

Recommended Reading List Year 2

Author	Title	Summary
Jeanne Williams	Dr Xargles Book of Earthlets	This humorous story tells how Dr Xargle instructs his class of aliens on the appearance and habits of "Earthlets" (human babies) before embarking on a field trip to Earth. Bath-time, feeding and changing nappies are all given a new slant by this alien guide to human behaviour
John Steptoe	Murfaro's Beautiful Daughters	Both of Mufaro's daughters are beautiful but one is bad tempered and one is kind. When the king of the land asks the daughters to appear before him so he can choose a queen, the prideful, bad tempered daughter decides to set out in the night so she can get there first. Along the path are many opportunities to show one's true character. The kind daughter who follows the same path the next day makes different decisions - with different results and a surprising ending!
Robert Bunsch	The Paper Bag Princess	After her castle and clothes are destroyed by the dragon, Princess Elizabeth, dressed only in a paper bag, sets out to rescue Prince Ronald, who was taken captive.
Nick Butterworth	Jasper's Beanstalk	Jasper plants a bean. He waits for it to grow into a beanstalk all week. How long will he have to wait before he can start looking for giants?
Anthony Browne	Gorilla	Hannah spends all of her time reading gorilla books, watching gorilla TV shows, and drawing gorilla pictures. She has gorillas on her bedside lamp and even on her box of cereal. Hannah loves gorillas and longs to see a real one, but her father is always too busy - or too tired - to take her to the zoo. Then, on the night before her birthday, something extraordinary happens - and Hannah's wish comes gloriously true
Berlie Doherty	Jinnie Ghost	Jinnie Ghost, thin as the wind, with hair as white as the feathers of owls and eyes like water. Jinnie whispers dreams to children as they sleep. She brings Charlotte's dolls to life, makes Amy's carpet bubble with frogs and toads and conjures up a giant to carry Joe away shoulder-high to his castle in the sky. But the break of dawn takes Jinnie away... and the children wake to a new day, brushing wonder from their eyes. This perfectly-pitched poem takes readers on a thrilling fantasy journey, raising a shiver or two on the way, but returning them safe and sound in the morning.
Drew Daywalt	The Day the Crayons Quit	A colourful solution to a crayon-based crisis in this playful, imaginative story that will have children laughing and playing with their crayons in a whole new way.
David Weisner	Tuesday	In this ingenious and imaginative - nearly wordless - picture book, frogs in a pond lift off on their lily pads and fly to a nearby town where they zoom through a woman's living room, encounter a dog playing in his yard, and distract a bathrobe-clad citizen from his midnight snack. Who knows what will happen next Tuesday?
Mac Barnett	Triangle	Meet Triangle. He is going to play a sneaky trick on his friend, Square. Or so Triangle thinks... Visually stunning and full of wry humour, here is a perfectly-paced treat that flips the traditional concept book, and approaches it from a whole new angle.
Paul Fleischman	The Dunderheads	Miss Breakbone, the school mistress, hates kids. She shouts, she confiscates, she makes kids cry. But one day she goes too far. She confiscates the one-eyed cat that Junkyard is going to give his mum for her birthday. So the children pool their many weird and wonderful talents to break into Breakbone's house and get Junkyard's cat back for him...
Michael Rosen	Uncle Gobb and the Dread Shed	Malcolm is in all ways an ordinary ten-year-old. This is a perfectly ordinary story featuring one perfectly ordinary ten year old, his very bossy uncle, some baked beans, a school which tries to make interesting things BORING, the famed Italian city of Ponky, and a genie who appears when you rub your nose. It also includes lots of very useful facts, many of which are untrue.
Enid Blyton	The Enchanted Wood	When Joe, Beth and Frannie move to a new home, an Enchanted Wood is on their doorstep and nd when they discover the Faraway Tree at is the beginning of many magical adventures! Join them and their friends Moonface, Saucepan Man and Silky the fairy as they discover which new land is at the top of the Faraway Tree. Will it be the Land of Spells, the Land of Treats, or the Land of Do-As-You-Please? Come on an amazing adventure – there'll be adventures waiting whatever happens.
