Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map
Story Saplings – EYFS

Training text
Using Story Saplings training will be held once a term for each year group. Book via literacytree.com/training

Outside inside – Autumn 1

Story Sapling



Where the Wild Things Are
Maurice Sendak



We're Going to Find the Monster
Malorie Blackman



Colin's Castle
Holly Swain

Length

5 stages, 2+ weeks	5 stages, 2+ weeks	5 stages, 2+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Wild desert island:	**Adventure supply store:**	**Spooky castle:**
▸ palm trees ▸ vines ▸ cave	▸ compass ▸ binoculars ▸ maps	▸ drawbridge ▸ turrets ▸ moats

Traditional tale links

Alongside these Story Saplings, model oral retelling or read any version of the following stories. Draw on the expertise in your local community; involving caregivers and colleagues. Extend planned story sessions by offering role-play, small world and creative materials for children to retell the stories themselves. Make links between the links traditional tales and the Story Saplings explored such as **tricks, unwanted vistitors, courage.**

Ashanti Tales (Anansi the Spider)

The Three Little Pigs

All about me – Autumn 2

Story Sapling



Amazing
Steve Anthony



Ning and the Night Spirits
Adriena Fong



Bathe the Cat
Alice B. McGinty

Length

5 stages, 2+ weeks	5 stages, 2+ weeks	5 stages, 2+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Mythical creatures pet shop:	**Enchanted woods:**	**Home:**
▸ food, water bowls and beds ▸ tanks and cages ▸ taking care of pets information	▸ lanterns ▸ trees ▸ toadstools	▸ babies, baths, bottles ▸ cuddly animals ▸ mop, hoover, broom

Traditional tale links

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Goldilocks and the Three Bears

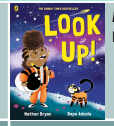
The Gingerbread Man

Talents & powers – Spring 1

Story Sapling



Superheroes in the Park
Ian Eagleton



Look Up!
Nathan Bryon

Length

10 stages, 3+ weeks	10 stages, 3+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Park:	**Space or spacecraft:**
▸ signs ▸ pond ▸ swings	▸ astronaught dress-up ▸ telescope ▸ stars and planets

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The Enormous Turnip

The Magic Paintbrunch

Seasons & cycles – Spring 2

Story Sapling



The Tiny Seed
Eric Carle



Confetti
Dean Atta

Length

10 stages, 3+ weeks	10 stages, 3+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Garden centre:	**Weather station:**
▸ seed packets ▸ watering cans ▸ gardening gloves	▸ umbrellas ▸ dress-up to match the seasons ▸ weather vane

Traditional tale links

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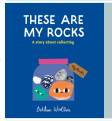
Jack and the Beanstalk

How the Raven Stole the Sun

Travel & treasure – Summer 1

Story Sapling



These Are My Rocks
Bethan Woolvin



Aisha's Colours
Nabila Adani

Length

10 stages, 3+ weeks	10 stages, 3+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Museum and/or **café:**	**Car garage:**
▸ shelves, boxes and crates ▸ magnifying glasses ▸ brochures and maps	▸ cars ▸ maps ▸ tools for fixing cars

Traditional tale links

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Little Red Riding Hood

Rumplestiltskin

Family & friends – Summer 2

Story Sapling



So Much
Trish Cooke



A Taste of Home
Maryam Hassan

Length

10 stages, 3+ weeks	10 stages, 3+ weeks

Oracy through role-play opportunity

Home:	**Kitchen:**
▸ toys ▸ furniture ▸ family pictures	▸ oven and stove ▸ play food ▸ cooking utensils

Traditional tale links

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The Three Billy Goats Gruff

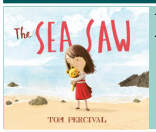
Hansel and Gretal

Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 1/2 – Cycle A

Theme / Term	Space & our world – Autumn 1		Heroes & villains – Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *Astro Girl* Ken Wilson-Max	 *Toys in Space* Mini Grey	 *Dragon Post* Emma Yarlett	 *Wolves* Emily Gravett
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Fact files about being astronauts** Writing in role, commands, 'how to' guides	**Own version fantasy world narrative** Found posters, diary entries, speech bubbles, notes of advice, space logs, invitations, fantasy setting descriptions.	**Guide to look after a dragon** Letter asking for help, note of advice, instructions, menu, speech bubbles, journey map, thought bubbles	**Non-chronological leaflets** Captions, information writing, letter, warning poster, labels

