



## Literacy at Western

At Western, we recognise that the development of strong literacy skills will have a lasting impact on the lives of our children now, in their journey into adulthood and as wider members of their communities. In recognition of this we have based our whole school curriculum around the 'Seven Story Plots'. This ensures that literacy is at the heart of our curriculum, children's learning and our teaching.

### Seven Stories

Our Literacy curriculum is built around the concept that there are only 'Seven Story Plots' in the whole world!

We worked closely with Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books, to help us devise our Literacy curriculum and build a reading spine from Early Years to Year 6 which develops and builds upon children's understanding of the seven plots.

Each half term, all year groups focus on one basic plot. Carefully chosen texts support this story plot to ensure children have a thorough understanding which deepens during their time at Western. We ensure both the texts we use as the spine of our Literacy curriculum and the ones we choose as class readers are ambitious, engaging, diverse and promote a lifelong love of reading. We have revamped our library area into a space where children can make choices based on their own interests and spend time enjoying the books they read. All shared areas for each phase contain a reading area where children can access a comfortable space to read and a range of age-appropriate books.

Through their teaching, staff at Western support children to develop skills and knowledge that will enable them to communicate effectively and creatively with the world at large. A love of reading is embedded within our school and we strive to help children to enjoy, access and appreciate a wide range of high-quality literature.

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| Autumn 1 | Rags to Riches         | Rags to Riches stories have a poor and unhappy hero facing incredible challenges. They gain something, lose it, and then gain it back after overcoming great odds.      |
| Autumn 2 | Overcoming the Monster | Overcoming the Monster explores the idea that everyone feels scared sometimes and that reading monster stories can help people overcome their fears, whatever they are. |

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| Spring 1 | The Quest                                | Quest stories are about a hero heading out on a journey to achieve something great. While they face dangers along the way they succeed in achieving their goal.  |
| Spring 2 | Comedy & Tragedy<br>(two plots combined) | Comedy explores the stories and things that make us laugh, the different things that people find funny and the joy of sharing a funny story with a friend. Tragedy examines what it's like to feel regret, grief and loss. Sad things happen to everyone but stories about tragedy can help readers to realise that they're not alone. |
| Summer 1 | Voyage and Return                        | Voyage and Return stories involve characters journeying to strange lands where they overcome threats or learn important lessons before returning home and sharing their adventures with friends and family.  |
| Summer 2 | Rebirth                                  | In a Rebirth story the main character often behaves badly for a while as they adjust to change, but, by the end, they discover their true selves.  |