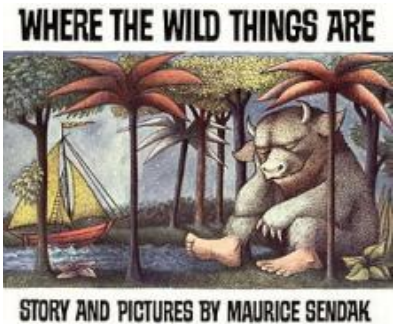
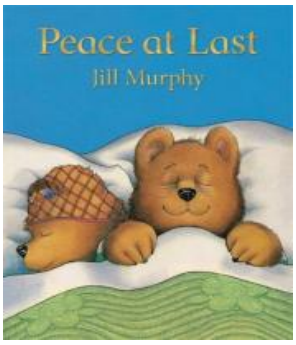
St Mark's Must Reads – Y1

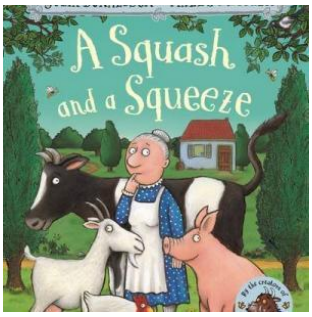
In Year One, our children are encouraged to explore character's feelings, in books such as Beegu, Dogger and Lost and Found. Our narrative choices include some simple structures from which children can experiment with their own versions such as The tiger who came to tea and Peace at Last. We also introduce our first chapter read – The Enormous Crocodile.



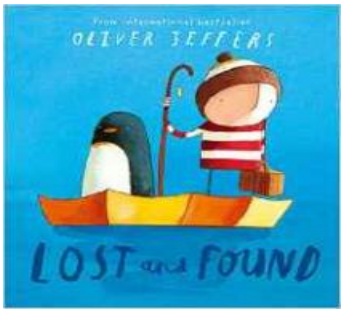
Bad-tempered Max, having been sent to bed, takes a voyage to the land where the wild things are and becomes their king. He eventually returns to find his supper is 'still hot'. Whether the voyage is real or in Max's own imagination is for the reader to decide. A classic picture book with a deceptively simple surface which travels deep into a child's emotional world.



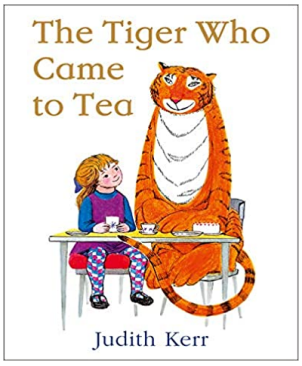
Mr. Bear is unable to sleep and, in his attempts to avoid irritating and repetitive noises, tries every room in the house and the garden.. Children find the repetitive structure of this narrative very supportive. There are all kinds of noises to join in with, as well as the famous repeated phrase, ' "Oh NO!" said Mr. Bear, I can't stand THIS."



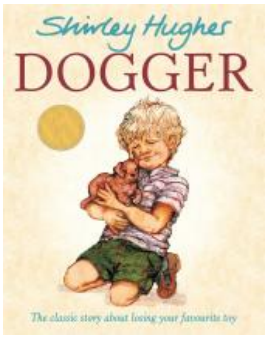
An old lady finds that her house is too small and asks a wise old man for advice. One by one, he suggests that she takes in a variety of animals until eventually her house is so full that she has to turn them all out again. Amazingly her house seems 'enormous now'! The rhyming text has a lovely rhythm which can be sung.



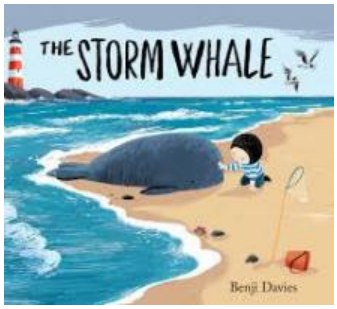
This endearing picture book begins with the simple statement 'Once there was a boy and one day he found a penguin at his door.' His anxiety that the penguin seems to be lost leads the boy to find a way to return his friend to the South Pole, only to discover that the reason for the penguin's sadness is not what he supposed at all. The fact that the boy is not named and that the role of adults is minimal give the story a folkloric quality.



