

# Picture books for p4c

Version 1 (September 2008)

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In this document, you will find 50 picture books that we recommend for use in p4c sessions. In each case, we have given:

- Details of the story including title, author, publisher and short synopsis
- A rough idea of the age range the story is suitable for, plus a few questions that we think children might ask
- A list of the possible concepts that might be teased out of the story
- A link to Amazon (UK) to help you identify the right book, plus links to other resources on [p4c.com](http://p4c.com), where available

So that this list might grow, please send us your recommendations. All accepted contributions will be awarded contributor points and your name will appear in the 'additional contributors' list in subsequent editions.

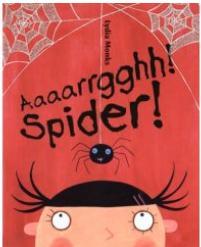
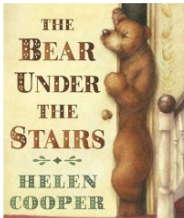
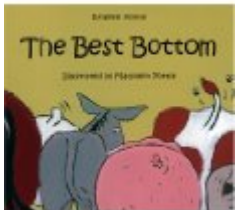
Either contribute a [full resource](#) based on your chosen book(s) (eg [Dragons and Giants](#)), or email us your suggestion(s) using the same format that appears throughout this *Picture books for p4c* document, and we will do the rest

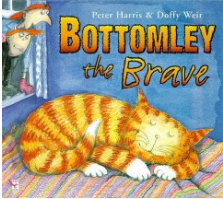
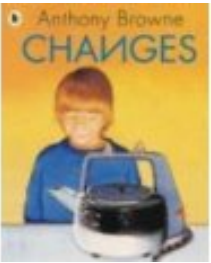
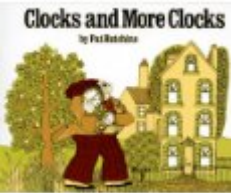
Email: [steve@p4c.com](mailto:steve@p4c.com)

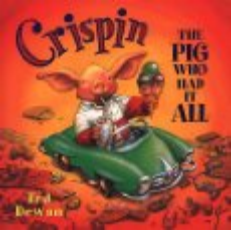
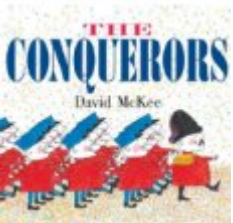
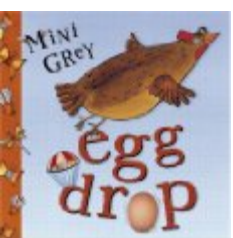
*Jill and James Nottingham*

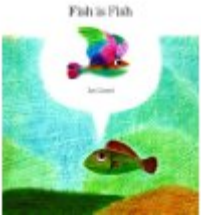
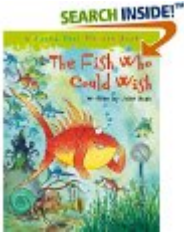

## Additional Contributors

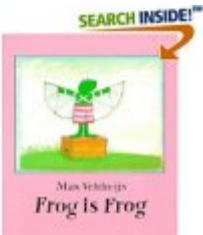
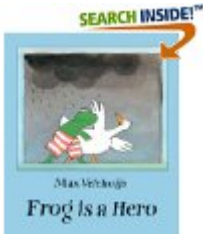

Steve Williams (The Important Book)

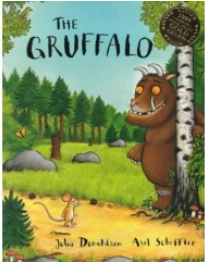


Front cover	Book details	Concepts	Ages	Overview and potential questions	Links
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Aaaarrgghh, Spider</b></p> <p><b>Lydia Monks</b> <i>Houghton Mifflin Company</i></p>	<p>Appearance Belonging Fears Learnt behaviour Pet Prejudice Scary</p>	<b>5 to 13</b>	<p>A story about a spider who wants to be a family pet. She tries to get everyone to like her and to prove that she would be a better pet than the other pets, but she keeps scaring them. By the end of the story, the spider's webs have impressed the family so much that they embrace her as one of the family. But then the spider invites all her friends around and they scare the family away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes one pet better than another?</li> <li>• What makes us afraid of something?</li> <li>• Are we only afraid of frightening things?</li> <li>• Do we all need to belong?</li> <li>• Is it possible to avoid pre-judging?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Bear under the Stairs</b></p> <p><b>Helen Cooper</b> <i>Picture Corgi</i></p>	<p>Dreaming Imagination (Ir)rational Power of belief Real/not real Scared</p>	<b>6 to 11</b>	<p>A little boy believes there is a bear living under his stairs. He feeds the bear but doesn't talk to the bear. He dreams about the bear and imagines what the bear is like. When Mum notices the smell of rotting food, they clean out the cupboard together and discover an old bear-like coat in there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If we believe in something enough, can that make it real?</li> <li>• Just because we can't see it, does that mean it doesn't exist?</li> <li>• Are we all scared of something?</li> <li>• Does it give us comfort to have something to be scared of?</li> <li>• Do we need to confront our fears in order to overcome them?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Dreams</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Best Bottom</b></p> <p><b>Brigitte Minne</b> <i>Macmillan</i></p>	<p>Arguing Competition Fairness Name calling Opinion Vanity</p>	<b>4 to 11</b>	<p>All the farm animals decide to have a competition to find the best bottom in the farmyard. Whilst they're all grooming their bottoms they begin to argue and then to fight. Meanwhile, a frog who'd recently hopped into the farmyard and assumed he couldn't enter the competition because he didn't have a tail (and what is a bottom without a tail?) straps a bouquet of flowers to his bottom and takes 1<sup>st</sup> prize</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is OK to be vain?</li> <li>• Are all competitions good?</li> <li>• How can you decide what is best?</li> <li>• Is it fair to gain an advantage?</li> <li>• Are beauty contests fair?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Fairness</i></p>

