

# Blackthorns Community Primary Academy

# Class Novel Choices

## Choosing books – questions to consider

Choosing literature

Does the book:

- contain a 'big' idea at its heart, for example, the power of friendship or the ability of power to corrupt
- reflect a diverse range of voices and characters, reflecting the background of pupils in the school and society more widely
- have rich, lyrical language
- have the potential to develop pupils' wider knowledge
- deliberately widen horizons by offering culturally rich content
- offer opportunity for pupils to encounter a different genre or format so they have a chance to experience a wide range of literary forms and develop their own opinions and preferences?

*(from DFE Reading Framework 2023)*

N. B. Not every book will meet the criteria here, but a range should do so.

## Core 'read aloud' stories and non-fiction

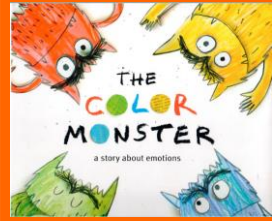
### Use 'Choosing books' as a guide.

- Identify a core set of stories for each year group.
- Consider a range of stories set in the UK and around the world, both traditional and modern, as well as non-fiction.
- Refresh the list regularly, at least once a year, as new books are published, and new teachers arrive, to avoid its being set in stone.
- Encourage teachers to familiarise themselves with the stories their class will know from previous years.
- Supplement the core 'read aloud' stories with others of the teacher's choice.
- Consider sharing the list with parents, and explaining its purpose, so they could buy or borrow the books.

*(from DFE Reading Framework 2021/2023)*

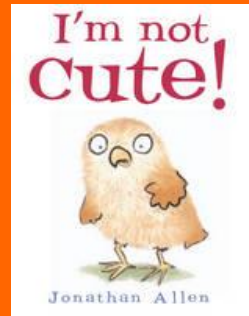
# Class Novels In Thinkers 2024-25

## Autumn



### Why?

- Building emotional vocabulary for children in line with 'zones of regulation' approach in academy
- Children connecting with their own emotions and starting to identify these in themselves and others



### Why?

- To see themselves in positive terms.
- Children connecting with their own emotions and attributes to start identifying these in themselves and others
- Begin to write 'I am,,,,'



### Why?

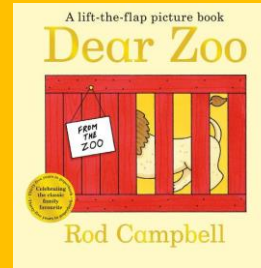
- Classic traditional tale
- Develop an understanding of story sequencing by introducing text map.
- Use actions to re-tell a story



### Why?

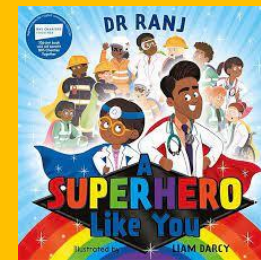
- Themes of 'good' characters and 'bad' characters. Hero and nemesis.
- Teamwork highlighted
- Writing link to Drawing Club

## Spring



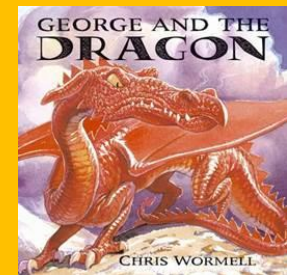
### Why?

- Retelling a simple story
- Communication – letters
- Exciting discovery of animals
- Humour



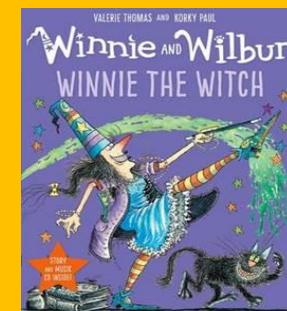
### Why?

- Introduction to non-fiction
- Link to learning about job roles
- Engaging visuals



### Why?

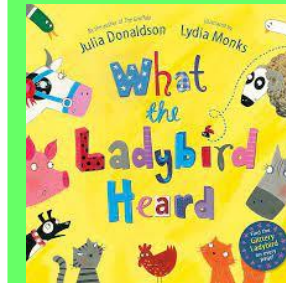
- Key text to theme 'Dragons'.
- Children will learn the structure of the story through text mapping and oral retelling of the story each day.
- Children will learn to innovate to develop their story telling writing skills.



