

Literature Spine

As a school, we have developed our own Literature Spine, drawing from the recommended selections within CUSP. This carefully curated collection includes at least two books per year group, encompassing both fiction and poetry, to provide an engaging and enriching literary experience for our pupils.

Each text has been thoughtfully selected for whole-class reading while also serving as a valuable resource for guided and independent study. They have also been chosen to represent some of the latest and best releases, as well as representing some genres and authors that our children may not necessarily choose to read of their own accord. This approach broadens their literary horizons and fosters a deeper appreciation for English literature.

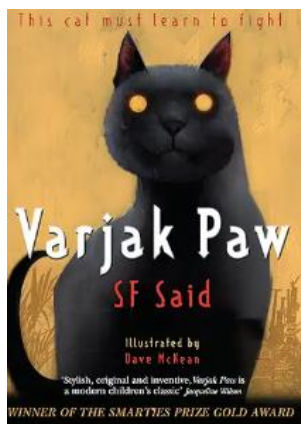
Key Stage 2



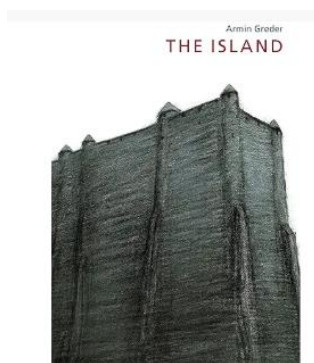
The Raven by Edgar Allan Poe is a famous poem about loss, sadness, and mystery. It tells the story of a man who is grieving the loss of his love, Lenore. One stormy night, he hears a tapping and discovers a large black raven has entered his room. The man starts talking to the bird, but the only word the raven ever says is "**Nevermore.**"

As the man asks questions about Lenore and whether he will ever be happy again, the raven keeps repeating "**Nevermore,**" making him feel even more hopeless. In the end, the man believes he will be trapped in his sorrow forever, with the raven as a symbol of his grief.

The poem is known for its dark, eerie mood, its musical rhythm, and the repeated use of the word "**Nevermore.**"



Varjak Paw is a children's book by S.F. Said about a young Mesopotamian Blue cat named Varjak. He lives a sheltered life with his family in a grand house, but when a mysterious gentleman and his strange black cats arrive, Varjak must leave to find help. Venturing into the dangerous outside world for the first time, Varjak learns about street life, makes new friends, and discovers an ancient martial art for cats called **"The Way of Jalal."** Using these skills, he faces challenges, overcomes his fears, and fights to save his family. The story is a mix of adventure, mystery, and self-discovery, with themes of bravery, friendship, and believing in yourself.



The Island by Armin Greder is a powerful story about a man who is washed up on the shore of a strange island. The people living there don't trust him because he looks different. They are afraid of him and don't want to help.

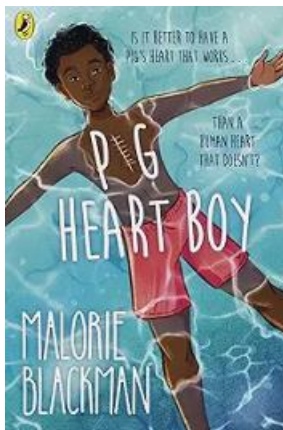
At first, they let him stay, but they treat him badly, keeping him away from their homes. Some people want to be kind, but others are too scared to accept him. In the end, the islanders make a cruel decision that changes everything.

This book teaches an important lesson about kindness, fear, and how people treat those who are different.



Pupils in year 6 will be introduced to Charles Dickens through exploring the classic novel 'Oliver Twist'.

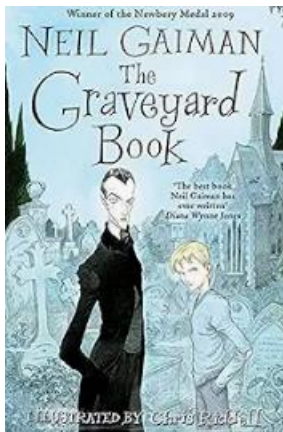
Key Stage 3



Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman is a story about a 13-year-old boy named Cameron, who has a very weak heart and needs a transplant to survive. But instead of getting a human heart, doctors offer him something unusual—a heart from a pig!

Cameron must decide if he wants to take this chance to live, even though some people think it's wrong. His friends, family, and the world all have different opinions, and he faces challenges, secrets, and big emotions along the way.

It's a touching story about bravery, friendship, and what it really means to be human.



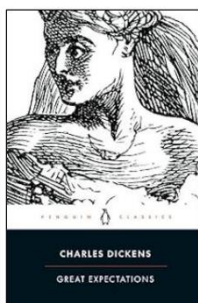
The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman is an exciting and spooky story about a boy named Bod (short for Nobody Owens). When he was a baby, his family was attacked by a mysterious man, but Bod escaped and found safety in a nearby graveyard. The ghosts in the graveyard decide to raise him as their own, teaching him their secrets and special ghostly tricks.

As Bod grows up, he has many adventures—meeting strange creatures, learning magic-like skills, and uncovering the mystery of his past. But danger is always nearby, and one day, he must face the man who tried to harm him.

It's a magical and mysterious story about bravery, friendship, and finding where you belong!

Pupils in year 7, 8 and 9 will also study and explore extracts from Charles Dickens.

Great Expectations



Oliver Twist

