

## Hadley Wood Primary School's Literature Spine

The books in Year 5 have been selected to create a living library within the children's' minds. They are a collection of essential reads that help children engage at a deeper level and enter the world of the story. They promote a range types of texts that children should have access to in order to successfully navigate reading with confidence as well as covering themes and issues that are pertinent to modern society. Many of these books are complex beyond a lexical level and demand more from the reader than other types of books.

### Autumn 1



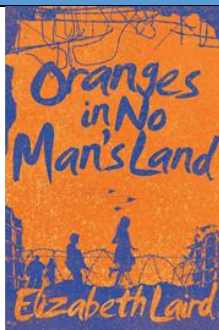
#### **The House with Chicken Legs**

*Sophie Anderson*

Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning.

For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas...

### Autumn 2

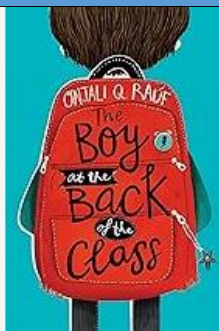


#### **Oranges in No Man's Land**

*Elizabeth Laird*

Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill, Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.

### Spring 1



#### **The Boy at the Back of the Class**

*Onjali Rauf*

'There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help ... That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan...'

On a perfectly ordinary school day, something extraordinary happens: a boy with pale skin, lion eyes and a tattered red rucksack walks in. Unable to speak English and seated at the back of the class, Ahmet 'the refugee kid' becomes the perfect target for bullies and rumours alike.

But Ahmet has also captured the attention and empathy of a fellow classmate, who will do anything to help him find his family. Even if that involves a plan - or five, and the Queen herself!

### Spring 2

LOUIS SACHAR



**holes**

BLONKNEY

#### **Holes**

*Louis Sachar*

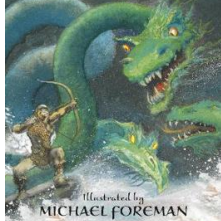
Stanley Yelnats' family has a history of bad luck, so when a miscarriage of justice sends him to Camp Green Lake Juvenile Detention Centre (which isn't green and doesn't have a lake) he is not surprised.

Every day he and the other inmates are told to dig a hole, five-foot-wide by five foot deep, reporting anything they find. The evil warden claims that it is character building, but this is a lie and Stanley must dig up the truth.

### Summer 1

MICHAEL MORPURGO

*Beowulf*



Illustrated by  
MICHAEL FOREMAN

#### **Beowulf**

*Michael Morpurgo*

In fifth-century Denmark, a murderous monster stalks the night, and only the great prince of the Geats has the strength and courage to defeat him. Beowulf's terrifying quest to destroy Grendel, the foul fiend, a hideous sea-hag and a monstrous fire-dragon is the oldest surviving epic in British literature.

### Summer 2



#### **The 1000 Year Old Boy**

*Ross Welford*

There are stories about people who want to live forever.

This is not one of those stories.

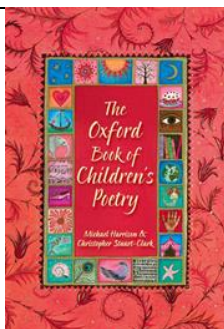
This is a story about someone who wants to stop...

Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy – except he's 1,000 years old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England.

Obviously no one believes him.

So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live...

... which means finding a way to make sure he will eventually die.



#### **The Oxford Book of Children's Poetry**

To coincide with the centenary of Oxford Children's Books we are proud to present this definitive new collection. Including all the major children's poets, and with a wonderful range of both classic and modern favourites, this is a book that will be treasured for a lifetime. The poems are enhanced with black and white artwork from a number of top children's illustrators to create a truly special package, which should be on every child's bookshelf.