### Why?

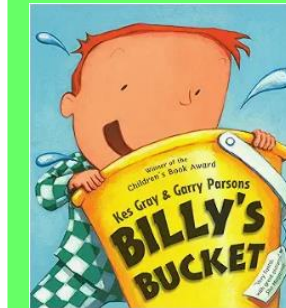
- Continues the theme of dragons and fairy stories.
- Introduces a different type of witch character.
- Introduce new vocabulary words to use in writing and speaking.

## Summer



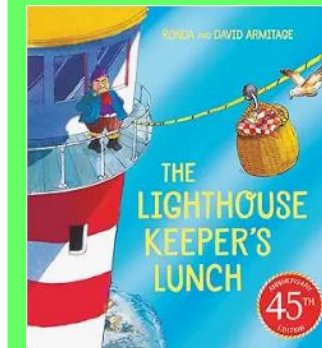
### Why?

- Key text to linking to theme all creatures great and small.
- Links to Geography.
- Links to non fiction fact writing.



### Why?

- Humorous story
- Introduction to sea creatures
- Power of imagination
- Great illustrations
- Link to description writing



### Why?

- Traditional story
- Strong character feelings
- Lunch hook for recipe writing
- Adventure
- Humour



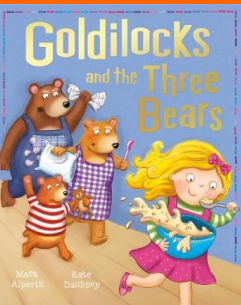
# Class Novels In Inventors 2024-25

## Autumn



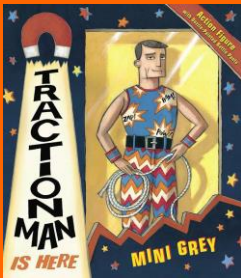
Why?

- Introduction text for Autumn 1 topic 'Once Upon A Time'.
- Building confidence within the classroom by incorporating time for role-play.
- Wide range of vocabulary – adjectives, rhyme, alliteration.



Why?

- Character focus
- Focus on core values including respect and kindness.
- Children are introduced the skill of instructional and informative writing.
- Opportunity for role play through familiar famous fairy tails.
- Extending vocabulary



Why?

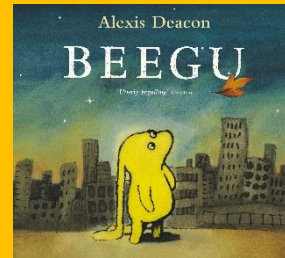
- Introduction text for Autumn 2 topic 'A History of Toys'.
- Great creative writing opportunities.
- Children to talk about the main events from one story.



Why?

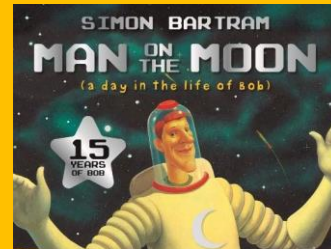
- English and History cross-curricular text.
- Good character development.
- Repetition within the text.
- Focus text allows children to predict the ending, as well as retell the familiar story.

## Spring



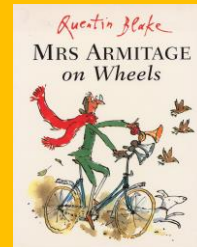
Why?

- Introduction text for Spring 1 topic 'Space'.
- Building vocabulary.
- Children predicting what will happen to the main character.
- Introduction to reviewing fiction texts.



Why?

- Link to 'Space' topic for the term.
- Focus on powerful adjectives to describe the characters.
- Focuses on time conjunctions and routines to tell a story.



Why?

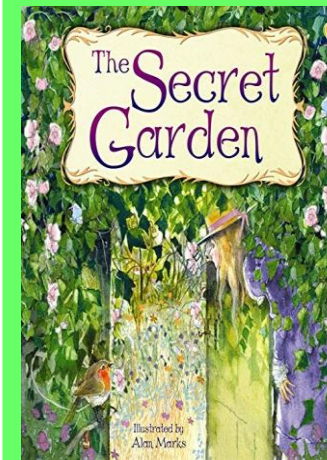
- Introduction text for Spring 2 topic 'Travel and Transport'.
- Retelling main events from a familiar story.
- English, History and Design Technology cross-curricular learning.
- Opportunity to extend vocabulary.
- Letter writing using time conjunctions, powerful adjectives and opportunity for creative writing.



