

Introduction for teachers

The texts in this book are for children who read fluently and accurately. This increasing independence in reading should enable them to establish the meaning of each text and to answer questions on it. Familiarise yourself with each text before introducing it, and make full use of the opening pointer when doing so. Your knowledge of each child's abilities will determine whether you read the text together first or leave the child to read alone.

All the texts will stimulate, inform and entertain, while reflecting the range of genres recommended for Year 4 by the Primary Framework for literacy. The fiction texts include poetry, narrative, historical fiction, traditional fable, wartime propaganda, the classics, fantasy and a playscript. The non-fiction texts include instruction, information, reports and recounts. The range of subject matter covers diverse interest areas, appealing to both boys and girls, with themes designed to dovetail with teaching across the curriculum.

The child should be able to implement a number of strategies to discern the meaning of new words. These include recognising similarities to familiar words (for example, the word 'guises' is similar to the word 'disguise') and using contextual clues (for example, the setting or the character's behaviour). Having a dictionary available will build the child's confidence and provide practice in the use of reference books. In some cases, a glossary is provided.

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