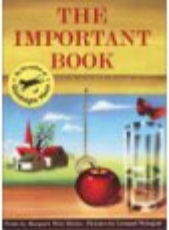
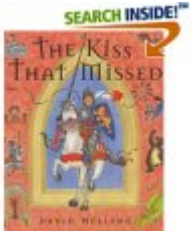
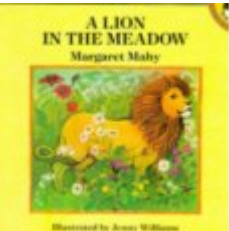
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Bottomley the Brave</b></p> <p><b>Peter Harris</b> <i>Red Fox Picture</i></p>	<p>Bravery Greed Imagination Lies Truth</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>The story of a plump, lazy, but highly imaginative ginger cat whose hair-raising account of his confrontation with a gang of ruthless burglars is curiously at odds with the reality of the illustrations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's the difference between telling lies and telling stories?</li> <li>• Is it sometimes OK to tell lies?</li> <li>• When is it not good to tell stories?</li> <li>• Can scaredy cats sometimes be brave?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Changes</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> <i>Walker Books Ltd</i></p>	<p>Appearance Arrival of a new sibling Changes Normality</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>A day in the life of Joseph, in which everything seems to change in the most peculiar of ways. The washbasin grows feet, the armchair becomes a gorilla, his bicycle wheel turns into an apple...Joseph's father had said when he'd left that morning that everything was going to change. But what had he meant? The book explores the boy's state of mind as he prepares for the return of his parents with his new baby sister.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is change inevitable?</li> <li>• If one thing in your life changes, can it cause everything else to change?</li> <li>• Can one thing change and everything else stay the same?</li> <li>• Is wondering worse than knowing?</li> <li>• If normal means everything staying the same, does that mean nothing is normal?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Growth and Change</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Clocks and More Clocks</b></p> <p><b>Pat Hutchins</b> <i>Atheneum Books for Young Readers</i></p>	<p>Knowledge Nature of time Perception Time and space relationship</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Mr Higgins found a clock in his attic but he wasn't sure if it was telling the correct time so he bought another clock and put it in the bedroom to check. However by the time he walked from the bedroom up to the attic the clock there was reading one minute later than the clock in the bedroom. After buying many other clocks and finding the same problem, he eventually uses his pocket watch to work out the real time!.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we mean by 'real time'?</li> <li>• Is time different for everyone?</li> <li>• What is the relationship between time and space?</li> <li>• If someone is far away from us can we really experience something at the same time?</li> <li>• Is time important?</li> <li>• If we didn't have clocks or other things to measure time would we still have time?</li> </ul>	

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Crispin, the Pig Who Had It All</b></p> <p><b>Ted Dewan</b> <i>Corgi Children's</i></p>	<p>Appreciation Being spoilt Making friends Using imagination Values</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>A tale about a pig is spoilt and lonely. He has lots of toys that he bores of easily and ends up breaking. One Christmas, Santa gives him an empty box, thus teaching him to use his imagination and thus how to engage with other pigs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are our friends worth more than our possessions?</li> <li>• Can our imagination make anything into a toy?</li> <li>• Can you have too much of a good thing?</li> <li>• Why was the empty box the best toy?</li> <li>• Are money and value the same thing?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Conquerors</b></p> <p><b>David McKee</b> <i>Andersen Press Ltd</i></p>	<p>Culture Domination Fascism Imperialism Influence Integration Megalomania Power</p>	<p><b>8 to 16</b></p>	<p>There's a very large country that's ruled by a general with a very strong army. They used force to attack other countries until there was only one country left that hadn't been conquered. It was a small country, with no army. The people were very welcoming and soon the soldiers had involved themselves in this new culture. On return home the general found that his own country had changed and had adopted many of the ways of the small country he had 'conquered'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you have power without influence?</li> <li>• Do ignorance and arrogance always come together?</li> <li>• Is every society a multicultural one?</li> <li>• What is the difference between influencing and conquering?</li> <li>• Is friendship a greater force than intimidation?</li> <li>• Does anyone have the right to tell others how to live their lives?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Culture</i> <i>Tourism</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Egg Drop</b></p> <p><b>Mini Grey</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Ambition Dreams Knowledge Patience Personal fulfilment Youth</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>This is the dramatic story of a local Egg. "The egg was young. It didn't know much. We tried to tell it, but of course it didn't listen. If only it had waited ..."</p> <p>This is the story of the Egg that wanted to fly. The Egg loved the sky. It saw all the birds, insects, aeroplanes, balloons, helicopters, bats and clouds. It dreamed of being high up there, flying with them all. So the Egg went to a very high place...and jumped...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it good to be ambitious?</li> <li>• Does youth make us ignorant?</li> <li>• Does age make us wise?</li> <li>• If we believe we've achieved our goals does that mean we have?</li> <li>• Should we limit our dreams?</li> <li>• Should we only have aspirations that others think we can achieve?</li> </ul>	