Why?

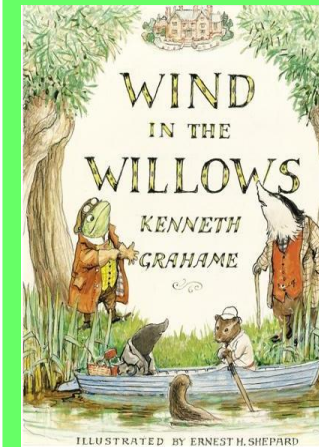
- Write Inspired based learning.
- Cross-curricular opportunities.
- Five senses based sentences including verbs, adjectives and nouns.

## Summer



Why?

- Introduction text for Summer topic 'Stories in Secret Places'.
- Fantastic story to build imagination.
- Use of descriptive vocabulary.
- Focus of powerful adjectives to describe.
- Links to Design Technology learning.
- Retelling the story as if they were the main character.
- Opportunities to engage their imagination and challenge themselves to think at a deeper level.
- Children become authors of their own stories.



Why?

- Second main text for Summer topic 'Stories in Secret Places'.
- Use of descriptive vocabulary.
- Linked to Location, Location, Location Week.
- Introduction to posters that display key information.
- Cross-curricular link to geography focus questions.
- A local trip to the River Ouse allows us to answer geography focus questions through The Wind in The Willows and taking a journey down the river for a picnic.



# Class Novels In Explorers 2024-25

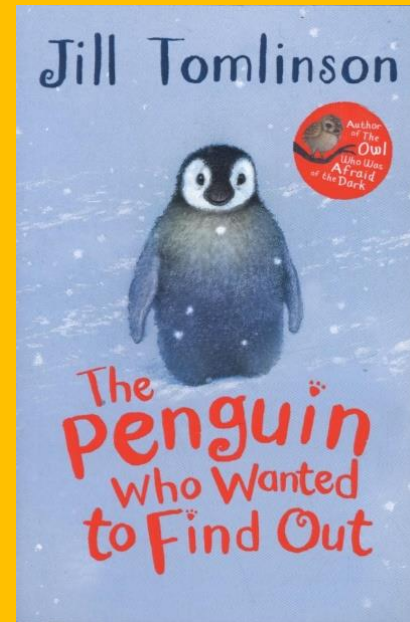
## Autumn



### Why?

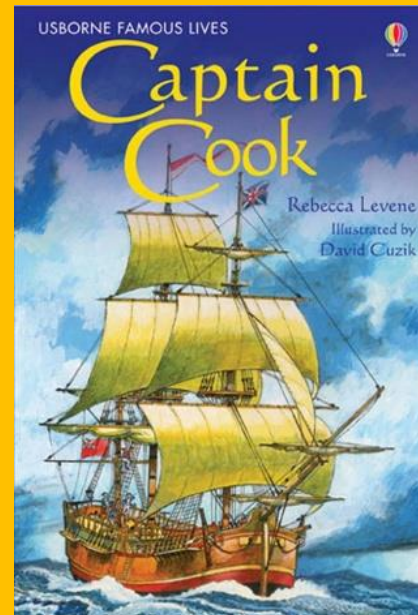
- Strong female lead character.
- Focus on identity and belonging.
- Links to science: animals and habitats unit.
- Links to geographical focus.
- Explores relationships between humans and natural world.