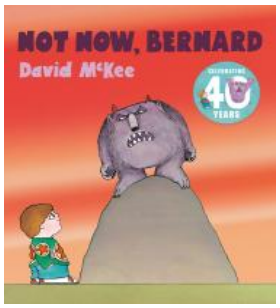
If you let a Tiger into the house and invite him to stay for tea – as Sophie did – what is more natural than that he will eat you out of house and home and in addition drink all the water from the tap? With the inevitable consequence that when Dad comes home the whole family has to go out to a cafe to eat



Young Dave is in despair when he discovers that his favourite soft toy, Dogger has got lost. After searching everywhere, he discovers him for sale on a stall at the school fête. Too late! Dogger has just been sold. Sister Bella comes to the rescue and Dave and Dogger are reunited. The reader feels immense relief at the resolution of the situation.



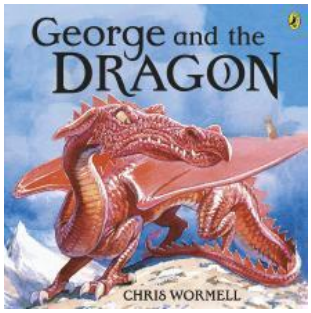
Noi lives a self-sufficient life with his dad by the sea in an isolated home reminiscent of the fishing huts at Hastings. One day he finds a little whale washed up on the sand and takes tender care of it until his dad persuades him that they need to return it to its aquatic home. The picture where they do this is especially striking.



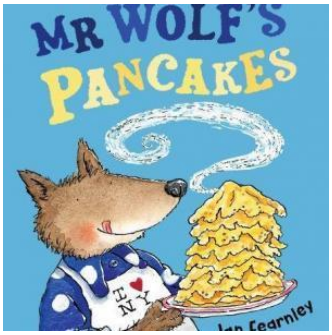
Bernard's parents never listen but answer him only with the refrain 'Not Now Bernard!', even when he tells them that a monster is about to eat him. These self-absorbed parents don't notice that their son has been replaced by a monster - but has he? The ambiguous message and the humorously repetitive text have contributed to this picture book becoming a childhood classic



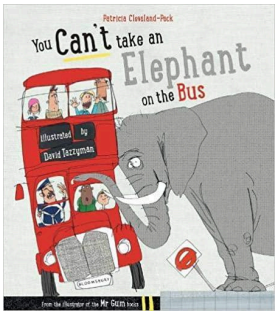
A yellow and green palette pervades the early pages of this day in the life of a lion cub, subtly shading into a rosy evening glow and progressing to deep shades of blue as the night falls on the African Savannah. Although the lion cub is the main focus of the visual and written narrative, there is an abundance of local flora and fauna to be found in the illustrations. Particularly pleasing are the endpapers depicting the animals of the Savannah in the daytime and the nighttime, all clearly labelled.



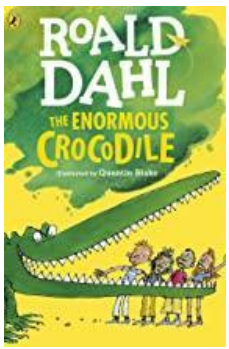
'Far, far away in the high, high mountains in a deep, deep valley in a dark, dark cave... there lived a mighty dragon.' So begins the tale of a dragon and his fierce and ferocious exploits. However, he has one fatal flaw – he is afraid of mice! One day a mouse called George arrives in the next door cave and pays a neighbourly call. A matter of fact narration in a clear, large typeface runs under the illustrations which depict a huge red scaly dragon, an innocent-faced little mouse and a rescued princess who is not mentioned in the text.



Hungry Mr Wolf fancies some pancakes. He tries to enlist the help of other fairytale characters such as Chicken Licken, the Gingerbread Man, Little Red Riding Hood and the Three Little Pigs with various aspects of this task. Like the Little Red Hen's companions, they all refuse but, once they smell the delicious aroma of the cooked pancakes, they all come running to eat them. What will Mr Wolf do?



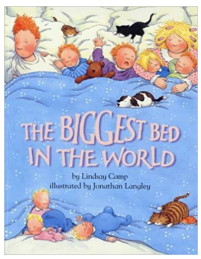
You can't take an elephant on the bus ... It would simply cause a terrible fuss! Elephants' bottoms are heavy and fat and would certainly squash the seats quite flat.
Never put a camel in a sailing boat, or a tiger on a train, and don't even THINK about asking a whale to ride a bike ... This riotous picture book is filled with animals causing total disaster as they try to travel in the most unsuitable vehicles. A real romp of a book, with hilarious rhyming text and spectacular illustrations.



