Our Values Within Our Reading Spine

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| EYFS | Belong | Hope | | Aspire | | Believe | | Love | | Thanks | |
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| Lost and Found  Oliver Jeffers | Belong: The story revolves around the unlikely friendship between a boy and a penguin. The penguin feels lost and out of place, and the boy helps him find his way home. The book illustrates the importance of helping others belong and find their place. | Hope: The penguin hopes to find his way home, and the boy hopes to help him. Their journey is filled with hope and determination to reach their destination. This reflects the power of hope in driving positive actions. | | Aspire: The boy aspires to help the penguin, and the penguin aspires to find his way back to his family. Their mutual aspirations are at the heart of the story. | | Believe: The boy believes in the penguin's need to return home, and he believes in his own ability to help. His belief in the importance of their mission is central to the story | | Love: The story doesn't focus on romantic love, but it does portray the deep friendship and care between the boy and the penguin. Their bond highlights the importance of love, compassion, and helping others in need. | | Thanks: While the book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, the moment of reunion and the penguin's return home can be seen as expressions of thanks for the kindness and help they receive. | |
| The Tiger Who Came to Tea  Judith Kerr | Belong: The story revolves around a little girl named Sophie and her mother, who are surprised by an unexpected visit from a tiger. While belonging may not be a central theme, the sense of belonging and warmth in the home is portrayed as the family graciously hosts the tiger for tea. | Hope: While hope isn't a central theme, the story is filled with a sense of hope and wonder as Sophie and her mother respond to the unexpected visit of the tiger with an open heart and a sense of adventure. | | Aspire: The story doesn't explicitly focus on aspiration, but it encourages children to use their imagination and aspire to create their own whimsical stories and adventures. | | Believe: The story encourages a sense of belief in the imagination and creativity of children. Sophie's imaginative response to the tiger's visit reflects the belief in the power of make-believe. | | Love: The story doesn't emphasize romantic love, but it does showcase the love and care that Sophie's family extends to the unexpected guest. It underscores the value of kindness and hospitality. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the act of welcoming and hosting the tiger for tea can be seen as a form of gratitude for the unusual and delightful experience. | |
| Cave Baby  Julia Donaldson | Belong: Cave Baby shows the quality of belonging by taking the baby from rejection to acceptance. At first, his parents scold him for painting on the cave walls, so he feels misunderstood and out of place. But when the mammoth takes him to another cave, his art is celebrated and valued. This shows that true belonging comes when we are accepted for who we are and appreciated for what makes us unique. | Hope: The baby’s persistence and the story’s resolution highlights the value of hope. Despite being scolded by his parents for painting on the walls, the baby continues to express his creativity. The arrival of the mammoth and the discovery of a place where his art is valued gives the story a positive outcome, showing that even when we face setbacks or feel misunderstood, there is hope that our talents and efforts will be recognised and appreciated. | | Aspire: Aspiration is shown through the baby’s strong desire to create and express himself, despite being told off by his parents. He doesn’t give up on painting the cave walls, demonstrating his determination to follow his passion. His actions reflect the idea of striving for something meaningful—his artwork—and ultimately, his perseverance is rewarded when he finds a place where his creativity is celebrated. | | Believe: This is expressed through the baby’s confidence in his own creativity. Even though his parents disapprove of his painting, he continues to express himself, trusting that what he is doing has value. This belief in his own ideas is ultimately rewarded when he finds a place where his art is appreciated. The story demonstrates that having faith in yourself and your abilities can lead to recognition and success. | | Love: Love is shown through the caring relationships in the story. While the baby’s parents initially disapprove of his painting, their concern reflects their love and desire to keep him safe. Later, the mammoth’s family welcomes him warmly, showing love and acceptance for who he is. | | Thanks: Thanks is reflected through the appreciation shown for the baby’s creativity. This recognition shows the importance of expressing gratitude and valuing someone’s efforts. The story demonstrates that saying “thank you” or showing appreciation encourages positive behaviour and makes people feel respected and acknowledged. | |
| Colour Monster | Belong: The Colour Monster shows belonging by helping the monster feel understood and supported. With a friend’s guidance, he sorts his emotions and gains a sense of connection, showing that belonging comes from being accepted and valued. | Hope: Hope is evident in the story as the monster learns he can understand and manage his emotions. With guidance, he moves from confusion and worry to calm and clarity, showing that things can improve and that positive change is possible. | | Aspire: The book demonstrates aspiration as the monster strives to understand and organise his emotions. He works toward emotional balance and self-awareness, showing the value of aiming to improve oneself. | | Believe: Belief is shown through the monster’s growing trust in his ability to understand and manage his emotions. With patience and guidance, he gains confidence in himself and his feelings. | | Love: The care and support the monster receives from his friend is evidence of the value ‘Love’. This guidance helps him understand his emotions, demonstrating that love involves patience, understanding, and encouragement. | | Thanks: Thanks is shown when the monster appreciates his friend’s help in sorting his emotions. This gratitude highlights the importance of recognising and valuing the support and care we receive from others. | |