## Spring



### Why?

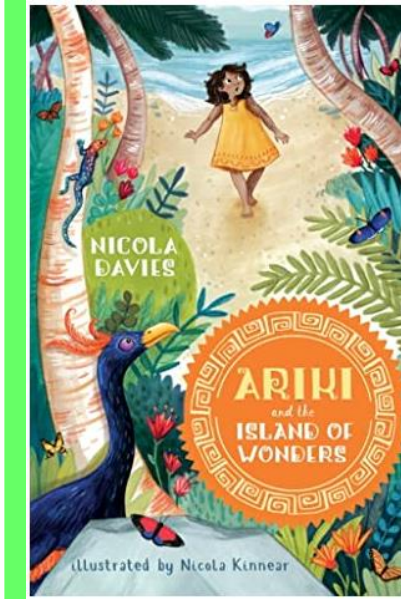
- Link to geography focus for the term.
- Gives factual information of penguins
- Character development
- Wide range of descriptive vocabulary
- PSHE focus – growing up



### Why?

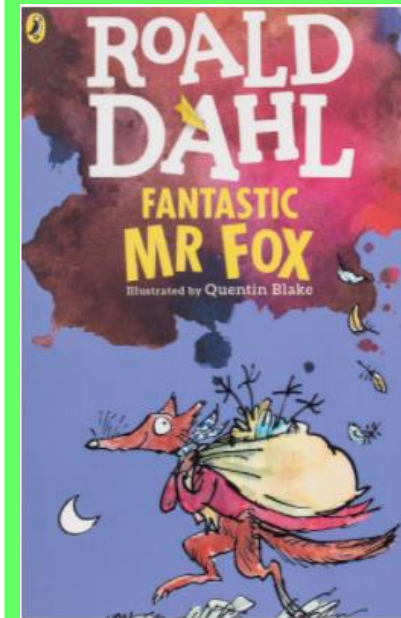
- Significant individual focus.
- Historical and geographical focus.
- Enhances understanding of continent focus and passing of time.
- Non-fiction.
- Supports learning of timelines and historical events.

## Summer



### Why?

- Adventurous and strong-willed lead character.
- Themes of belonging.
- Link to geographical focus and significant individuals.
- PSHE – family and friends
- Opportunities to extend vocabulary



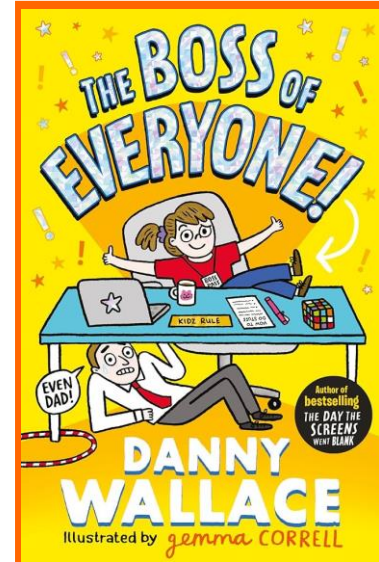
### Why?

- Classic text from familiar author
- Humour and exciting premise
- Strong character portrayal
- Socioeconomic status
- Family dynamics
- Moral issues for discussion
- Links to topic focus of animal endangerment/ environmentalism



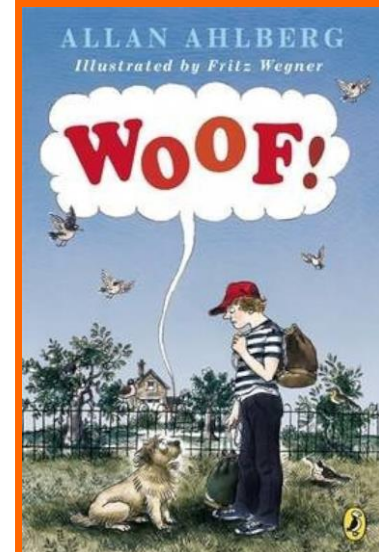
# Class Novels In Warriors 2024-25

## Autumn



### Why?

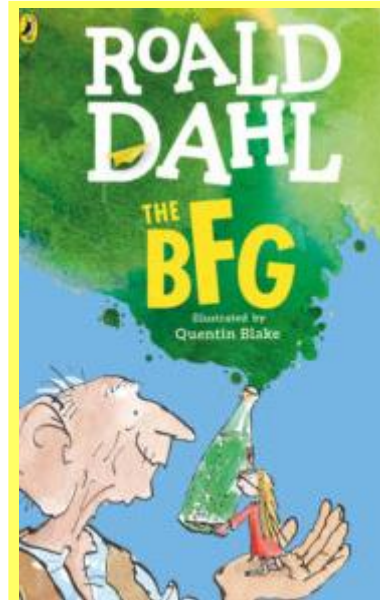
- Strong school link
- Excellent development of inference as lead character has little self awareness
- Excellent humour and first person character voice
- Female protagonist strong role model
- Themes of friendship, independence, learning, teamwork, volunteering