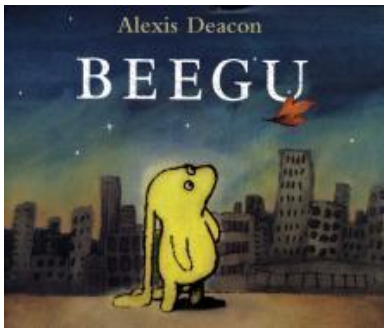
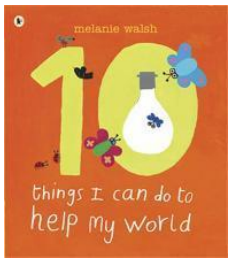
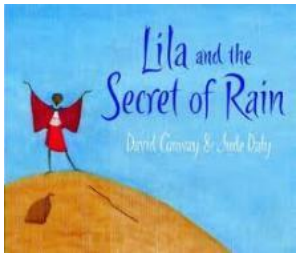
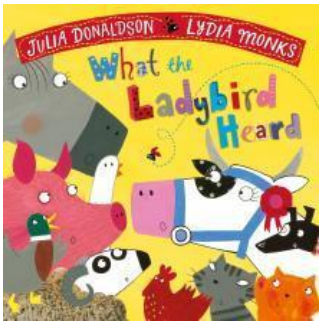
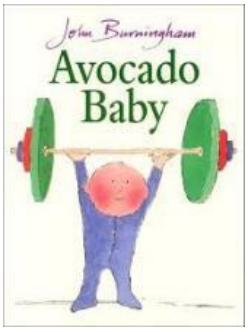
The Enormous Crocodile is planning what to have for his lunch. This foul fiend - the greediest croc in the whole



Duncan's crayons desperately want to communicate with him so each of them writes him a letter. Most of them have grievances, whether it's about the amount they have to work (too much or too little) or the restricted range of objects for which they are used. They have internecine squabbles, such as whether orange or yellow is the true



Ben's dad wasn't getting much sleep. There were too many children in his bed. Not just Ben, but also his baby brother Billy. And then the twins, Beth and Bart, arrived. There was only one thing for it... Ben's dad fetched his tools, and set to work building the biggest bed in the

river - wants to eat something juicy and delicious. His teeth sparkle like knives in the sun and he's getting hungrier and hungrier. But what can the greedy grumptious brute guzzle up? Beware - he's looking for someone . . . someone who looks a lot like YOU!	colour of the sun. Each crayon has its own distinct character, highlighted by the fact that the letters are written in a variety of handwriting styles on different kinds of paper. A creative concept executed with great good humour.	world. But, unfortunately for Ben's dad, he still had a problem. The biggest bed in the world was also the heaviest bed in the world and one night, in the middle of the night, it began to move... Lindsay Camp's hilarious tale will delight children, who will love the rhythmic, patterned language and the outrageous idea of a bed on the move with a whole family asleep on top of it.
 A polar bear realises that he needs to leave his Arctic home as the ice melts and his food supply dwindles. So he climbs into a little boat and sets sail. Along the way he is joined by other animals whose habitat is threatened. The story ends on a note that combines a mixture of hope and uncertainty about whether they will ever be able to return to their original home.	 A small creature from outer space lands on Earth accidentally. She finds the Earth creatures unfeeling and unfriendly, until she finds a box of unwanted puppies, and then a school playground full of small creatures who 'seemed hopeful'. Empathy is evoked by both the brief text and the distinctive illustrations which portray Beegu against the background of a stark and empty urban landscape.	 This book raises important matters for this generation in a simple and unpreachy way. As the pages are turned, they transform to reveal ten things that everyone can easily do at least one of so as to help conserve the world. Many of them, such as turning off the television properly, walking to school and turning off lights when leaving a room, are about conserving energy. Others, such as feeding the birds in winter and growing plants from seed, encourage an understanding of nature and conservation.
 There has been no rain in Lila's Kenyan village for many weeks and "Without water there can be no life", her mother says. Lila's grandfather reveals to her the secret of rain and she climbs the mountain to tell the sky the saddest thing she knows. Will the sky listen to her plea? Beautiful language – 'the sky was ebony with emotion' – accompanies delicate illustrations that convey the sparseness of life and landscape.	 In this clever plotted rhyming tale, a ladybird overhears a secret plan to steal the prize cow. Through team work and communication the animals work together to foil the burglars and save the cow. The tactile illustrations feature an appealing, glittery ladybird to follow and feel throughout the story.	 Baby power is something that exerts itself in all families - but in this picture book Burningham has used exaggeration to make his point with humorous effect. Eating an avocado suddenly turns a weedy infant into a menacing force - so Avocado Baby can push the family car, chase a burglar and put bullies to flight in the park.