

## Core Texts Oaks (Year 3/4) Year A

### Autumn

**One Plastic Bag** by Miranda Paul  
The true story of Isatou Ceesay who saw the problem that the proliferation of plastic bags was causing in her country, the Gambia, contaminating the environment and killing the goats that swallowed them. She collaborated with other local women to crochet thread made from the plastic bags to create purses resulting in a thriving trade and reducing pollution. The illustrator grew up in West Africa and has used colourful papers and leftover shopping bags in the creation of her pictures.

*Explore themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion*

*Develop creative responses to the text*

*Write with confidence for real purposes and audiences*

#### Belonging and Justice

Climate Justice

#### Writing Outcomes

Notes ▪ Presentation ▪ Leaflet ▪ Booklet ▪ Poster ▪ TED talk script ▪ Poem ▪ Clothes label ▪ Instruction Manual ▪ Advertising Campaign featuring: ▪ Tweets ▪ Radio jingle ▪ Television advert script ▪ Online pop up banner ▪ Non-fiction book

**Pebble in my pocket** by Meredith Hooper  
This information book does what all information books should do: excite the reader's interest, curiosity and sense of wonder where none may have existed. Meredith Hooper, an award winning science writer, brings her expertise and storytelling skills to the subject of the Earth's history, beginning with the contemplation of a pebble and a question. The absorbing text and illustrations take the reader through the 480 million years of the pebble's journey, from the spectacular furnace of volcanic eruptions to the cool seashore and the grassy field.

#### Belonging and Justice

*Explore an information book in depth*

*Explore themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion*

*Use creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork*

*Develop creative responses to the text*

*Write with confidence for real purposes and audiences*

#### Writing Outcomes

Free Verse Poetry ▪ Blackout Poetry ▪ Narrative Recount ▪ Explanatory Text ▪ Writing in Role Persuasive (Leaflet) ▪ Information Writing ▪ Narrative ▪ Persuasive (Letter) ▪ Historical Recount ▪ Free Writing

**I was Rat** by Phillip Pullman

This book is a perfect introduction to Phillip Pullman for our younger KS2 pupils. A boy turns up on the doorstep of an elderly childless couple claiming that he was a rat. The boy is subsequently questioned by the Philosopher Royal, kidnapped and put in a freak show, and the whole process eventually leads to a courtroom where his life is in danger.

Aspects of the tale appear on pages from a newspaper 'The Daily Scourge', as does the story of the recent 'fairy tale' marriage of the Prince and his bride Aurelia (aka Mary Jane). The link between these two stories unfolds in the book's climax. An adventure in which humour is conveyed through the use of language and characterisation, but which also has a darker side if readers stop and consider how opinions can so easily be formed by the media.

Engage children with a story with which they will empathise.

▪ Explore themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion.  
Develop creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork.  
Write in a role in order to explore and develop empathy for characters.  
Write with confidence for real purposes and audiences.