### Why?

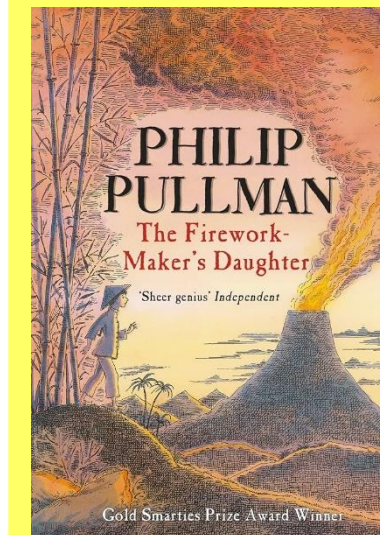
- Familiar school setting
- Complexity of narrator – boy in dog form
- Humour
- Appealing animal focus
- Themes of problem solving, independence

## Spring



### Why?

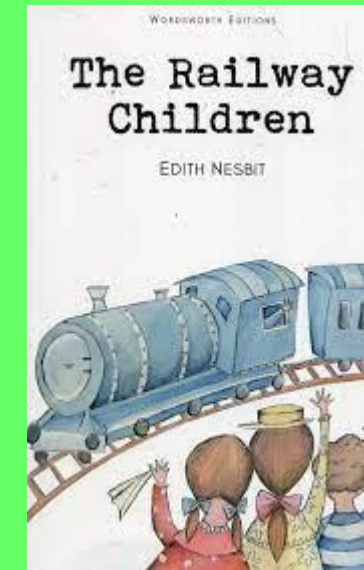
- Classic text
- Class not well versed in popular authors
- Appealing language play and humour for children
- Classic tale of child taking control of their destiny and growing in confidence



### Why?

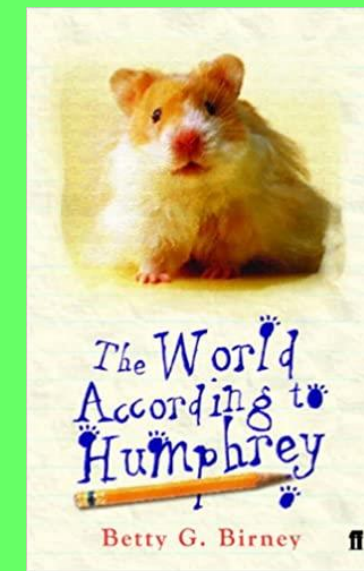
- Non-Linear Time Sequence
- Alternative cultural and time setting
- Prolific author
- Adventure and independence
- PSHE focus of friendship, trust, teamwork.
- Challenging vocabulary

## Summer



### Why?

- Link to history curriculum
- Detailed setting and character description.
- More complex sentence structure and vocabulary than they would access independently
- Classic fiction

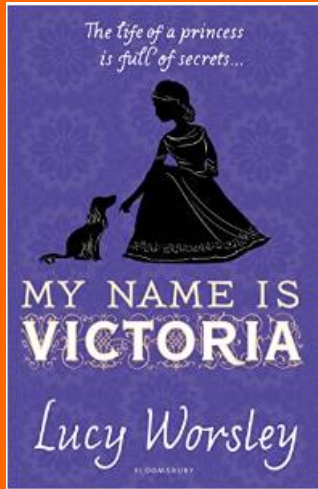


### Why?

- Familiar school setting
- Change in complexity of the narrator
- Appealing animal focus for many children of this age
- Empathy: Observations of different human behaviours and family situations within a class