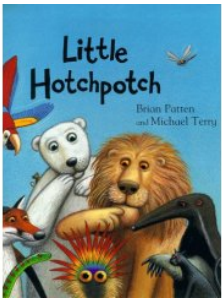

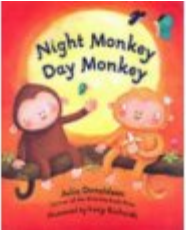
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Fish is Fish</b></p> <p><b>Leo Lionni</b> <i>Demco Media</i></p>	<p>Contentment Envy Friendship Habitats Imagination Self-acceptance Self-awareness</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Fish and tadpole are inseparable friends until the day that tadpole discovers he has legs. They argue what a fish and a frog are and whether tadpole is one or the other. When tadpole becomes a fully grown frog he climbs out of the water to explore the world. When he later returns with tales of what he has seen, fish's imagination runs wild with wonderful pictures So fish jumps on to the land to discover this world for himself only to have to be rescued by frog. He now realises that frog was right when he said 'frogs are frogs and fish is fish' and you can't be something you are not.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes you, you?</li> <li>• How do you know what your limitations are?</li> <li>• Is aspiring to be something else a bad thing?</li> <li>• Why do other people's lives often look more interesting than our own?</li> <li>• Do you have to know yourself before you can accept yourself?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Identity</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Fish Who Could Wish</b></p> <p><b>John Bush &amp; Korky Paul</b> <i>Oxford University</i></p>	<p>Aspirations Contentment Greed Revenge Wisdom Wishing</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>A story about a fish with a special gift: whatever he wishes for comes true. So he wished for grand things such as castles; he wished for amazing adventures; and he made wishes that allowed him to teach other fish lessons. In the end though, the fish wished he could be just like all the other fish in the sea, and so it was: no more of his wishes came true</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it wrong to wish a selfish wish?</li> <li>• Is it foolish to wish to be like everyone else?</li> <li>• Can you teach someone a lesson by taking revenge?</li> <li>• Is wisdom something you have to work at?</li> <li>• Should we be happy with whom we are?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Flop Ear</b></p> <p><b>Guido Van Genechten</b></p>	<p>Being different Being normal Being the same Fitting in Name calling Self esteem Teasing</p>	<p><b>5 to 9</b></p>	<p>Flop-ear the bunny rabbit has one floppy ear. All the other bunnies make fun of him, so he tries everything to correct it: sticking a carrot in his ear, hanging upside down and tying a balloon to it. But nothing works so, fed up of being teased, Flop-ear goes to see the doctor who tells him it's fine to be different. On his return to the warren, all the other bunnies rejoice that he's back and try to make their ears floppy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should we all try to be the same?</li> <li>• Do we have to be the same to be equal?</li> <li>• Is it OK to have a laugh if it makes someone sad?</li> <li>• Is it always good to have a laugh?</li> <li>• Is anybody normal?</li> </ul>	

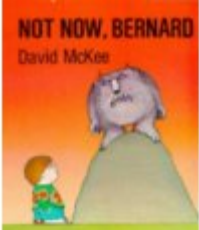

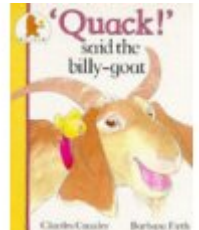
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Frog is Frog</b></p> <p><b>Max Velthuis</b> <i>Andersen Press</i></p>	<p>Acceptance Envy Loving oneself Talents Trying to be someone else</p>	<p><b>8 to 13</b></p>	<p>Frog is very happy with himself until Duck makes him realise he can't do what she does: fly. He tries everything to fly but ends up feeling a failure. Frog asks Pig if he can fly; Pig says he can't but that he can back the best cakes. This makes Frog feel even worse because he can't bake cakes. Eventually, Hare helps him to realise that he has many talents, including jumping and swimming. Frog is Frog!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we all talented?</li> <li>• Should we accept who we are?</li> <li>• Is envy a bad thing?</li> <li>• Is it natural to want what someone else has got?</li> <li>• Are we our own worst judge?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Frog is a Hero</b></p> <p><b>Max Velthuis</b> <i>Anderson Press</i></p>	<p>Bravery Dangers Friendship Heroes Risk-taking Sharing</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Frog loves the rain, but it doesn't seem much fun when he and his friends are flooded out. Only Hare's house is safe and dry, but Frog, Duck and Pig cannot shelter there forever because their food is running out. As Frog ventures out to fetch more supplies the waters threaten to carry him away.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is too much of a good thing, a bad thing?</li> <li>• What is a hero?</li> <li>• Would you risk your life to help your friends?</li> <li>• Does friendship mean sharing everything with one another?</li> <li>• Is it always good to brave?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:  <i>Heroes</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Gorilla</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> <i>Walker Books Ltd</i></p>	<p>Busy parents Hope and dreams Imagination Private adventure Time Zoos/captivity</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Hannah is obsessed with gorillas. She watches them on TV, she reads about them and draws pictures of them but she's never seen one in real life. Her Dad just never had time to take her to the zoo. The night before her birthday, a toy gorilla that she finds at the bottom of her bed comes to life and takes her on an adventure. The following morning, she wakes up to be greeted by her Dad asking if she wants to go to the zoo.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can our imagination make our dreams come true?</li> <li>• Should we keep animals in zoos?</li> <li>• Is it alright to have private adventures?</li> <li>• Is some people's time more important than others?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:  <i>Dreams</i></p>




