

Year 4 Skills and Purpose Document – St Ann’s RC Primary School

Autumn		*THE MERMAID OF ZENNOR Charles Causley	VARMINTS Helen Ward Familiar Author Y3, Y4	THE IRON MAN* Ted Hughs	UNTIL I MET DUDLEY Roger McGough and Chris Riddell
Diversity and relevance		Introduces children to Cornish legends and regional folklore. Charles Causley was a British poet strongly influenced by Cornish culture, bringing regional voices into literature.	Explores environmental themes and respect for nature in a visually imaginative world. Helen Ward is a British author-illustrator known for detailed artwork celebrating wildlife and natural diversity.	A story blending fantasy and science, encouraging empathy for beings who are “different.” Ted Hughes was a major British poet whose work often drew on global myth, folklore, and the natural world.	Shows different ways of understanding the world through imagination and explanation. Roger McGough – British poet of Liverpool heritage, known for playful, accessible poetry. Chris Riddell – British illustrator with a long history of promoting creativity and inclusive representation.
Outcomes Non-fiction Fiction		Information booklets Retelling from a different perspective Letters Tourist guides	Diary entry Instructions Letters Descriptions Speeches	Character descriptions Short news bulletins Letters of advice Diary entries Menus Logbook entries	Explanatory posters Letter Short informal explanations
		Own version legend	Explanation	Mystery narrative	Explanation texts
Audience / Form		Love letter to the mermaid Letter of advice to Zachy Letters in a bottle from sailors to mermaids Retelling of the story from mermaid’s perspective Tourist guide to Zennor Own version mermaid legend	Diary entry in role as the creature Instructions for planting a seed Motivational poster Letter to the Secret Society of Gardeners Speech to fight back against change Explanation of a life cycle	Short news bulletin about coming of the Iron Man Character description of The Iron Man Letter of advice to Hogarth Diary entry as Hogarth Menu for the Iron Man Astronomer’s log Description of alternative character Own version mystery narrative	Poster to explain an invention Letter to ask Dudley for help Explanatory paragraph about how a refrigerator works Extended informal explanatory paragraph Two explanation texts – formal and informal
Purposes covered		Inform Persuade Entertain	Reflect Instruct Persuade Inform Explain	Inform Describe Reflect Recount Entertain	Inform Reflect Explain
Grammar coverage (these may be taught multiple times throughout the sequence)	WORD	plural and possessive -s	imperative verbs *	similes suffixes -er / -ing *	technical vocabulary differences in formal / informal vocab plural and possessive -s
	SENTENCE	conjunctions to explain * order of clauses * adverbial phrases expanded noun phrases	noun phrases expanded with prepositions adverbials of time range of sentence types * conjunctions – <i>when, before, after, as</i> conditional sentences – <i>if/then</i> *	modal verbs * questions * expanded noun phrases adverbials of time and place multi-clause sentences conjunctions to explain and compare sentence order * prepositions– <i>for, with</i>	prepositions to explain – <i>for, with</i> conjunctions to explain * modal verbs * questions * cause and effect conjunctions multi-clause sentences adverbials of time relative clauses *
	PUNCTUATION	commas after fronted adverbials possessive apostrophes, inc. for plural nouns inverted commas for direct speech	question marks * semi-colon to introduce a list *	inverted commas for speech question marks * commas after fronted adverbials possessive apostrophes	question marks * commas to mark clauses * possessive apostrophes
	TEXT	present perfect tense * use of pronouns to avoid repetition paragraphs to organise around a theme subheadings *	present perfect tense * paragraphs to organise around a theme subheadings * adverbials for cohesion	short sentences paragraphs to organise around a theme	pronouns to avoid repetition

