Year 2 - Suggested book list

Beaver Towers Witches Revenge The Witch's Revenge
Nigel Hinton

This is the second ‘Beavor Towers’ adventure. Once again Philip has been transported to the island to help his friends the beavers in their fight against the wicked witch, Oyin. But Oyin is planning a terrible revenge on the island’s inhabitants.

Fungus the Bogeyman
Raymond Briggs

Life in Bogeydom is full of snot, smells, slime, scum and other unspeakable things, and Bogeymen live under the ground reveling 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.

Gobbolino the Witch’s Cat
Ursula Moray Williams

First published in the 1940s, the story of Gobbolino the witch’s cat with one white paw and bright blue eyes, has been delighting generations of young readers. It’s the charming tale of a cat born a witch’s cat but who would much rather be a kitchen cat. While his sister Sootica learns how to ride a broomstick and turn mice into toads, Gobbolino sets out to find a family to care for him and a home of his own. But, Gobbolino is mistrusted wherever he goes, and blamed for mysterious happenings such as the farmer’s milk turning sour, and the orphanage children’s gruel turning into chocolate! After many such adventures, Gobbolino finally finds the home of his dreams.

How the World Works
Christiane Dorion

Just a Bit of Wind
Jeremy Strong

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!

Letters to Anyone and Everyone
Toon Tellegen

Discover a collection of extraordinary letters in this magical new volume of short stories. In Letters to Anyone and Everyone, Toon Tellegen depicts the correspondence between his animal characters and the world around them. These surreal and philosophical tales will capture the imaginations of readers everywhere. Perfectly complemented by Jessica Ahlberg’s delicate illustrations, these stories are intelligent, moving and funny. ‘Two twinkling gems! delicate, idiosyncratic! thoughtful and unusual! a delight for anyone lucky enough to read them’ - Booksellers Choice by Lindsey Stainer of Blackwells

Mister Magnolia
Quentin Blake

Mr Magnolia has only one boot. He has an old trumpet that goes rooty-toot - And two lovely sisters who play on the flute - But Mr Magnolia has only one boot. In this wittily rhyming picture book, Mr Magnolia has a full and happy life except for one serious omission - a boot. But one day, he receives a mysterious parcel, and at last Mr Magnolia can splash in the puddles with everyone else!
Mrs. Wobble the Waitress
Allan Ahlberg

Mrs Wobble loves her job as a waitress in a cafe but there’s one big problem - she wobbles! She wobbles so much that she drops a chicken on a lady’s pretty hat, then she drops a jelly on her boss and gets the sack. She fears her wobble will stop her working ever again - but Mr Wobble has a plan...Based on the classic ‘Happy Families’ card game, this highly entertaining series is ideal for reading and sharing at home or at school. It is guided by the Education Adviser, Brian Thompson, and written by the award-winning author, Allan Ahlberg. The best thing to happen to beginner readers since Dr Seuss’ - Children’s Rights Workshop.

The Adventures of Captain Underpants
Dav Pilkey

When naughty George and Harold hypnotise their headteacher, they accidentally create the greatest superhero in the history of their school - Captain Underpants! His true identity is so secret that even he doesn’t know who he is...but he’s fighting for truth, justice, and all things pre-shrunk and cottony!! If you’re a naghty villain like the diabolical Dr Diaper, watch out! Captain Underpants has wedgie-power on his side, and he’s coming your way.

The Berenstain Bears and the Spooky Old Tree
Stan Berenstain, Jan Berenstain

Bright and Early books help even the youngest children get ready to read. Simple stories and basic concepts are humorously presented in rhythm and rhyme. Pictures that fully explain the text help even babies make the important connection between word and meaning. It’s never too early to find out that ‘Learning to read is Fun’. The small Berenstain Bears go out on a daring nighttime adventure in THE SPOOKY OLD TREE and find thrills and shivers in just the right measure before returning to the safety of home. Four- and five-year olds will enjoy having this story read to them and older children will want to read it themselves.

The Diary of a Killer Cat
Anne Fine

Poor Elie is horrified when Tuffy drags a dead bird into the house. Then a mouse. But Tuffy can’t understand what all the fuss is about. Who on earth will be the next victim to arrive through the cat-flap? Can soft-hearted Elie manage to get her beloved pet to change his wild, wild ways before he ends up in even deeper trouble? The hilarious antics of Tuffy and his family are told by the killer cat himself.

The Dunderheads
Paul Fleischman

‘What’s in a name? Meet the Dunderheads, an unlikely band of kids with extraordinary hidden talents! ‘Never’, shrieked Miss Breakbone, ‘have I been asked to teach such a scraping together of fiddling, twiddling, time-squandering, mind-wandering, doodling, dozing, don’t-knowing 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...This is a delightfully subversive, outrageously funny tale from Newbery Award-winner Paul Fleischman and Nestle Children’s Book Prize-winner David Roberts. It offers a celebration of the unusual talents that make us unique and - and a welcome reminder not to underestimate children! It is a second thrilling adventure for the Dunderheads is in the pipeline!'
The Hodgeheg
Dick King-Smith

Max is a hedgehog who lives with his family in a nice little home, but unfortunately on the wrong side of the road from the Park, with its beautiful lily pond, and more importantly its juicy slugs, worms and snails! The busy road is a dangerous barrier but Max notices that humans seem to cross it quite easily. If they can, why can’t hedgehogs? So Max sets out on a quest to find a safe way to reach the Park. His first attempt ends in a nasty bump on the head, and Max finds when he tries to speak his words are all mixed up. He is now a Hodgeheg, not a hedgehog, but he is still determined to fulfill his mission. After some careful detective work, Max eventually discovers the best way to cross the road - with the help of the lollipop lady, of course!

The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate
Margaret Mahy

Sam is an ordinary person who wears an ordinary suit and ordinary shoes. He works in an ordinary, neat office writing down figures all day and underlining them. But Sam’s mother is definitely not an ordinary woman, Sam’s mother is a pirate and she wants to sweep him away to sea...Written by a best-selling author, this is a lively and enchanting tale with wonderfully exuberant illustrations to match.