|  |
| --- |
| – Sky Song – Abi Elphinstone - Year 6 |
| Possibilities – Strong resilient female and equally strong resilient male hero/ines – Set in an Arctic type tundra – child overcomes physical and mental abuse of her evil captor and has to perform a daily ritual to force her to sing – this will enable the bully to rule the realm. Despite loss of all liberties, hope prevails – a rocky relationship develops between the two main characters and they have to learn much about reciprocity and collaboration as the story progresses. Huge resourcefulness shown by the key characters. |
| Spirituality – Star goddesses – a cursed music box prison - a boy whose inventions could change the fate of their world forever rediscovers his magical powers as they journey beyond in search of an ancient, almost forgotten, song with the power to force the Ice Queen back - good and evil forces – children have to work together, despite differences, to defeat evil and find their true selves. |
| Diversity – one of the main characters is a child with Downs Syndrome who is cleverly portrayed by the author – he often saves the children or solves the problem. Also opens up discussion about people’s attitudes/expectations to people with disabilities both positive and negative. |

|  |
| --- |
| Podkin One Ear - Year 6 |
| Possibilities – Based on a civilised world to begin with (a rabbit world) – The world is tribal but peaceful, then come the Gorm…a fearsome, mutant race of rabbits, who murder and take over by force. Three rabbits (two brothers and a sister) escape and the race is on to, at first escape, and then defeat the foe. |
| Spirituality – The story is told from the point of view of a Bard – a travelling storyteller – it includes a rabbit healer who seems to know everything – full of magic, narrow escapes and heroic deeds. |
| Diversity – massive diversity in the form of a blind, adult, warrior rabbit who is hired to fight for the children – negative attitudes of expectation and stereotypes of ability are explored – the blind warrior is an unlikely hero – he has learned to use his other senses and is a real force to be reckoned with. |

|  |
| --- |
| The Sky Larks’ War - Year 6 |
| Possibilities – Life in WWI – tells the tale of a young girl who writes letters to her cousin Rupert. He joins the army to escape his understanding of himself and is sent to the front line – Excellent portrayal of the attitudes of older generations towards gender roles and employment options for women |
| Spirituality – Young girl’s mother died during childbirth and her father has sunk into depression and rejected his daughter – she is very much left to her own resourcefulness to care for and educate herself. A young man fights for his life after being injured in the war. |
| Diversity – Super diversity explored as one young man struggles with his sexuality – a balanced view is given about the options available for men and women following the war. |