



Year 5

Animals feature heavily in these stories! These books are great reads as well as stories that have deeper meaning.

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

Title	Author	Notes for teaching
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase	Joan Aiken	Archaic story type. There are 12 novels in this series and they are set in their own historical world. Research facts about wolves and there is a good PG film to use alongside. See the film section by section alongside each chapter. There is a bookmark available on Joan Aiken's website.
Varjak Paw	S.F. Sid	Children can paint dark city landscapes with skylines. What would you ask the characters? Children can write a night time adventure for Varjak.
Wolf Brother	Michelle Paver	Compare phrases that the wolf uses instead of human terms. Describe things from the Wolf's viewpoint using his language and describe the main settings.
Street Child	Berlie Doherty	Link to Victorians. Map the story and discuss how Jim survives. Discuss children's rights and compare present day to the past.
The Midnight Fox	Betsy Byars	Children could write newspaper titles for key incidents and discuss the tension between his father's and Uncle Fred's expectations and Tom's view.
Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce	Archaic story type. Discuss shifts in time. Link on Pie Corbett's Reading Spine linking to the house that Philippa Pearce used as a basis for this book. Children could draw the garden. Can they compare the time travelling aspect to other books they have read?
Farther	Grahame Baker-Smith	Explore the front cover – why are there poppies, birds and wings? Interview each character. Compare to other picture books eg. Flotsam, Voices in the Park.



Other Recommended Books for Year 5	
Title	Author
Oranges in No Man's Land (Wordsmith)	Elizabeth Laird
Five Children and It (Archaic)	Edith Nesbit
The Secret Garden (Archaic)	Frances Hodgson Burnett
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens
The Storm-Keeper's Island	Catherine Doyle
The 1,000 Year-Old Boy	Ross Welford
Sky Song	Abi Elphinstone
Who Let the Gods Out	Maz Evans
Harry Potter series	JK Rowling
The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge
Sky in the Pie (poem)	Roger McGough
The Tyger (poem)	William Blake
The Explorer	Katherine Rundell
The Goldfish Boy	Lisa Thompson
Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell
The River Singers	Tom Moorhouse
Moth	Isabel Thomas
Plastic Sucks	Dougie Poynter
Brightstorm	Vashti Hardy
Lionboy	Zizou Corder
The Highwayman	Alfred Noyes
When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit	Judith Kerr
The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q. Rauf
King Kong	Anthony Browne
The Girl Who Speaks Bear	Sophie Anderson
Gaslight	Eloise Williams
Journey to The River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
Pongo	Jesse Hodgson
Running Wild	Michael Morpurgo
A Pinch of Magic	Michelle Harrison
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom	Louis Sachar
Beetle Boy	M.G. Leonard
The Firework Maker's Daughter (y3)	Phillip Pullman
The Fastest Boy in the World	Elizabeth Laird
Countdown (The Sixties Trilogy)	Deborah Wiles
The Wednesday Wars	Gary D Schmidt
Black Powder	Ally Sherrick
Cosmic	Frank Cottrell Boyce
Escape from Pompeii	Christina Balit
Survivors	David Long & Kerry Hyndman
The Pebble in my Pocket: A History of Our Earth	Meredith Hooper & Chris Coady



School Reading Spine



Suggested books linked to Themes		
Theme	Title	Author
Why should we save the Rainforest?	The Explorer	Katherine Rundell
	Journey to The River Sea	Eva Ibbotson
	Pongo	Jesse Hodgson
	Running Wild	Michael Morpurgo
What was life like for children in the Victorian Times?	Street Child	Berlie Doherty
	Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell
	Gaslight	Eloise Williams
	Cogheart	Peter Bunzl
How do Natural Disasters change people's lives?	Escape from Pompeii	Christina Balit
	Survivors	David Long & Kerry Hyndman
	Volcanoes and Earthquake	Kathy Furgang
	The Pebble in my Pocket: A History of Our Earth	Meredith Hooper & Chris Coady
The Swinging Sixties/Earth and Space	Countdown (The Sixties Trilogy)	Deborah Wiles
	The Wednesday Wars	Gary D Schmidt
	The Jamie Drake Equation	Christopher Edge
	Cosmic	Frank Cottrell Boyce
What were the achievements of the Shang Dynasty?	Shang Dynasty China	Tracey Kelly
	Tales from China	Cyril Birch
	The Firework Maker's Daughter (revisit from y3)	Phillip Pullman
	The Kite	Geraldine McCaughrean