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Spring		THE SELFISH GIANT* Oscar Wilde	THE BAKER BY THE SEA* Paula White	FaRThER* Grahame Baker-Smith	THE MATCHBOX DIARY* Paul Fleischman Familiar Author Y4	
Diversity and relevance		Uses allegory and myth to explore kindness, inclusion and transformation. Oscar Wilde was an Irish writer whose life and work reflect themes of individuality and identity.	Celebrates traditional coastal working communities and regional heritage. Paula White is a British illustrator–author whose work preserves and highlights fishing culture.	Combines imaginative fantasy with themes of family, dreams, and emotional diversity. Grahame Baker-Smith is a British author–illustrator known for blending fine-art illustration with varied cultural influences.	Tells the story of Italian immigration to America, exploring heritage and family history. Paul Fleischman is an American author who frequently writes about multicultural history and immigrant experiences.	
Outcomes Non-fiction Fiction		Letters First person recounts Diaries Letters Posters Reports	Job applications Advertisements Setting descriptions (poetry) Letters in role Group speeches	Retellings Recounts (postcards) Setting descriptions Labels Diary entries Instructions	Dialogue Diary entry Retelling Mini-autobiography Fact file	
		Own version narrative	Tourist brochure	Sequel story	Biography	
Audience / Form		Letter to a friend Description of the garden Letter to the giant First person recount of a child Diary entry for the giant Sorry letter from the giant Missing poster for the boy Own version narrative about kindness	Personal statement for job application Job advert Non-narrative poem – <i>The Village by the Sea</i> Book blurb Letter to the council leader Shared group speech Tourist brochure for the town	Postcard from the boy to his best friend Soundscape setting description Technical labels for a flying machine Instructions for a flying machine Letter from father to son Sequel with the boy as the new main character	Conversations between family members Diary entry of great-grandfather Retelling section of story Autobiography of three objects Fact file of a landmark Biography of the main character	
Purposes covered		Reflect Describe Recount Inform	Inform Entertain Persuade	Recount Inform Describe Instruct Reflect	Reflect Entertain Inform	
Grammar coverage (these may be taught multiple times throughout the sequence)		WORD	-ness / -ment suffix * simile / metaphor / personification -sion suffix *	imperative verbs * alliteration -ly suffix similes	-ing verbs as nouns personification	use forms of a or an * homophones
		SENTENCE	noun phrases expanded with preposition phrases conjunctions to explain – <i>because, as, since, so</i> contrasting conjunctions – <i>while, despite, although</i> range of sentence types *	subordinating conjunctions range of sentence types * expanded noun phrases fronted adverbials modal verbs	modal verbs * conjunctions to explain * questions * noun phrases with abstract nouns sentence order * multi-clause sentences prepositions to extend noun phrases – <i>with, for, to</i> adverbial phrases	modal verbs * subordinating conjunctions comparative conjunctions / adverbs range of sentence types * expanded noun phrases multi-clause sentences
		PUNCTUATION	inverted commas for speech commas after fronted adverbials	question marks * exclamation marks * commas after fronted adverbials bullet points *	question marks * commas after fronted adverbials	inverted commas for speech other speech punctuation commas to separate clauses apostrophes for contraction*
		TEXT	adverbials to move between paragraphs paragraphs to organise around a theme pronouns to avoid repetition	subheadings to organise information paragraphs to organise around a theme	present perfect tense * conjunctions for cohesion *	paragraphs to organise around a theme conjunctions for cohesion * subheadings

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Summer		THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE C.S. Lewis	WESLANDIA Paul Fleischman Familiar Author Y4	JABBERWOCKY Lewis Carroll	THE CROWN Emily Kapff	
Diversity and relevance		Children are introduced to mythic creatures and themes drawn from a mix of world mythologies. C. S. Lewis was an Irish-born British writer with a background in classical and medieval literature from many cultures. Classic.	Celebrates individuality and the creation of a distinct culture and language.	Uses playful invented language, encouraging linguistic creativity and flexible thinking. Lewis Carroll was a British writer and mathematician whose experimentation with language influenced children's literature globally. Classic.	A story celebrating imagination, individuality and diverse emotional experiences. Contemporary British author–illustrator known for expressive, inclusive visual storytelling.	
Outcomes Non-fiction Fiction	Poems Eyewitness reports Imaginary conversations Writing in role		Retellings Character descriptions Book reviews	Performance poetry Explanatory descriptions	Labels Diaries Poetry Interviews Poster	
	Own version narrative		Non-chronological report	Nonsense poem	Information text	
Audience / Form		Poems about sweets Eyewitness reports Conversation between Edmund and Aslan Own version fantasy narrative	Character description for Wesley Retelling of Weslandia story Non-chronological report about own 'land'	Group choral performance of poem Explanatory description of creature from poem Nonsense poem about an imagined creature	Descriptive label of their own crown Diary entry in role as the girl Descriptive poem Interview an expert 'Good news' posters Information text for a class 'Book of Wonders'	
Purposes covered		Entertain Inform	Describe Entertain Inform	Entertain Explain	Describe Recount Entertain Inform	
Grammar coverage (these may be taught multiple times throughout the sequence)		WORD	-ture suffix figurative language rhyme	-ous suffix -tion suffix	forms of a or an suffixes / prefixes to identify word class figurative language	similes and other figurative language verb choice
		SENTENCE	relative clauses * modal verbs * expanded noun phrases questions * subordinating conjunctions	adverbial phrases causal conjunctions multi-clause sentences fronted adverbials conditional sentences – <i>if</i> questions	expanded noun phrases exclamatory sentences * portmanteau to create nonsense vocabulary	noun phrases expanded with adjectives, nouns and prepositions conjunctions for time, cause and place sentence types present perfect form
		PUNCTUATION	commas for clauses * question marks * inverted commas for speech	commas after fronted adverbials question marks *	exclamation marks * sentence ending punctuation *	inverted commas for speech
		TEXT	paragraphs to organise around a theme	paragraphs to organise around a theme	rhyming verse	subheadings to organise information paragraphs to organise ideas around a theme