Theme / Term	Nature & environment – Spring 1		Change & relationships – Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *The Sea Saw* Tom Percival	 *Ocean Meets Sky* The Fan Brothers	 *Dadaji's Paintbrush* Rashmi Sirdeshpande	 *Grandad's Camper* Harry Woodgate
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	10 sessions, 2 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Egg-spotter's guides (non-fiction reports)** Thought bubbles, short guides, awards, letter of advice, labels, congratulations cards, commands	**Extended fantasy narrative** Setting and character descriptions, labels, diary entry, postcard, captain's log, instructions, dialogue	**Guides** Labels, captions, character comparisons, thought and speech bubbles	**Sequel narratives** labels, memories, poems, interviews, photo album captions, postcards

Theme / Term	Friendship & kindness - Summer 1		Structures & materials - Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Lubna and Pebble* Wendy Meddour	 *Lizzy and the Cloud* The Fan Brothers	 *Iggy Peck Architect* Andrea Beaty	 *The Great Fire of London* Emma Adams & James Weston Lewis
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version gifting narratives** Labels, thank you notes, speech bubbles, advice postcards, instructions, character descriptions	**Guidebooks** Descriptions, adverts/market stall pitches, letters of advice, postcards in role, instructions	**Fact file about famous buildings** Labels, character comparisons, character descriptions, building descriptions, posters	**Information booklet** Persuasive posters, warning posters (instructional writing), speech bubbles, letters of advice, certificates

Training text

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Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 1/2 – Cycle B

Theme / Term	Journeys & exploration - Autumn 1		Bravery & pride - Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *Stanley's Stick* John Hegley	 *Last Stop on Market Street* Matt de la Peña	 *The Bear and the Piano* David Litchfield	 *The Proudest Blue* S.K. Ali & Ibtihaj Muhammad
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version narrative** Book of sticks' entry, speech bubble, thought bubble, postcard	**Own version narrative** Metaphor poetry, simple character descriptions, interview questions, adverts, advice slips, letters	**Own version narratives about bravery** Letters of advice, short reports, writing in role retellings, information posters, speech bubbles, postcards, thought bubbles	**Narrative** Advert, packing list, fact files, letters of support, poem, character description, diary entry

Theme / Term	Similarities & differences – Spring 1		Urban metropolis – Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *If All the World Were...* Joseph Coelho	 *The Comet* Joe Todd-Stanton	 *Naughty Bus* Jan Oke and Jerry Oke	 *Rosie Revere, Engineer* Andrea Beaty
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Non-narrative read aloud poem** Writing in role, diaries, letters of advice, short explanations, top tips	**Own version narrative** Posters, letters of advice, poems, descriptions, writing in role, recipes	**Own adventure stories** Letters, diaries, sequels, labels, captions, shared fact files on buses, simple descriptions	**Explanation text** Short explanations, adverts, advice letters, character description, invention descriptions

Theme / Term	Fictional worlds & fantasy – Summer 1		Creation & conservation – Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Beegu* Alexis Deacon	 *The Dragon Machine* Helen Ward	 *Stella and the Seagull* Georgina Stevens	 *Dear Earth* Isabel Otter & Clara Anganuzzi
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version 'alien' narratives** Descriptions, commands, letters, nonsense-word dictionary, poems, nonfiction reportsm, retellings, speech bubbles, labels	**Own version dragon stories** Dragon guides & encyclopaedia, letters of advice, dragon machine explanations, shopping lists, descriptions, letters	**Own version narrative** Lists, thought bubbles, speech bubbles, posters, guides, instructions, retellings (oral)	**Informative leaflet** Future aspirations, a set of instructions, poems, travel blogs/vlogs, persuasive speeches, letters

Training text

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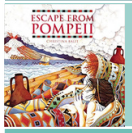
Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 3/4 – Cycle A

Theme / Term	Magic & wonder – Autumn 1		Dreams & curiosity – Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *The Seed of Doubt* Irena Brignull	 *Varmints* Helen Ward	 *The Barnabus Project* The Fan Brothers	 *FArTHER* Grahame Baker-Smith
Length	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**16 sessions, 3+ weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**
Outcomes	**Motivational leaflet** Shared poems, dreams and aspirations, setting descriptions, advice letters, paper aeroplane messages, speeches, characters descriptions	**Explanations of a life cycle** Diary entries, instructions, letters, descriptions, speeches, thought bubbles, blurb	**Brochures** Instructional writing (escape plan, experiment), descriptions, advertisements, letters of advice, dialogue, diary entry	**Sequel Story** Retellings, recounts (postcards), setting descriptions, diary entries, instructions

