York. How Josie copes with fame and fortune, and with the loss of it when she wakes up one day to find she can't do her trick any more, makes a story of enormous charm, with a tiny, modest and sensible heroine you have to cheer for. If you enjoy this book, look out for Sally Gardner's other Magical Children books.

Ug Boy Genius of the Stone Age and His Search for Soft Trousers - Raymond Briggs

A funny and touching account of one boy's refusal to accept the limitations of his stone-age world, this is a wonderfully inventive story told in comic strip form by the author of The Snowman and many other classic picture books. Ug finds life in the Stone Age, with its stone blankets, stone cold food, an even colder cave and, worst of all, hard stone trousers, pretty unpleasant! Being an inquisitive and intelligent child, he suggests a series of modifications to improve the quality of family life, but his outlandish ideas about heating, cooking, boats, and balls that actually bounce are met with a bewildered and hostile reaction by his family. Will he ever manage to overcome their suspicions and achieve his goals?

The Velveteen Rabbit - Margery Williams

When the handsome Velveteen Rabbit, with his spotted brown and white coat and ears lined with pink sateen, arrives in the Boy's stocking on Christmas morning, he looks charming. But the Velveteen Rabbit soon discovers that looking good isn't what really matters for a toy. What matters is to be *real*. So begins the classic heart-warming story of how the Velveteen Rabbit learns what *real* is and how he becomes *real* himself.

The Whisperer - Nick Butterworth

This is a funny, clever and brilliantly illustrated reworking of the story of Romeo and Juliet, and a powerful plea for tolerance. Two gangs of cats live in a scrap yard on the edge of the city. When they're not eating or sleeping, they're fighting, and that's just how The Whisperer likes it. He's a rat, and if he can keep the cats going after each other, they'll leave him and his kind alone. But just maybe, things in the scrap yard are about to change for the better. Or as The Whisperer sees it...for the worse...

Year 2 List 03/18 Page **6** of **7**

Willy's Stories - Anthony Browne

A magical celebration of stories and the imagination from the multiple award-winning Anthony Browne. Once a week, Willy the Chimp walks through an ordinary-looking set of doors and straight into an adventure - an adventure inspired by a beloved classic of children's literature, from The Wonderful Wizard of Oz to The Wind in the Willows. Where will those doors take him today: to a mysterious desert island with footprints in the sand; down a deep, dark rabbit hole full of curious objects; or perhaps on board a pirate ship, face to face with Captain Hook? Wherever he ends up, Willy's journeys begin when he walks through those inviting doors... Equally brilliant is Willy's Pictures, in which Anthony Browne explores some of the world's greatest and best known paintings through Willy's eyes.

The Witch's Tears - Jenny Nimmo

How can you tell if a person's a witch? asks Theo. It isn't easy, but there is a way. Witches' tears turn to crystal as soon as they fall. Only thing is, witches don't cry, or hardly ever. In a whirl of rainy weather, a strange woman appears on Theo and Dodie's doorstep making Theo very uneasy. His mother and little sister do not seem at all alarmed by her. Dodie loves Mrs Scarum's stories and her wild dancing. But Theo suspects there might be trouble afoot, not helped by the fact that his father, usually as reliable as the clocks he repairs, has failed to return home. The blizzard continues and the night is long...there may be tears before morning. A beautifully written story from an award-winning author.

Zeus on the Loose - John Dougherty

Imagine a genuine, full-sized Greek god suddenly appearing in an ordinary school. That's what happens in this hilarious book. Alex's class are learning about the Ancient Greeks. That's why Alex makes a temple (out of loo rolls and a cornflakes box) for the Greek god Zeus. He doesn't expect the god himself to turn up, borrow his mum's nightie and demand a sacrifice at half-past five in the morning. Even worse, Zeus reckons it's time for another Trojan War - in the school playground! Zeus is on the loose... if you like this, you can read more about Alex and Zeus in *Zeus to the Rescue*.

Year 2 List 03/18 Page **7** of **7**