 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Gruffalo</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler</b></p> <p><i>Macmillan</i></p> <p><i>Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Being scared Believing Bravery Eating animals Predictions Reality Telling lies</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>An absolute classic. More often than not the Gruffalo is the first story we use with a primary group for their first philosophy session. It is a rhyming story of a mouse and a monster. The little mouse goes for a walk in a dangerous forest. To scare off his enemies, he invents tales of a fierce creature called the Gruffalo. Imagine his surprise when he meets the real Gruffalo!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is the Gruffalo real?</li> <li>• How can you tell when someone is telling lies?</li> <li>• How did the mouse know what the Gruffalo was like?</li> <li>• Why were the animals scared of the little mouse?</li> <li>• Is it OK for animals to be eaten?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Gruffalo's Child</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler</b></p> <p><i>Macmillan</i></p> <p><i>Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Boredom Bravery Cunning Defiance Fascination/curiosity Legends Perception Reputation Thinking skills</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>The Gruffalo warns his child to beware of the Big Bad Mouse; however the little gruffalo sneaks out when her dad is asleep in search of this mystical beast. Using her dad's description of the mouse as a clue to track him down she sets off on her journey meeting all the other creatures on the way. Each creature reinforces the legend of the Big Bad Mouse as a gruffalo eater. When the Gruffalo's child meets the mouse, the mouse saves himself by using the shadows to scare the Gruffalo's child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What thinking skills did the Gruffalo's child use to track down the mouse?</li> <li>• Does curiosity justify defiance?</li> <li>• Is your reputation built upon people's perceptions of you rather than who you really are?</li> <li>• Is it brave or stupid to put yourself in a dangerous situation?</li> <li>• Can you make people believe you are a totally different person than you really are?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>I'll Always Love You</b></p> <p><b>Hans Wilhelm</b></p> <p><i>Hodder Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Ageing Death Friendship Life cycle Love Playing</p>	<p><b>5 to 10</b></p>	<p>A story about a boy and his dog. They're inseparable friends, always playing and getting up to mischief. But over the years, Elfie the dog grows old and slow until one night she dies in her sleep. The boy buries Elfie in the garden and lays a flower on her grave. He tells Elfie that he'll always love her and when offered a new puppy, he declines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it feel like to lose something we love?</li> <li>• What does 'always' mean?</li> <li>• Is something more special if it belongs to you?</li> <li>• Is it important to do things together with those we love?</li> <li>• Can a pet be your best friend?</li> </ul>	

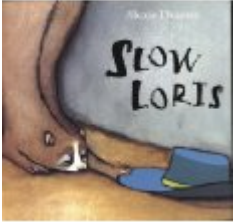


 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Important Book</b></p> <p><b>M W Brown &amp; L Weisgard</b> <i>Harper Collins</i></p>	<p>Change Identity Important</p>	<p><b>4 to 9</b></p>	<p>The book is very good starting point for talking to young children about the concepts like important, change and identity. It could also be a good book to use if you are in the early stages of building up the children's enquiry skills. The pattern of the book is that the writer suggests various things like: rain, a spoon or a daisy. For each item, the writer lists some qualities or purposes and gives an opinion as to the most important. The book ends on the subject of 'you'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes something important?</li> <li>• What makes you, you?</li> <li>• If you had a different name, would you still be you?</li> <li>• Does everything about you change over time?</li> <li>• Will you still be the same you when you are old?</li> </ul>	<p>P4C Library: The Important Book</p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Kiss that Missed</b></p> <p><b>David Melling</b> <i>Hodder Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Being in a hurry Bravery Fairy tales Love Magic Monsters/dragons</p>	<p><b>5 to 9</b></p>	<p>The little prince's goodnight kiss has gone missing. It escaped into the forest where it had no place to be. So the brave and fearless knight is sent on a mission to bring it back. But is the knight brave and fearless enough?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does love have magical powers?</li> <li>• Do dragons exist?</li> <li>• What makes someone brave and fearless?</li> <li>• Does love always make things better?</li> <li>• Does hurrying make things go faster or slower?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>A Lion in the Meadow</b></p> <p><b>Margaret Mahy</b> <i>Puffin Books</i></p>	<p>Assumptions Believing other people Having no name Imagination Reality</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>This story is based around the dilemma of believing there is a lion in the meadow even though your mother does not believe you. To placate the situation, the boy's mother gives him a matchbox with a dragon in it to scare the lion away. However, the lion is really there and soon becomes best friends with the little boy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How do you know when to believe other people?</li> <li>• How does it feel when people don't believe you?</li> <li>• What would life be like if we were all referred to as 'boy' or 'girl' rather than by our own names?</li> <li>• In what way were the lion and the dragon 'real'?</li> <li>• Was the mother wrong to assume there was no dragon in the matchbox?</li> </ul>	


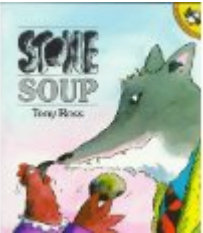
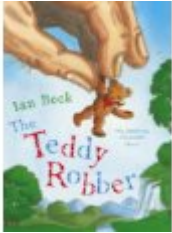