# Class Novels In Ground-breakers 2024-25

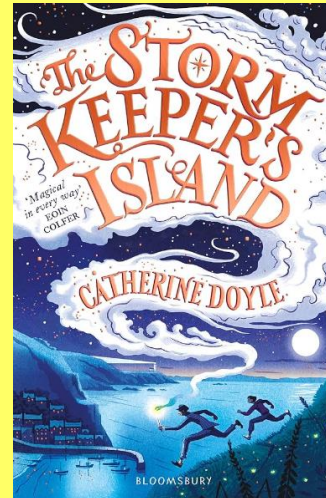
## Autumn



### Why?

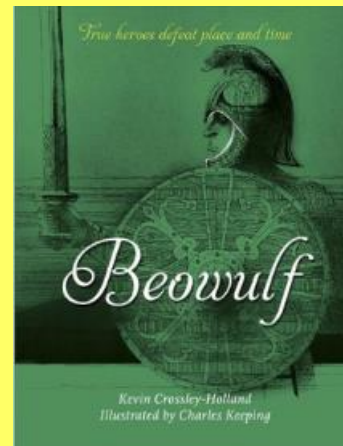
- Link to topic – Monarchy
- Introduces the children to history from a different perspective
- Strong female lead
- Links to teamwork and female solidarity in a patriarchal world

## Spring



### Why?

- Challenging vocabulary
- Exploration of challenging parental relationship
- Theme of independence and resilience – PSHE link
- Consistent use of metaphors for good modelling in writing



### Why?

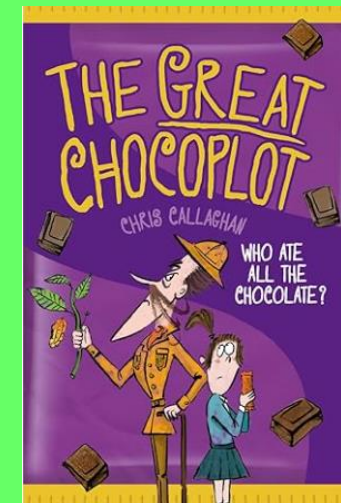
- Traditional text with challenging vocabulary
- Exploration of mythology
- Theme of bravery
- Classic good v evil theme
- Link to history study

## Summer



### Why?

- Reference to current globalisation issues
- Modern fiction with strong female and male leads
- PSHE – children taken away from parents/ independence
- Teamwork and independence theme
- Links to South America & rainforest topic



### Why?

- Female lead
- Humour and a gripping premise
- Strong character portrayal
- Link to humanities focus – Mayans and chocolate
- New text from modern author
- Different family situations – unemployment, living with grandparents



# Class Novels In Innovators 2024-25

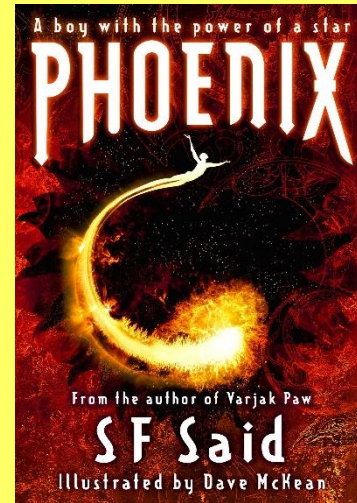
## Autumn



### Why?

- Link to geographical focus of Africa
- Set in current day Nigeria
- Contrasts urban and rural life
- Modern take on traditional tale
- Nigerian author
- Detailed setting / character description

## Spring



### Why?

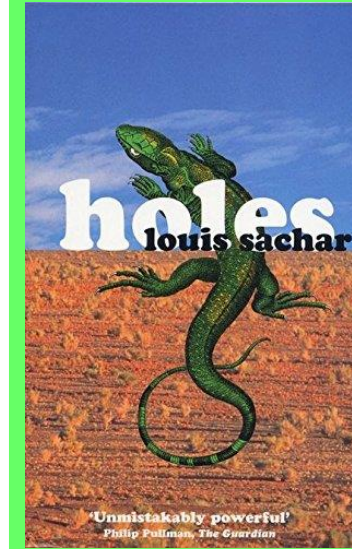
- Link to science topic and writing about space
- Sci-fi genre
- Modern fiction with a strong female character and strong male
- Modern themes including single parent family



### Why?

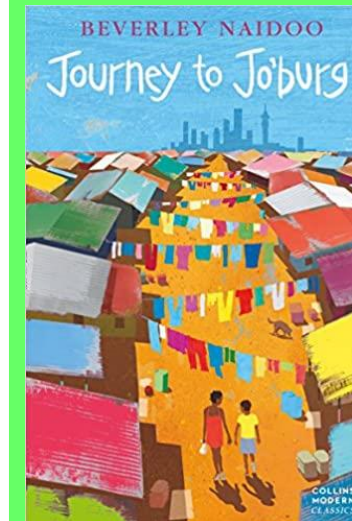
- Themes of diversity, poverty and immigration with historical focus
- Links with events of Tudor times.
- Shorter text.
- History focus question link 'What was life like in Tudor times?'