Wendy Orr	Nim's Island	Nim lives on a beautiful island in the middle of the wide blue sea with her father, Jack, an iguana called Fred, a sea lion called Selkie and a turtle called Chica. But when Jack disappears and disaster threatens her home, Nim must be braver than she's ever been before. And she needs help from her friends . . .
Mary Hoffman	Amazing Grace	Grace loves to act out stories. Sometimes she plays the leading part, sometimes she is 'a cast of thousands.' When her school decides to perform <i>Peter Pan</i> , Grace is longing to play Peter, but her classmates say that Peter was a boy, and besides, he

		wasn't black... But Grace's Ma and Nana tell her she can be anything she wants if she puts her mind to it..
Alan Alhburg	Mrs Wobble the Waitress	Mrs Wobble LOVES her job as a waitress but, oh dear, there's one big problem - she wobbles!! And when she wobbles and wobbles and drops jelly everywhere, it's time for a new job! Luckily, Mr Wobble, and all the Wobble children have a cunning plan . . .
Sally Gardner	The Strongest Girl in the World	Josie Jenkins, aged eight and three quarters, can do a few tricks, but she astonishes herself and everyone else when she finds she can lift a table, a car and even a bus with no effort at all. Josie becomes famous, and Mr Two Suit swoops in with a contract and swoops the whole family off to New York. How Josie copes with fame and fortune, and with the loss of it when she wakes up one day to find she can't do her trick any more, makes a story of enormous charm, with a tiny, modest and sensible heroine you have to cheer for.
Vivian French and Korky Paul	Aesop's Funky Fables	A re-telling of Aesop's classic moral tales - some well-known and some almost unknown. Rap your way through these wacky new versions of Aesop's classic fables, supported by vibrant subversive illustrations.
Ted Hughes	How the Whale Became and Other Stories	This collection of eleven evocative, accessible and funny stories for children of 5+ tells how a particular animal came to be as it is now. The Whale grew up in God's vegetable patch but was banished to sea when he became too large and crushed all His carrots; the Polar Bear was lured to the North Pole by the other animals who were jealous that she always won the annual beauty contest; the Hare has asked the moon to marry him but can never stretch his ears high enough to hear her reply; the Bee must sip honey all day long to sweeten the bitter demon that runs through his veins . . . each story is a delight for reading alone or aloud.
Michael Morpurgo	The Sandman and the Turtles	Michael loves summer holidays in Wales, and Dadci's tall stories about the Sandman, the old Russian sea captain and blood-red dragon in his lair. Little cousin Polly believes every word of the magical tales and she's determined to make it all come true.
Jenny Nimmo	The Owl Tree	The owl-tree is not like any tree Joe has ever seen. It's huge and leafy and shivers like a person; it even seems to speak. Granny Diamond once saw an owl perched among its branches and she has loved the tree ever since. It means the world to her. But her neighbour, Mr Rock, wants to cut it down. Why does he dislike the owl-tree so much? Does it have a secret to tell Joe? And how can he, a boy too scared even to climb the tree, be the one to save it?
(retold by) Margaret Clark	The Classic Tales of Hans Christian Andersen	An incredibly special book combining the timeless appeal of Hans Christian Andersen with the wonderful vision of renowned illustrator Christian Birmingham. Eight retellings-including The Little Mermaid, The Emperor's New Clothes and The Ugly Duckling-ensure this is destined to become a classic.
Louis Sachar	Marvin Redpost 1: Kidnapped at Birth	Marvin lives in a grey house with a white fence - a white fence but for one red post. He has red hair and blue eyes. He is also left-handed. "We're lucky to be left-handed," said Mrs North. "It means we have royal blood." One day, at school, while writing a report, Marvin realises that nothing adds up. His parents have brown hair and they have brown eyes. Can he really be Marvin Redpost? Or is he, in fact, the lost son of the King of Shampooon - Prince Robert? Was he whisked away from the hospital at birth and are the Redposts really his kidnappers? Marvin sets out to get things straight. There are a lot of perks to being a prince and it's all very tempting but Marvin soon realises that sometimes the truth isn't all it's cracked up to be.