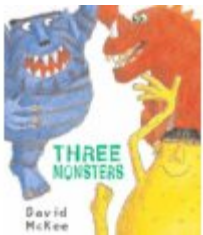
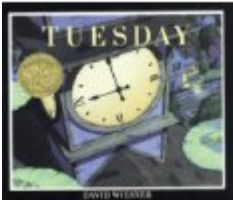
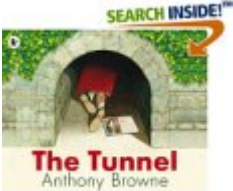
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Little Hotchpotch</b></p> <p><b>Brian Patten &amp; Mike Terry</b></p> <p><i>Bloomsbury Publishing plc</i></p>	<p>Appearances Commonality Identity Names Wisdom</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>A story about a little creature who doesn't know who or what he is and his quest to discover his real identity. He meets lots of animals along the way, all of whom have something in common with him though none are exactly the same. Eventually a wise owl tells him he's a "hotchpotch"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What makes you, you?</li> <li>• Do we have something in common with everyone?</li> <li>• Does it matter what we look like?</li> <li>• If you don't have a name, do you not have an identity?</li> <li>• Is a false identity still an identity?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Identity</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Little Mole</b></p> <p><b>Werner Holzwarth</b></p> <p><i>Chrysalis Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Evidence Expertise Investigating Knowledge Revenge</p>	<p><b>7 to 13</b></p>	<p>A little mole pops his head out of the ground only to find a poo dropping on his head. So he sets off on a journey to find out who was responsible. Each animal he asks provides a sample of their own poo to prove it wasn't them. Eventually, he asks some experts on poo – two flies! They analyse the sample and identify the culprit. At the end, the mole is seen taking his revenge on Basil the butcher's dog.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it wrong to take revenge?</li> <li>• Should we always trust an expert?</li> <li>• How do we know what evidence to believe?</li> <li>• Can revenge ever be fair?</li> <li>• Do two wrongs make a right?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Knowledge</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Night Monkey, Day Monkey</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Lucy Richards</b></p> <p><i>Egmont Books Ltd</i></p>	<p>Compromise Differences Friendship Give and take Sharing</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>A story about two friends, a night monkey and a day monkey. They are best friends but live in very different worlds: what one of them loves, the other one fear. Presuming they need to be the same as each other, they try spending time in each other's worlds but struggle to see what the other sees. In the end they come to understand that they can have different interests and beliefs yet still be best friends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have to compromise to be friends?</li> <li>• Can we see the world as others see it?</li> <li>• Is friendship built upon shared experiences?</li> <li>• Do friends always have something in common with each other?</li> <li>• Can you be friends with someone who's the complete opposite of you?</li> </ul>	


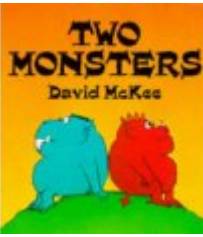
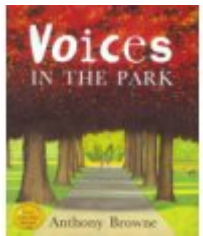
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Not Now Bernard</b></p> <p><b>David McKee</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Being noticed Feeling valued Patience Reality</p>	<p><b>4 to 9</b></p>	<p>The perennial and well-loved classic picture book story about parents too preoccupied to notice their own child. Bernard's parents are so busy doing their own thing, that they don't notice the monster in the garden, nor see when the monster eats Bernard. In fact, the monster can eat Bernard's dinner, break his toys, and even say 'But I'm a monster', without being noticed!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does it feel not to be noticed?</li> <li>• Was there really a monster in Bernard's garden?</li> <li>• What do adults mean when they say children are 'little monsters'?</li> <li>• What types of monsters are there in the world?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Oscar Got the Blame</b></p> <p><b>Tony Ross</b> <i>Andersen Press Ltd</i></p>	<p>Blame Imaginary friends Pretend Reasons</p>	<p><b>4 to 9</b></p>	<p>Oscar and Billy were the best of friends but when Billy dressed the dog in Dad's clothes - Oscar got the blame, and when Billy put frogs in Granny's slippers - Oscar got the blame. No one ever believes Oscar's explanation of events or believes that Billy even exists. It's just not fair when your invisible friend is such a naughty boy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In what ways do imaginary friends exist?</li> <li>• Can imaginary friends make you do things?</li> <li>• Was it fair that Oscar got the blame for everything?</li> <li>• Is someone always to blame?</li> <li>• Can some things happen without any reason?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>'Quack!' Said the Billy-Goat</b></p> <p><b>Charles Causley &amp; Barbara Firth</b> <i>Candlewick Press</i></p>	<p>Animals talking Communication Language Subverting expectations</p>	<p><b>3 to 7</b></p>	<p>'Quack!' said the billy-goat; 'Oink!' said the hen; 'Miaow!' said the little chick running in the pen.; so begins the story. This is a nice book to use with very young children (from 3 onwards) as they will enjoy making the right sounds for each animal. There isn't much of a story to it but the illustrations are great and the story simple enough for the youngest philosophers.</p> <p>Possible questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can animals talk?</li> <li>• Why does it sound wrong for a billy-goat to say 'quack!'?</li> <li>• Is it impossible for a goat to sound like a duck?</li> <li>• If so, does that mean goats can't talk to ducks?</li> <li>• Can dogs talk to cats, or cows talk to sheep?</li> </ul>	


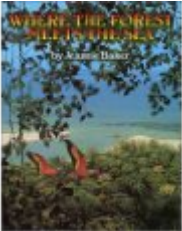

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Rainbow Fish</b></p> <p><b>Marcus Pfister</b></p> <p><i>North South Books</i></p>	<p>Arrogance Beauty Humility Popularity Self-satisfaction Vanity</p>	<p><b>4 to 9</b></p>	<p>The Rainbow Fish is the most beautiful fish in the sea, but he has no friends because he is just too beautiful to play with any of the others. The wise octopus tells him to share his beauty with the other fish in order to make friends. The Rainbow Fish gives away his shiny scales one by one, but gains a sense of satisfaction from pleasing others as well as gaining a group of new friends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Should we change ourselves in order to be popular?</li> <li>• Is it important to please other people?</li> <li>• What makes something beautiful?</li> <li>• Is vanity a weakness?</li> <li>• Is popularity the same as being liked?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Red Tree</b></p> <p><b>Shaun Tan</b></p> <p><i>Simply Read Books</i></p>	<p>Darkness Despair Fate Hope Nothingness Patience Passing of time Understanding</p>	<p><b>9 to 14</b></p>	<p>The Red Tree covers the topics of good events passing you by and the inevitability of bad things happening. It finishes with a ray of hope and happiness. This book is ideal for inquiry when students are beginning to realise that the world is full of good and bad events. It helps to remove the rose-tinted glasses of early childhood without being morose or depressing. Each page has a picture stimulating enough to be used as a stand-alone resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can you tell if something is worth waiting for?</li> <li>• Is there such a thing as fate?</li> <li>• Why do troubles seem to come all at once?</li> <li>• Is it possible for 'nothing to happen'?</li> <li>• Would you get rid of the bad times if it meant you also lost the good times?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Room on the Broom</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler</b></p> <p><i>Campbell Books</i></p>	<p>Fantasy Friendship Helping others Magic/Reality Scariness Stereotyping</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>This is the story of a good-natured witch and her cat that collect other friends as they fly through the sky on their broomstick. A good general stimulus with enough concepts to stimulate the novice and experienced inquirers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it always a good thing to help others?</li> <li>• What makes this witch a good witch?</li> <li>• Is magic real?</li> <li>• If you do something nice, should you expect something nice in return?</li> </ul>	