Theme / Term	Inspiration & strength – Spring 1		Hope & resilience – Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *Leon and the Place Between* Angela McAllister	 *Frindleswylde* Natalia & Lauren O'Hara	 *Granny Came here on the Empire Windrush* Patrice Lawrence	 *Cloud Tea Monkeys* Mal Peet & Elspeth Graham
Length	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**16 sessions, 3+ weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**
Outcomes	**Own version fantasy narratives** Persuasive posters, setting descriptions, thought bubbles/diaries, dialogue, speech bubbles	**Narrative sequels** Letters, voting slips, dialogue, poetry, birds-eye view descriptions, speeches	**Factual reports** Informal letters, factual statements, future aspirations, postcards, diary entries, a speech, quotations	**Non-chronological reports** Descriptions, 'how to' guides (instructions), letters, discussions, labels, thought bubbles

Theme / Term	From mystery to discovery – Summer 1		Confidence & caution – Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Escape from Pompeii* Christina Balit	 *The Ever-Changing Earth* Grahame Baker-Smith	 *The Zebra's Great Escape* Katherine Rundell	 *The Baker by the Sea* Paula White
Length	**16 sessions, 3+ weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**	**15 sessions, 3 weeks**
Outcomes	**Newspaper reports** Setting descriptions, diaries, letters, thought bubbles, descriptions	**Narrative sequels** Informal letters, explanatory leaflets, list poems, dictionary of terms, postcard predictions, comparison texts	**Own version 'great escape' narrative** wanted poster, letter, action scene, poetry, dialogue, setting description	**Tourist brochure** Job applications, advertisements, setting descriptions, letters in role, poems, blurb

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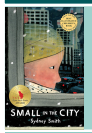
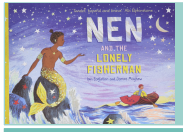
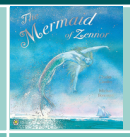
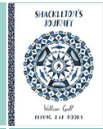
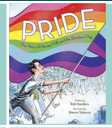
Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 3/4 – Cycle B

Theme / Term	Magic & wonder – Autumn 1		Overcoming adversity - Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *The Wilderness* Steve McCarthy	 *Tar Beach* Faith Ringgold	 *Small in the City* Sydney Smith	 *The Crown* Emily Kapff
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Guide to the wilderness** 'Meet the family' character introduction, letter of advice, poem, SOS message, identification label	**Narrative retelling as a play script** Poetry, setting descriptions, formal letters, dialogue (as a script), thought bubble	**Extended narrative from alternative perspective** Setting description, poem, diary entry, dialogue, letter of advice, lost poster	**'Book of Wonder' information text** Descriptive labels, diary entry in role, poetry, poster, speech bubbles

Theme / Term	Inspiration & strength – Spring 1		Hope & resilience – Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* Ian Eagleton	 *The Mermaid of Zennor* *Charles Causley*	 *The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish* Chloe Savage	 *Shackleton's Journey* William Grill
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	10 sessions, 2 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version narrative** Lonely hearts advert character description, diary entries, message in a bottle, thought bubbles	**Own version legends** Information booklets, retelling from a different perspective, letters, tourist guides	**Non-chronological report** Video messages, letters, diary entries, poetry, speech bubbles	**Newspaper reports** Packing lists (justifications), letters (formal and informal), interviews, diaries, dialogue

Theme / Term	From mystery to discovery – Summer 1		Confidence & caution – Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Our Tower* Joseph Coelho	 *The Iron Man* Ted Hughes	 *The Thames Tide Club* Katya Balen	 *Pride: The Story of Harvey Milk and the Rainbow Flag* Rob Sanders
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	18 sessions, 3+ weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Extended fantasy narratives** Poems, setting descriptions, diary entries, dialogue, letters of thanks	**Mystery narratives** Character descriptions, short news bulletins, letters of advice, diary entries, menus, logbook entries	**Own version fantasy narrative** Persuasive letters and letters of advice, diary entries, weather reports, advertisements, dialogue	**Biographies of Harvey Milk** Thought bubbles, speech, simple leaflets, protest placards

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Literacy Tree

Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 5/6 – Cycle A

Theme / Term	Journeys & migration - Autumn 1		Belonging & equality – Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *The Lost Thing* Shaun Tan	 *Windrush Child* Benjamin Zephaniah	 *The Lizzie and Belle Mysteries* J.T. Williams	 *Suffragette: The Battle for Equality* David Roberts
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	20 sessions, 3+ weeks	20 sessions, 4 weeks	10 sessions, 2 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version narratives** Diaries, formal letters, adverts, character descriptions, how to look after a lost thing, retellings	**Persuasive pitch to the council** Thought bubble, informal letter, poem, diary entry, advice, formal letter, speeches	**Biographies** Posters, diary entries, case notes, letters, character descriptions, fact files, persuasive speeches, dialogues	**Persuasive campaigns** Formal letters, diaries, balanced arguments, speeches, short news reports

