

Text We Like in Year 4: recommended by Literacy Leaders of Kent Summer 2016

Year 4	Book Title	Author if known	Good text for...
	The Water Horse	Dick King Smith	Fairly short novel for children but with some old-fashioned language; cross-curricular; engaging story which has been made into a film; inverted commas; fronted adverbials; descriptive language; metaphors and similes; question marks, ellipsis, singular to plural; present to past tense; possessive apostrophes; paragraphs
	Beast Quest	Adam Blade	Appeals to boys; sci-fi fantasy writing; strong plots
	Diary of a Wimpy Kid	Jeff Kinney	Diary writing; emotive writing;
	Stig of the Dump	Clive King	Character development; setting
	The Devil and his Boy	Anthony Horowitz	Complex characters developed through plot
	Danny Champion of the World	Roald Dahl	Non-fiction persuasive writing about poaching; narrative writing; description;
	Usborne Shakespeare Series	Usborne (publisher)	Great for all year groups to introduce classic texts
	The Field Guide (Spiderwick chronicles)	Tony Di Terlizzi	Fantasy; suspense; description of setting; characters and dialogue
	The Iron Man	Ted Hughes	Settings; character study; links with D.T.; short sentences to create effect; longer sentences to create an image; onomatopoeia; use of CL for effect; fronted adverbials; sub clauses; similes; questioning; commas in lists; balanced dialogue; hyphens; exclamation marks; inverted commas
	How to Train your Viking	Cressida Cowell	Descriptive language; feelings; instructions
	Leon and the Place in between	Grahame Baher-Smith	Adverbial phrases; noun phrases
	Beowulf (also Beowulf Young Reading Series)	Morpurgo or version by Rob Lloyd Jones	Building tension; short sentences; character and setting; story writing
	The Wolves in the Walls	Neil Gaiman	Excellent for most aspects of grammar and punctuation; hyphens, inverted commas; modal verbs and past tense; spelling rules (beware one or two American spellings e.g. colored and practiced); fronted adverbials; questions. Spooky and full of suspense.
	The Great Kapok Tree	Lynne Cherry	Discursive text; variety of genres; beautiful to look at
	Tracks of a Panda	Nick Dowson	Fronted adverbials
	Caterpillar Butterfly	Vivian French	Inverted commas and rules of dialogue

	Voices in the Park	Anthony Browne	Characters; viewpoint; speech
	The BFG	Roald Dahl	Descriptive writing; character
	Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Quirky story about a girl with a huge imagination; quite dark and scary; settings; suspense; prediction
	Operation Gadgetman!	Malorie Blackman	Crosses gender stereotypes; good story
	Journey to Jo'burg	Beverley Naidoo	Issues and dilemmas; postcard writing; continuation of chapter 10
	Varjak Paw	S.F. Said	Variation and comparison of characters; atmosphere and mood in setting; description;
	The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane	Kate Di Camillo	A sometimes sad story about a vain rabbit who goes on an adventure when he is washed overboard; several changes of event; lovely prose; change of character, when the rabbit learns to love
	Classic Fairy Tales	Jane Roy / Berlie Doherty	Dialogue / writing own version
	Born to Run	Michael Morpurgo	Word classes; relative clauses; embedded clauses; prefixes and suffixes
	Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf	David Almond and Dave McKean	Descriptive writing e.g. design own creature; inference;
	The Butterfly Lion	Michael Morpurgo	Short read-aloud text; character sketches; inference; prediction; write own endings
	Cloud Busting	Malorie Blackman	Story told in first person verse
	Buckle and Squash and the Monstrous Moat-Dragon	Sarah Courtauld	Empathy; prediction; retelling; drama
	Any picture books by David Weisner e.g. Tuesday / Flotsam	David Weisner	Prediction and inference; Wordless texts; writing next part; discussion around the text; group reading and conversation
	Krindlekrax	Philip Ridley	
	The Drop in my Drink; the Story of Water on our Planet	Meredith Hooper and Chris Coady	Non-fiction; Water cycle; changes in condition of water;
	The Dancing Bear	Michael Morpurgo	Very short paperback;
	Way Home	Libby Hathorn	Setting; style of language; prediction; discussing character's motivation; issues and dilemmas
	The Firework Maker's Daughter	Philip Pullman	Adventure quest story; humour for older readers; about working hard to fulfil your dreams; possible to get the playscript version too
	The Green Children	Kevin Crossley-Holland	Picture book. Role-play; issues about people who are different; new viewpoint; author's choice of language; powerful verbs; descriptive setting
	Tales Told in Tents: from Central Asia	Sally Pomme Clayton	Stories from other cultures; some poetry / riddles