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Slow Loris</b></p> <p><b>Alexis Deacon</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Being bored Being different Captivity Nicknames Reasons Secrets Zoos</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>Slow Loris is a sloth. All the other animals in the zoo think he's boring because he never seems to do anything. They call him names and make fun of him behind his back. But Slow Loris has got a secret! In the middle of the night, Loris is wild! He has parties, has lots of fun and really enjoys himself (which is why he moves so slowly during the day: he's worn out!) Once the animals discover his secret, they all join in the fun and now they're all like Loris during the day: slow, tired and boring?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we all have secrets?</li> <li>• Is it good to share (or have) a secret?</li> <li>• Can something that is boring, also be interesting?</li> <li>• Should we use nicknames?</li> <li>• Are animals kept in zoos for people's entertainment?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Smartest Giant in Town</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler</b> <i>Macmillan</i> <i>Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Altruism Appearances Generosity Gratitude Kindness Familiarity Personal pride Self-satisfaction</p>	<p><b>6 to 10</b></p>	<p>George is the scruffiest giant in town until he decides to buy himself a set of smart clothes from the new shop. On his way home he meets a range of creatures each in need of one part of his outfit or another. After giving away his clothes one by one to the animals he is left cold and sad, until he spots the bag with his old clothes in. Once he puts these on he again feels happy, cosy and comfortable. The animals send him a crown and a thank you card declaring him the kindest giant in town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there such a thing as a totally selfless act?</li> <li>• Are we most comfortable with the things we know the best?</li> <li>• Is what other people think of you important?</li> <li>• Does it matter what we look like?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Something Else</b></p> <p><b>Kathryn Cave &amp; Chris Riddell</b> <i>Puffin Books</i></p>	<p>Belonging Friendship Identity Self esteem Strange</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>Something Else just doesn't fit in. He looks different, he sounds different and all the other animals don't want him around. Then, one day an even odder 'Something' turns up. Something Else things Something is very strange and asks him to leave. But when Something looks sad, Something Else realises how similar they are and they become best of friends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is everyone different?</li> <li>• When should we try to fit in with everyone else?</li> <li>• Why do we all have a need to 'belong'?</li> <li>• Do two people need something in common to become friends?</li> <li>• When we look in the mirror, do we see what everyone else sees?</li> </ul>	

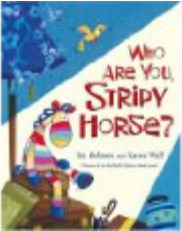

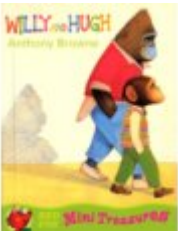
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>A Squash and a Squeeze</b></p> <p><b>Julia Donaldson &amp; Axel Scheffler</b></p> <p><i>Macmillan Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Advice Contentment/ discontentment Personal fulfilment Trust Wisdom</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>A little old lady living alone was grumbling because she felt her house was too small. The wise old man advised her to bring her animals into the house one at a time. Each time the animal got larger and took up more room in her house. By the time the old lady had five animals in her house it really was a squash and a squeeze. The wise old man told her to take them all out again and in doing so she realised how much space there was when there was only one person living there.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do we only realise the real value of what we have once it is gone?</li> <li>• Does wisdom come with age?</li> <li>• What does it mean to be wise?</li> <li>• How can we tell which advice we should trust?</li> <li>• Do we need to experience discontentment in order to achieve contentment?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Stone Soup</b></p> <p><b>Tony Ross</b></p> <p><i>Puffin Books</i></p>	<p>Being a fool Being gullible Clever Cunning Greed Trickery</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>A wolf tells mother hen that he's going to eat her up and steal all of her things. Mother Hen says, "Thank you, but before you eat me up, I'm going to make you some very special stone soup." The wolf excitedly agrees. The Mother Hen gets the wolf to do all sorts of jobs around the house, bribing him each time with a little taste of the steadily-improving soup. By the end, the soup is so delicious that the wolf eats it all up, leaving him no room to eat the hen.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have to be clever to trick someone?</li> <li>• Is it sometimes OK to con someone?</li> <li>• Is trickery wrong?</li> <li>• Is being gullible the same as being stupid?</li> <li>• What does it mean to be foolish?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>The Teddy Robber</b></p> <p><b>Ian Beck</b></p> <p><i>Corgi Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Forgiveness Possessions Reasons Stealing</p>	<p><b>5 to 9</b></p>	<p>Someone is stealing teddies. But who could it be? Who is the Teddy Robber? When Tom's own teddy is snatched in the dead of night, he is determined to get to the bottom of the mystery... The mystery is solved when Tom helps the giant, who has been stealing all the teddies, to find his long-lost teddy and to return all the stolen teddies to their rightful owners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If someone returns what they have stolen, does that make it OK?</li> <li>• Is there a reason for every action?</li> <li>• Would it be possible to steal anything if we didn't have possessions?</li> <li>• Is stealing ever right?</li> <li>• Is it OK to take back something that has been stolen or is that still stealing?</li> </ul>	