| YEAR ONE | Belong | | Hope | | Aspire | | Believe | | Love | | Thanks |
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| Owl Babies  Martin Waddell | Belong: The story highlights the sense of belonging as the three owl babies, Sarah, Percy, and Bill, anxiously await their mother's return. They feel safe and secure when they are with their mother, and their home, the hollow tree, represents a place where they truly belong. | | Hope: Throughout the book, the owl babies express hope and anticipation for their mother's return. They keep repeating the refrain, "I want my mommy!" This demonstrates their hope that she will come back to care for them. | | Aspire: Although the story doesn't directly address aspirations, the owl babies aspire to be reunited with their mother. They long for her presence, and their aspirations are centred around being with her. | | Believe: The owl babies believe in their mother's love and care. They have faith that she will return, even when she is gone for a while. Their belief in her is a central theme of the story. | | Love: Love is a fundamental theme in the story. The mother owl's love for her babies is evident when she returns to them after her absence, and the owlets' love for their mother is evident in their longing for her company. | | Thanks: While the book doesn't explicitly touch upon gratitude, the ending of the story can be seen as a moment of thanks as the owl babies express relief and happiness when their mother finally returns. Their happiness can be seen as a form of thankfulness for her presence. |
| Where the Wild Things are(classic) - Maurice Sendak | Belong: Max, the main character, wears a wolf suit and creates a world of his own, the land of the Wild Things, where he becomes their king. This represents a desire to belong and find a place where he feels accepted and in control. Max's adventure in the land of the Wild Things reflects the universal human need to belong, even if it means creating an imaginary world to do so. | | Hope: The book begins with Max being sent to bed without supper, but he embarks on a journey to the land of the Wild Things, which is an expression of his hope for adventure and excitement. Through his imaginative journey, Max finds hope in escaping the mundane and entering a world of fantasy. | | Believe: Max believes in the power of his imagination and the reality of the Wild Things. He believes in the transformative nature of his imaginative world, and this belief is a central element of the story. | | Aspire: Max aspires to be in control and to be recognized as the king of the Wild Things. His journey in the land of the Wild Things reflects his aspirations for autonomy and power, which are common aspirations for children exploring their growing independence. | | Love: Although Max leaves the land of the Wild Things to return home, he ultimately realizes the importance of love and belonging in his own family. The love of his mother, who leaves his dinner for him, serves as a reminder that he belongs at home, and his return to his room symbolizes the love and safety of his family. | | Thanks: The book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but Max's return from the land of the Wild Things, back to his room and his supper, can be seen as a return to the familiar and the comforting, which might evoke a sense of thankfulness and appreciation for the security and love provided by his family. |
| Wake Up Do, Lydia Lou Julia Donaldson | Belong: In the story, the little ghost tries to interact with Lydia Lou, showing a desire to belong or connect with her in some way. This can be seen as an example of the basic human need for belonging and social interaction. | | Hope: The little ghost's attempts to wake Lydia Lou can be seen as expressions of hope. He hopes to engage her and get a reaction from her, which keeps him trying various playful approaches | | Believe: The little ghost believes that Lydia Lou might be awakened with a good scare. This belief drives him to seek the help of his animal friends and try different strategies to wake her up. | | Aspire: The little ghost aspires to achieve his goal of waking Lydia Lou. His determination and creativity in seeking help from his animal friends reflect an aspiration to achieve a particular outcome. | | Love: Although the story seems more focused on playful scares and waking Lydia Lou, the underlying theme of love can still be present. The little ghost may care for Lydia Lou or want her attention, which can be seen as a form of affection. | | Thanks: The book's primary focus appears to be on fun and playfulness, so explicit expressions of thanks may not be present in the story. However, the story may indirectly emphasize the importance of appreciation for friendships and connections, as the little ghost seeks the help of his animal friends. |