## Summer



### Why?

- Links to topic of crime and punishment
- Themes of justice, perseverance, integrity, friendship.
- Modern fiction

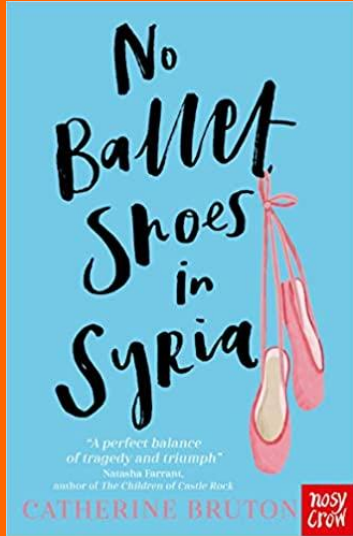


### Why?

- Political focus on apartheid.
- Hook for class focus week in summer term.
- Characters of similar age to class with different way of life.
- Background of the book being banned in South Africa.
- Additional details on apartheid extra to story

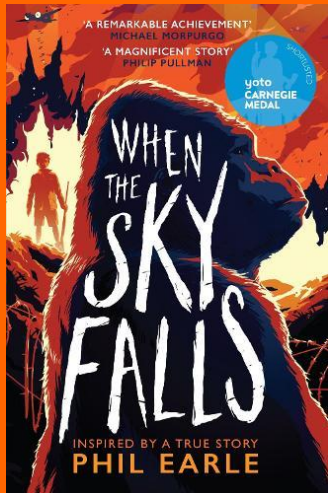
# Class Novels In Trailblazers 2024-25

## Autumn



### Why?

- Strong, independent characters with female lead
- Familiar themes of good and evil
- Challenging vocabulary
- Link to topic of 'Conflict'
- PSHE focus of Race, culture, prejudice, belonging
- Author visit planned
- Modern fiction



### Why?

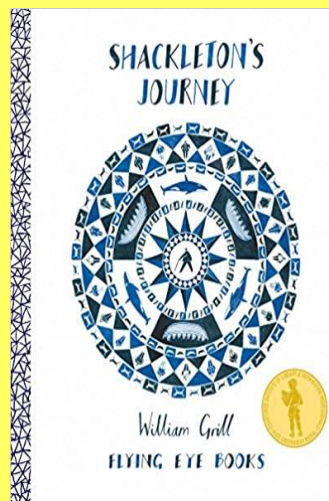
- Direct reference to World War 11, themes taught in class run alongside the chapters
- Gripping mystery.
- Opportunities to predict.
- Vocabulary supports topic learning and literacy

## Spring



### Why?

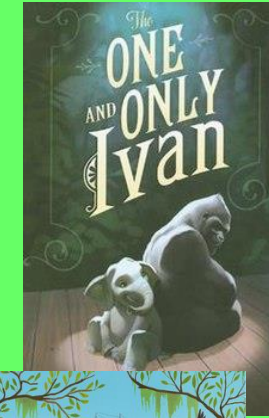
- A powerful and lyrical story about finding your place in the world and the people that matter within it.
- PSHE: links to transition and dealing with change.
- Written in verse – appealing to all readers.



### Why?

- Link to topic: Journeys
- Links to geography learning
- Opportunities for art / DT
- Author visit planned
- Clear coherent timeline of historical events.
- Excellent illustrations alongside wonderful text
- Challenging vocabulary  
Linked to literacy

## Summer



### Why?

- Link to science: Evolution and Darwin / animals and humans
- Themes of Teamwork and fighting for what you believe
- Links to Transition and moving on.
- Very emotional story that always prompts very open and honest discussion about life through the eyes of an animal.



### Why?

- Links to transition to secondary school
- PSHE: changes, transition
- Opportunities to write
- Building on self esteem