#### Belonging and Justice

#### Writing Outcomes

▪ Writing in role ▪ Diary writing ▪

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|               |  |   | Newspaper writing ▪ Persuasive writing<br>Letter writing   |
| <b>Spring</b> | <p><b>How the stars came to be</b> by Poonam Mistry<br/>Poonam Mistry has invented her own ‘pourquoi’ or origin tale about how the stars came to be, lighting the night sky, and how they are arranged, some formed into the pictures seen in constellations, some distributed more randomly. The distinctive patterns in her illustrations which are both bold and delicate, and her colour palette of deep shades of blue threaded with gold, yellow and bronze, complement the story perfectly.</p> <p><i>Establish and develop an insight into the culture and history of origin stories</i><br/><i>Enjoy a story and discuss its meanings</i><br/><i>Explore character viewpoint and motivation through role-play and through writing in role</i><br/><i>Develop the skill of oral storytelling</i><br/><i>Develop a personal and distinctive voice to support storytelling and writing</i><br/><i>Develop reader response by exploring interpretations of themes, plots and characters’ actions and motivations through discussion and debate</i></p> <p><b><u>Belonging and Justice</u></b><br/>A beautiful origin story</p> <p><b><u>Writing Outcomes</u></b><br/>Book talk responses, Playscript Information text Covering letter Annotations, Free Writing, Poetry, Writing in Role – Diary Entry Personal Narrative Original Creation or Pourquoi story</p> | <p><b>Tin Forest</b> by Helen Wand<br/>A tale of transformation. An old man lives in a grey and forsaken place ‘that looked out on other people’s rubbish and bad weather’. He dreams of a wild and colourful place and uses the resources around him in such a creative way that change comes about and a natural forest becomes entwined with one of metal.</p> <p><i>Engage with a story they will empathise with</i><br/><i>Explore themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion, enabling children to make connections with their own lives.</i><br/><i>Develop creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork.</i><br/><i>Compose poetry.</i><br/><i>Write in role in order to explore and develop empathy for characters.</i></p> <p><b><u>Belonging and Justice</u></b><br/>Considering the human impact on the earth.</p> <p><b><u>Writing Outcomes</u></b><br/>Writing in role ▪ Diary entry ▪ Poetry ▪ Descriptive Writing ▪ Letter writing ▪ Book Reviews ▪ Creative Writing</p> | <p><b>Poems that supplement the texts to be woven through the learning</b><br/>Dream Big: Michael Jordan and the Pursuit of Excellence, Deloris Jordan, illustrated by Barry Root (Simon &amp; Schuster) She Persisted Around the World, Chelsea Clinton, illustrated by Alexandra Boiger (Philomel Books) Manjhi Moves a Mountain, Nancy Churnin and Danny Popovici (Creston Books)</p> |
| <b>Summer</b> | <p><b>Arthur and the Golden Rop</b> by Joe Todd-Stanton<br/>Arthur Brownstone often ventures from the small Icelandic town where he was born into</p>  | <p><b>Milo Imagines the World</b> by Matt de La Peña<br/>Milo and his sister are taking their monthly Sunday train journey. Milo is a keen observer of all he sees and he is especially interested</p>  | <p><b>Poems that supplement the texts to be woven through the learning</b><br/>Karl Nova’s <a href="#">The Dancer   Centre for Literacy in Primary Education</a></p>   |

the nearby forest where his curiosity leads him to collect objects and forge friendships that will later be useful to him. One day a huge wolf extinguishes the fire that gives out essential warmth. The local wise woman Atrix advises that the only way to relight it entails someone brave enough to voyage to the land of the Viking gods. So our unlikely hero sets out, his adventures delineated using playful imagery in this graphic novel. He meets mighty Thor who enlists Arthur's help to defeat the wolf whose identity is revealed to be Fenrir, son of Loki. The story is framed by commentary from a Professor Brownstone who is a descendant of Arthur's and there is a strong hint that further family adventures may be in store.

*Engage children with a story told through a mixture of narration, speech and visual imagery*

*Explore themes and issues, and develop and sustain ideas through discussion*

*Develop creative responses to the text through drama, storytelling and artwork*

*Compose writing for a wide variety of purposes*

*Write in role in order to explore and develop empathy for characters*

### Writing Outcomes

Persuasive Letter Free Verse Poetry Script for Advertisement Narrative Voice: Storytelling Newspaper Article Writing in Role: journal Letter Writing Kenning Book Trailer Narration, Comic Book Writing

in the people travelling with them and getting on and off the train. He imagines their lives beyond the trip they are taking and draws them in his sketchbook. Where is Milo going and why is he 'a shook-up soda'? An insightful and poetic text combined with illustrations that show Milo's inner and outer worlds.

*Explore themes of bias and assumptions.*

*Discuss writing similar to that which they are planning to write in order to understand and learn from its structure, vocabulary and grammar;*

*Progressively build a varied and rich vocabulary and an increasing range of sentence structures; crafting and shaping language with the reader in mind*

*Assess the effectiveness of their own and others' writing and suggest improvements; Communicate learning around a key topic to a wider audience;*

*Consider how an author's writing communicates their thoughts and ideas about the world and topics of interest.*

### Belonging and Justice

*A brilliant book that builds is semi-auto-biographical for the illustrator. It challenges the assumptions we make about people and makes us rethink some of our own biases.*

### Writing Outcomes

Sentence Shaping ▪ Poetry ▪ Personal Narrative ▪ Narrative (Short) ▪ Writing in Role ▪ Poetry ▪ Persuasive Writing ▪ Information Writing ▪ Narrative (Long)

'King of the Dance' by Christine Poreba (Let the Stars In, MMU)

'Steel Band' by Faustin Charles [poems](#)

'Still-Hip Dad Looks Back' by Grace Nichols (Cosmic Disco, Frances Lincoln)

o '[Carnival Dance Lesson](#)' by John Lyons

(Dancing in the Rain, Peepal Tree)