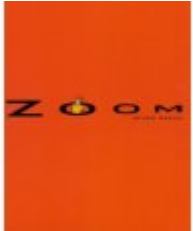
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Three Monsters</b></p> <p><b>David McKee</b> <i>Andersen Press Ltd</i></p>	<p>Discrimination Exploitation Ignorance Intelligence Laziness Prejudice Racism Wisdom</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Two very lazy monsters lived on an island which was covered with rocks, but they were both too lazy to move the rocks themselves. One day a boat carrying a yellow monster approached the island and the two monsters were unfriendly and unkind towards him because he was a different colour and a foreigner. When they realised he could be useful by moving the rocks for them they hatched a plan to trick him. The yellow monster discovered their intentions and turned their ignorance to his advantage by using the rocks to build an island of his own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is racism ever acceptable?</li> <li>• Do we all pre-judge?</li> <li>• Is ignorance a form of laziness?</li> <li>• Is the unknown threatening?</li> <li>• What is the difference between intelligence and wisdom?</li> <li>• Why are some people exploited and not others?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>David Wiesner</b> <i>Houghton Mifflin</i></p>	<p>Beneath the surface Events Other worlds Strangeness Time</p>	<p><b>8 to 12</b></p>	<p>On Tuesday, just as the full moon is rising, the lily pads take off flying – each topped by a serene, personable frog. Dominated by rich blues and greens, and fully exploiting its varied perspectives, this book provides plenty of visual details to ponder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we ever really know how other creatures live?</li> <li>• Is it possible that some creatures exist in another world to our own?</li> <li>• Is time only important to people?</li> <li>• Do strange things really happen during a full moon?</li> <li>• Is there an explanation for everything?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon link</a></p>	<p><b>The Tunnel</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> <i>Walker Books Ltd</i></p>	<p>Differences Fears Risk Selflessness Sibling rivalry/bond Support</p>	<p><b>8 to 12</b></p>	<p>A story about a brother and a sister who are very different characters. They are interested in different things and fight and argue a lot. Their mother gets fed up with this behaviour and sends them out together, telling them to be nice to one another. At first they resented spending time together, but when the brother disappears inside a tunnel, his sister puts her own fears of the dark and witches and wolves behind her to go inside and rescue him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is love stronger than fear?</li> <li>• Do siblings have a special bond?</li> <li>• Does love make you selfless?</li> <li>• Would you risk your own safety to save another?</li> <li>• Do you need to experience loss before you really appreciate what you have?</li> </ul>	

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Tusk Tusk</b></p> <p><b>David McKee</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Colour/race Difference Hate Peace War</p>	<p><b>7 to 14</b></p>	<p>Once elephants came in two colours: black or white. They loved all creatures but hated each other. So they went to war. All the peace-loving elephants ran into the jungle to hide. Meanwhile the black and white elephants continued to fight until they were dead. After many years, the grandchildren of the peace-loving elephants emerged from the jungle a new colour of grey. But recently, the big eared elephants have started giving the small eared elephants strange looks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does colour matter?</li> <li>• Why do we fight?</li> <li>• Is it wrong to hate others?</li> <li>• If we were all the same, would there still be conflict?</li> <li>• Is war inevitable?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Two Monsters</b></p> <p><b>David McKee</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Agreement and disagreement Destruction Fallibility Name calling Perspective Shared views</p>	<p><b>6 to 12</b></p>	<p>Two monsters live on either side of the mountain and talk to each other through a hole in the mountain. Because of their different positions, they see things in very different ways and are constantly arguing. This leads to name calling and bickering over who's right, until they begin to destroy the mountain bit by bit. When there's no mountain left, they finally see each other's point of view and agree that they were both right</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we ever see things from exactly the same perspective as someone else?</li> <li>• Can destruction ever be constructive?</li> <li>• Do we need to have shared views to be friends?</li> <li>• Do we all make mistakes?</li> <li>• Would it be good if we all agreed with each other all the time?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Voices in the Park</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> <i>Corgi Children's Books</i></p>	<p>Different perspectives Narrow-mindedness Open-mindedness Outlooks Perceptions Personalities</p>	<p><b>7 to 12</b></p>	<p>Four different voices tell the story of the shared experience of a walk in the park. Each person shares a different perspective on the same event and illustrates how different personalities and outlooks can perceive the same thing in many different ways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is it possible to experience exactly the same thing as someone else?</li> <li>• Do we only ever see what our mind allows us to see?</li> <li>• Does our personality dictate the experiences we have?</li> <li>• Is it good to see things differently to other people?</li> </ul>	