Theme / Term	Mystery & discovery - Spring 1		Legends & folklore - Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *The Cave Explorer* Kate Winter	 *The Whale* Ethan and Vita Murrow	 *Rumaysa: A Fairy Tale* Radiya Hafiza	 *Paradise Sands* Levi Pinfold
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Tourist Leaflet for the Lascaux Caves** Debate, opinion piece (blog post), diary entry, newspaper report, non-chronological report, poetry	**Film pitches** Reported speeches, speech and thought bubbles, descriptions, recounts in role, letters to a newspaper editor, comparative descriptions	**Fairy tale reworking (prequel)** Warning poster, diaries, dialogue, missing narrative, adverts, letters of advice, thought bubbles	**Narrative prequel** Descriptive story openings, informal notes of advice, formal letters in role, descriptive retellings, conversations, book reviews

Theme / Term	Fate vs free will - Summer 1		Crossing borders - Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Romeo and Juliet* William Shakespeare	 *Children of the Benin Kingdom* Dinah Orji	 *The Unforgotten Coat* Frank Cottrell Boyce	 *The Odyssey* Gillian Cross
Length	15+ sessions, 3+ weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Balanced argument** Diaries, letters, character descriptions, police reports, retellings, dialogue, setting description	**Non-chronological reports** Informal letters, diaries, survival guides, eyewitness reports, story summaries	**Own version narrative** Diaries, explanations (science experiment), dialogue, non-chronological reports, short scene narrative prose	**Epic adventure story** Speeches, diary entries, dialogue, missing scenes, postcards, advertisements

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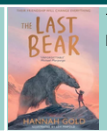
Essentials Curriculum Map

Writing Roots – Year 5/6 – Cycle B

Theme / Term	Journeys & migration – Autumn 1		Evolution & inheritance – Autumn 2	
Writing Root	 *The Arrival* Shaun Tan	 *The Last Bear* Hannah Gold	 *Can We Save the Tiger?* Martin Jenkins	 *Robot Girl* Malorie Blackman
Length	17 sessions, 3+ weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	16 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Extended own version narratives** Character descriptions, diaries, short playscripts, short reports, guides, retelling, setting description (poster)	**Newspaper article** Character profile, dialogue, monologue, logbook entry, scientific report	**Discussion texts** Letters, explanations, persuasive posters & speeches, simple poems, descriptions of creatures	**Science-fiction narratives** Discussions, debates, dialogue, character comparisons, reviews, action scene, email in role, setting descriptions, advice letters

Theme / Term	Urban landscapes - Spring 1		Protest & discrimination - Spring 2	
Writing Root	 *Boy in the Tower* Polly Ho-Yen	 *The Promise* Nicola Davies	 *Anne Frank* Josephine Poole	 *Stonewall* Rob Sanders & Jamey Christoph
Length	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	10 sessions, 2 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Own version narratives** (past and present tense) Journalistic writing, formal letters, non-chronological reports, warning posters	**Sequel to continue the cyclical story in the form of a narrative poem** Promises, extended thought bubble, diary entry, leaves for a 'mood tree', letter in role, figurative captions, poem to summarise the story	**Newspaper articles** Letters, short descriptions, extended diary entries, obituaries, opinion pieces, dialogue	**A visitor's guide to The Stonewall Inn National Historic Landmark** Adverts, short news reports, protest banners, writing in role

Theme / Term	Ambitious pursuits - Summer 1		Mystery & truth - Summer 2	
Writing Root	 *Hidden Figures* Margot Lee Shetterly	 *The Man Who Walked Between the Towers* Mordicai Gerstein	 *High Rise Mystery* Sharna Jackson	 *Some Places More Than Others* Renee Watson
Length	15 sessions, 3+ weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks	15 sessions, 3 weeks
Outcomes	**Non-chronological report** Reports, formal and informal letters, diaries, character descriptions, journalistic writing, job adverts	**Biography** Fact files, letters, diaries entries, interviews, news bulletins, persuasive speeches, journalistic writing	**Extended stories** Character & setting descriptions, police & newspaper report, dialogue, persuasive letters, diary entry, manuals	**The Suitcase Project (collection of poems)** Transition project to represent children: maps, recipes, poems, photos and a biography, lists, persuasive letter, diary entries, leaflets

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