

Text We Like in Year 6: recommended by Literacy Leaders of Kent

Year 6	Book Title	Author if known	Good text for ...
	The Watertower	Gary Crew and Steven Woolman	Character and motive; inference; missing parts of the story; point of view; simile/metaphor; narrative writing; description; suspense
	The Viewer	Gary Crew and Shaun Tan	Fantastical tale; metaphors and symbols of seeing and watching
	The Kingdom Revealed	Rob Ryan	Old fashioned storytelling combined with art; about a boy who doesn't want to be king; varied tenses; rich language
	The Highwayman	Alfred Noyes	Similar/metaphor; narrative writing; description; suspense and tension
	Stig of the Dump	Clive King	Character development; setting
	Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	Imaginative writing; figurative language
	White Giraffe	Laurence St. John	Cross-curricular links
	How to Live Forever	Colin Thompson	Inference, issues for discussion, visual literacy
	Skellig	David Almond	Description; setting; predict the ending; suspense; difficult issues; relationships; equality
	Street Child	Berlie Doherty	Topic links; character study
	Daughter of the Sea	Berlie Doherty	Vocabulary and descriptive writing
	Wonder	R.J. Palacio	Links to PSHE; use of colons
	Tribes	Catherine MacPhail	Character description and changes; diary writing; letter of complaint; newspaper articles, recounts, suspense; links to PSHE and Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (antisocial behaviour and gang disputes)
	Kensuke's Kingdom	Michael Morpurgo	Link to History topic; empathy with character's POV; lots of grammar development; letter writing; diary; expanded noun phrases; news report; flashback writing; good for highlighting how to read a text aloud, use intonation and pace; using punctuation in a variety of ways, including semi-colons, colons, dashes and brackets;
	War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	Link to History topic; lots of grammar development
Be aware; many secondary schools use this text	Private Peaceful	Morpurgo	History topic link;
	The Sleeping Sword	Morpurgo	Myths and legends; rich vocabulary; plot and language are complex
	I Believe in Unicorns	Morpurgo	Imaginative; viewpoints about the world; discussion

	Beowulf Youtube has a good animated version narrated by Derek Jacobi	Morpurgo	Links to Anglo-Saxon topic; building tension; short sentences; character and setting; story writing; rich extended vocab; descriptive passages; hyphenated adjectives;
	Shackleton's Journey	William Grill	Explorers; non-fiction; autobiography
	The Person controller	David Baddiel	Grammar: embedded clauses, dashes and brackets
	Wolf Brother	Michelle Paver	Description; inspires a variety of writing genres; cross-curricular links to topic; personification; powerful language and imagery; suspense; can be used in group reading; wide range of rich vocabulary
	Goodnight Mr Tom	Michelle Magorian	WW2 theme; apostrophes, missing letters, colloquialisms; text types include letters; build a shelter in DT
	There's a boy in the girls' bathroom		PSHE; issues and discussion; predictions; issues; character contrasts
	Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Quirky story about a girl with a huge imagination; quite dark and scary; settings; suspense; prediction
	Journey to Jo'burg	Beverley Naidoo	Issues and dilemmas; postcard writing; continuation of chapter 10; different culture
	Varjak Paw	S.F.Said	Variation and comparison of characters; atmosphere and mood in setting; description;
Be aware; many secondary schools use this	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	Links to History topic; very challenging issue of the Holocaust; (check local secondary schools are not using this in Year 7 or 8)
	Floodland	Marcus Sedgewick	Distopian world; issues for discussion; prediction; inference; solid sentence structures for teaching
	The Adventures of Odysseus	Lupton, Morden and Balit	Non-fiction
	Mouse, Bird, Snake, Wolf	David Almond and Dave McKean	Descriptive writing e.g. design own creature; inference;
	The Savage	David Almond	Bullying; (be aware text includes death of father); PSHE book in which the boy writes a story, therefore good role model; edit and improve the boy's story; newsreport
	Cloud Busting	Malorie Blackman	Story told in first person verse
	Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Great for SPAG; point of view of different character; newspaper articles and diary writing
	Cosmic	Frank Cottrell Boyce	Long-legged Liam makes a giant leap for boy-kind by competing with a group of adults for the chance to go into space.

			Funny and engaging. Appeals to boys and girls.
	Percy Jackman and the Lightning Thief	Rich Riordan	Novel and graphic novel and film! Very long text. Good vocabulary.
	The Secret Garden	Frances Hodgson Burnett	Different types of sentences; word classes e.g. prepositions; suspense; emotive writing; conscience alley
	Step by Wicked Step	Anne Fine	Older readers; suspense;
Can be used across year groups	Tuesday	David Weisner	Wordless text; inference and prediction; eye-witness report; news report, script
	Rose Blanche	Roberto Innocenti	Conflicts and dilemmas promotes discussion and PSHE; vocabulary; prediction; inference; visual literacy; poetry writing
	The Wedding Ghost	Leon Garfield and Charles Keeping	High level vocabulary
	The Emperor's Egg	Martin Jenkins	Brackets for parenthesis
	One Tiny Turtle	Nichola Davies	Colons
	Moonbird	Joyce Dunbar	Dilemmas and issues – story of a deaf boy; discrimination; communication
	The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd	Characterisation; (autistic narrator); first person; inference; monologues (dashes and ellipsis); adventure story; setting; information leaflets; suits all ability levels
	One Dog and his Boy	Eva Ibbotson	About a boy who is told he must give back his dog; modern classic; rich language and vocabulary
	Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz	Non-fiction writing e.g. news report; persuasive writing; lends itself to every genre for Year 6 - teachers loved it!
	The Lie Tree	Frances Hardinge	Rich language; inference and deduction
	The Valley of Secrets	Charmian Hussey/ Christopher Crump	Punctuation; complex sentences
	Clockwork	Philip Pullman	Inspires all kinds of writing genres; author's choice of language
	Rooftoppers	Katherine Rundell	Poetic language; imagination; prize-winning book
	The Viewer	Sean Tann and Gary Crew	Picture book; metaphors and symbols; inference
	The Mystery of the Whistling Caves	Helen Moss	Easy to show how stories develop; character development
	Where's Wally	Martin Handford	Encourages expanded noun phrases
	Gravity	Jason Chin	Earth and space topic; recounts
	UFO Diary	Satoshi Kitamura	Earth and Space topic; explanation texts
	The Arrival	Shaun Tan	Wordless text; mystery; dilemmas for discussion; fantasy; all genres of writing; belonging

	The Rabbits	Shaun Tan	Inference
Be aware: many secondary schools use this	Holes	Louis Sacher	Range of cross-curricular work; fiction and non-fiction; flashbacks; diary; film available for comparison; non-chronological report; advertising campaign; setting; survival guide or instructions; passive voice; formal/informal; appeals to boys and girls; character analysis
	The Hobbit (for most able readers)	Tolkein	Ethics, character discussion
	Seabean (Trilogy)	S. Holding	Extended narrative
	Tom's Midnight Garden	Philippa Pearce	Meaning of unfamiliar words in context; finding synonyms; archaic language; broadening vocabulary (magpie words); use of all higher level punctuation; complex story structure; character development; building suspense;