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Where's My Teddy?</b></p> <p><b>Jez Alborough</b> <i>Candlewick Press</i></p>	<p>Being scared Comfort Fears Lost and found Love Size</p>	<p><b>4 to 8</b></p>	<p>Whilst Eddie's looking for his lost teddy, he comes across a very large teddy bear in the woods. The he spots a gigantic bear with a tiny teddy. The big bear and Eddie both realise they've got each other's teddies but being scared of each other, they grab their own teddy and run back to their own beds, where they cuddle up close to their teddies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does size matter?</li> <li>• Do we all need cuddles?</li> <li>• What makes something scary?</li> <li>• Why is it comforting to have a teddy bear?</li> <li>• Why do some places feel safe, whilst others feel scary?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Where the Forest Meets the Sea</b></p> <p>Jeannie Baker Walker Books Ltd</p>	<p>Development Progress Past/Future Environment Extinction Care Wondering</p>	<p><b>5 to 11</b></p>	<p>In this prize-winning tale, a young Australian boy's father takes him by boat to a tropical rainforest. The boy explores, musing about the nature of the forest, its history and future until it's time to go eat the fish his father has caught and cooked. Stunningly illustrated with Baker's gorgeously colourful and textured collages, and featuring a rainforest modelled on a real wilderness in North Queensland, <i>Where the Forest Meets the Sea</i> is sure to stimulate thought and debate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can human development ever be good for nature?</li> <li>• Do humans have the right to change the landscape?</li> <li>• What makes a good environment?</li> <li>• Should people be allowed to live in the countryside?</li> <li>• Would the planet be a better place without humans?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Where the Wild Things Are</b></p> <p><b>Maurice Sendak</b> <i>Red Fox</i></p>	<p>Adoration Dreams Fears Imagination Monsters Reality Time Wild and tame</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>After making mischief at home, Max is called a 'wild thing' by his mother and is sent to bed without any supper. Whilst in his bedroom, a forest and a sea begin to grow in front of him. Max sails over the sea to the land where the wild things live. Max then tames the wild things with a magic trick and becomes king of all the wild things. After playing with the wild things, Max sends them to bed without any supper but soon finds he is lonely. The story finishes with Max sailing home, despite the pleading of the wild things to stay with them, to find his supper waiting for him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to be wild?</li> <li>• Do we all have a wild side?</li> <li>• Why does time pass quickly sometimes and slowly at other times?</li> <li>• What would life be like without imagination?</li> <li>• What is a monster?</li> </ul>	



 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Who are you, Stripy Horse?</b></p> <p><b>Jim Helmore and Karen Wall</b> Egmont Books Ltd</p>	<p>Being unique Helping each other Friends Identity Knowledge Talents Wisdom</p>	<p><b>5 to 9</b></p>	<p>In the tick-tock quiet, a shaft of moonlight tickles the nose of something sleeping. It's a stuffed, stripy horse. He twitches. Then an enormous dusty sneeze echoes round the room. He's awake. So begins this charming story, all about a forgotten toy who can't remember his name. He is befriended by Muriel (a hummingbird who flutters off the pattern on a lamp), Hermann (a daft draught excluder), and Wedgie and Woodie (penguin-shaped salt and pepper shakers), and embarks on an adventure to meet Ming, a wise and ancient Chinese vase cat, who is the only person in the shop who might be able to tell him who he is.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are you who other's think you are?</li> <li>• What's the difference between being wise and being clever?</li> <li>• Does everybody have talents?</li> <li>• What are friends for?</li> <li>• Does everyone and everything have a name?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Identity</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Why?</b></p> <p><b>Nikolai Popov</b> North-South Books</p>	<p>Aggression Retaliation Violence War</p>	<p><b>9 to 16</b></p>	<p>A frog sits peacefully in a meadow. Suddenly, for no apparent reason, he is attacked by a mouse. Frog retaliates. This provokes further retaliation until there is a full-scale war between the mice and the frogs. With a strong anti-war message, incandescent artwork and wordless pictures, this book will offer a number of themes for inquiry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does every action have a reason or motive?</li> <li>• Is it wrong to retaliate?</li> <li>• Can war ever be justified?</li> <li>• Does everyone lose in a war?</li> <li>• What's the difference between a war and a fight?</li> </ul>	
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Willy and Hugh</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> Red Fox</p>	<p>Appearance Bravery Differences Friendship Strengths</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>No-one wants to be friends with Willy because they all think he's a wimp. But one day he meets Hugh who's much bigger than Willy and looks very menacing. Despite their differences, Willy and Hugh become good friends and help each other out in tricky situations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have to be big to be strong?</li> <li>• What does it mean to be brave?</li> <li>• Do differences matter?</li> <li>• Can any two creatures be friends?</li> <li>• Is appearance always misleading?</li> </ul>	

 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Willy the Dreamer</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Browne</b> <i>Walker Books Ltd</i></p>	<p>Aspirations Awake/Asleep Dreaming Empathy Fears Imagination (Sub-) Conscious</p>	<p><b>6 to 11</b></p>	<p>Another book about Willy. In this book, he loves to dream. He dreams about good and bad things; things that have already happened and things that may never happen. It has outstanding pictures that in themselves are enough for philosophical inquiry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can you only dream when you're asleep?</li> <li>• Are dreaming and imagining the same thing?</li> <li>• Is it good to dream?</li> <li>• Does dreaming help us to be empathetic?</li> <li>• Does dreaming mean we want to be something we're not?</li> </ul>	<p>Concept Stretchers:</p> <p><i>Dreams</i></p>
 <p><a href="#">Amazon Link</a></p>	<p><b>Zoom</b></p> <p><b>Istvan Banyai</b> <i>Picture Puffin Books</i></p>	<p>Culture Leisure Perspective Significance Size</p>	<p><b>8 to 16</b></p>	<p>This book features vivid images that effortlessly pull the reader into a thoughtful progression, as each image turns out to be only a fragment of a larger picture. Banyai's book has no text, which heightens the individual significance of each image. The book is definitely cosmopolitan, ranging from metropolitan to Polynesian images.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can we ever see the 'whole' picture?</li> <li>• Can two people share the same perspective?</li> <li>• Do we all share the same world or different worlds?</li> <li>• What does 'taking a closer look' mean?</li> </ul>	