Eoin Murphy	The Legend of Spud Murphy	Will has four brothers and it's chaos in his house! If he's not being teased by his big brother Marty, he has to deal with the terrible, three-headed bundle of cuteness that is his three younger brothers. Even worse, his mother has the brilliant idea of packing Will and Marty off to the library during the holidays. She just doesn't understand! Not only is the library no fun, it's also the habitat of the legendary librarian Spud Murphy. If you put a foot wrong, it's rumoured she will use her dreaded gas-powered spud gun and you don't want that - just ask Ugly Frank how he got his nickname! Eventually Will and Marty discover a love of books and that Mrs Murphy isn't so bad after all!
Jeanne Birdsall	The Penderwicks	The eldest, Rosalind, is responsible and practical; Skye, stubborn and feisty; dreamy, artistic, budding novelist, Jane; and shy little Batty, who doesn't go anywhere without her butterfly wings. And not forgetting Hound, their large lumbering lovable dog. The four girls and their absent-minded father head off for their summer holidays, but instead of the cosy tumbledown cottage they expect, they find themselves on a huge estate called Arundel, with magnificent gardens ripe for exploring. It isn't long before they become embroiled in all sorts of scrapes with new-found friend, Jeffrey - but his

		mother, the icy-hearted Mrs Tifton, must be avoided at all costs. Chaotic adventures ensue, and it soon becomes a summer the sisters will never forget...
Phillip Pullman	I Was a Rat; or The Scarlet Slippers	So insists Roger. Maybe it's true. But what is he NOW? A terrifying monster rampaging in the sewers? <i>The Daily Scourge is sure of it.</i> A money-spinning fairground freak? <i>He is to Mr Tapscrew.</i> A champion wriggler and a downy card? <i>That's what Billy hopes.</i> Or just an ordinary small boy, though a little ratty in his habits? Only three people believe this version of the story. Only one of them knows who Roger really is. And luckily a story about <i>her</i> can sell even more newspapers than one about a rat-boy ...
Raymond Briggs	Fungus the Bogeyman	Life in Bogeydom is full of snot, smells, slime, scum and other unspeakable things, and Bogeymen live under the ground revelling in all the nastiness imaginable. Briggs has created a whole new world in this sophisticated cartoon-strip picture book for older children which will entice the most reluctant of readers into books.
Enid Blyton	The Magic Faraway Tree	When Joe, Beth and Frannie move to a new home, an Enchanted Wood is on their doorstep. And when they discover the Faraway Tree, it proves to be the beginning of many magical adventures! Join them and their friends Moonface, Saucepan Man and Silky the fairy as they discover which new land is at the top of the Faraway Tree. Will it be the Land of Spells, the Land of Treats, or the Land of Do-As-You-Please? Come on an amazing adventure – there'll be adventures waiting whatever happens.
Jeremy Strong	Just a Bit of Wind	It's the first day at PIRATE SCHOOL for Ziggy, Smudge, Carkella and Flo and they have lots of new things to contend with. Their headteacher is the scary Patagonia Clasterbotton and they have to take lessons include walking the plank and hand-to-hand fighting. When out on the pirate ship a storm blows up, resulting in the children having to rescue Patagonia when she's swept overboard, and they learn that really Patagonia is not so scary after all!
Dick King Smith	The Hodgeheg	Max is a hedgehog who lives with his family in a nice little home, but it's on the wrong side of the road from the Park where there's a beautiful lily pond and plenty of juicy slugs, worms and snails! The busy road is dangerous but Max is determined to make his way across. If humans can do it, why can't hedgehogs? His first attempt ends in a nasty bump on the head and, when Max tries to speak, he realises his words are all mixed up. He is no longer a hedgehog but a hodge-heg! Still determined to fulfil his mission, Max discovers the best way to cross the road - with the help of the lollipop lady and some careful detective work . . .
Jill Tomlinson	The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark	Plop is a beautiful baby barn owl, perfect in almost every way, except for just ONE thing... Plop is afraid of the dark!