

Whole Book Class Reading Suggestions

Year Six, Autumn term: RECONCILIATION

October October by Katya Balen, with illustrations by Angela Harding, published by Bloomsbury

When Dad has an accident, October must leave their off-grid woodland home and live a city life with Mum, instead. But October hasn't met her mother since she left them, all those years ago.

A story about change, forgiveness and rebuilding your future.

Middle-grade fiction



Smoky Night by Eve Bunting and David Diaz, published by Harcourt Inc.

In this story about a city riot, a missing cat helps families who've let differences come between them find new ways of moving on. Community tensions and the need for personal engagement and understanding are explored in a realistic but age-appropriate way.

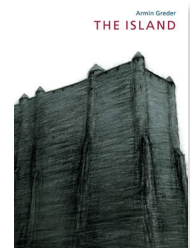
Classic picturebook



The Island by Armin Greder, published by Allen and Unwin

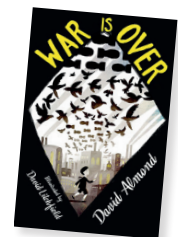
When a defenceless man is shipwrecked on an island, the local inhabitants take him in. But rumours about the new arrival multiply, and the islanders turn on him, with tragic consequences.

Hard-hitting themes explore what happens when fear takes over and empathy, understanding and compassion fail. *Picturebook for older readers*



War is Over by David Almond, illustrated by David Litchfield, published by Hodder

Set in and around a 1918 munitions factory, this tale of one boy's awakening to the horrors and injustices of war – and the overwhelming need for reconciliation – is set against a backdrop of our shared humanity. *Illustrated middle-grade fiction*



The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes, illustrated by Louis Slobodkin, published by Houghton Mifflin

Wanda swears she has one hundred dresses at home, but always wears the same faded outfit. Peggy and Maddie taunt her about it – until Wanda wins a contest with a hundred drawings of beautiful dresses, but is unable to claim her prize because she's left the school. This exploration of childhood unkindness in a small US town during WW2 is brought into sharp focus by Wanda's generosity: being unable to apologise affects persecutors as well as victims.

A middle-grade novella based on a true story, fully illustrated in colour