| Penguin Small  Mick Inkpad | Belong: Penguin Small experiences a sense of not belonging when separated from its family. The story conveys the importance of belonging to one's family or group, which can lead to feelings of security and comfort. Penguin Small's journey back to its family underscores the value of belonging. | | Hope: Throughout the book, Penguin Small holds onto hope. Even in the face of adversity and being alone, the penguin keeps hoping to be reunited with its family. The story shows the power of hope, especially in challenging situations. | | Believe: Penguin Small believes in the possibility of reuniting with its family. This belief is what motivates the penguin to keep searching and persistently working toward that goal. | | Aspire: The central aspiration in the story is Penguin Small's desire to return to its family. The penguin's determination and resourcefulness in pursuing this aspiration serve as an example for young readers. | | Love: While not explicitly stated, the love and attachment between Penguin Small and its family are evident in the story. The penguin's strong bond with its family is a driving force behind its journey and determination to reunite with them | | Thanks: The theme of gratitude may not be directly addressed, but the story indirectly conveys the idea of appreciating the love and support of one's family. Penguin Small's eventual reunion with its family can be seen as a moment of thanks and appreciation. |
| Hair Love  Matthew A Cherry | Belong: The book emphasizes the sense of belonging within a loving family. Zuri, the young girl in the story, belongs to a family that cares for her deeply. The act of her father trying to style her hair is a touching example of how they belong to each other's lives and share special moments. | | Hope: Zuri hopes for a beautiful hairstyle, and her father hopes to learn how to create it for her. Their shared hope leads to a heart-warming and meaningful experience. This book encourages children to have hope in their dreams and the people who support them. | | Believe: Zuri believes in her father's abilities, and her father believes in his capacity to learn and do his best for his daughter. Their belief in each other and themselves is a central theme of the story. | | Aspire: Zuri aspires to have a special and beautiful hairstyle for a significant event. Her father aspires to make her happy and succeeds by learning how to style her hair. This reflects the theme of aspiring to make others happy and achieving one's goals through determination. | | Love: Love is a central value in "Hair Love." The story showcases the deep love between Zuri and her father. It demonstrates that love is not just about grand gestures but also about the everyday acts of care and attention. Their bond is a beautiful example of love within a family. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the act of Zuri and her father helping each other and sharing in the joy of a successful hairstyle can be seen as a form of thanks. It emphasizes the importance of appreciating and supporting each other within a family. |
| YEAR  TWO |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| The Hodgegheg- Dick King-Smith | Belong: Max, the hedgehog, belongs to the animal community in the story. He relies on the support and guidance of other animals, such as the wise owl and the friendly cat. The sense of belonging to a community is subtly portrayed in the interactions between Max and the other creatures in the hedge. | | Hope: Max's determination to safely cross the road reflects a sense of hope. He hopes to achieve his goal, and this hope drives him to seek guidance and make efforts to overcome the challenge. | | Aspire: Max aspires to achieve his goal, which is a safe road crossing. His determination and efforts in learning and practicing road safety demonstrate the value of aspiration and hard work. | | Believe: Max believes in his ability to cross the road safely, but he also believes in seeking help and guidance from others. His trust in the owl's wisdom and the cat's kindness shows his belief in collaboration and learning from others | | Love: While the story doesn't explicitly focus on love, it does emphasize the importance of caring for one another, as demonstrated by the support Max receives from the owl and the cat. Their kindness and assistance show a form of caring and support, which is akin to love. | | Thanks: Max's successful road crossing at the end of the story can be seen as a moment of accomplishment and gratitude. He likely appreciates the help and guidance he received from the owl and the cat in achieving his goal. |
| Owl who was Afraid of the Dark- Jill Tomlinson | Belong: Plop, the young owl, belongs to a family of owls. He feels accepted and loved by his family, even though he has a fear of the dark. The sense of belonging within a supportive family is a central theme of the story.  . | | Hope: Plop's journey in the book is a journey of hope. He initially fears the dark but hopes to overcome his fear with the help of various characters he meets. Plop's hope drives his willingness to learn and experience new things. | | Aspire: Plop aspires to be like the other owls, who are not afraid of the dark. His desire to fit in and be like them drives his willingness to learn and experience the dark | | Believe: Plop's mother believes in his ability to overcome his fear of the dark. She encourages him to have confidence in himself. The story illustrates the importance of self-belief and believing in the support of others. | | Love: The love between Plop and his family is evident throughout the story. His family supports him in his journey to overcome his fear, and their love and encouragement are essential in helping him become more comfortable with the dark. | | Thanks: While the book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, the story can be seen as a journey of personal growth and self-discovery. When Plop conquers his fear, it can be interpreted as a moment of thanks, appreciation, and personal achievement. |
| George’s Marvellous Medicine- Roald Dahl | Belong: George belongs to a family that includes his parents, grandmother, and various farm animals. His actions are driven by a sense of frustration and a desire to fit in and make things right within his family. He wants to belong in a family that doesn't have to deal with his unpleasant grandmother. | | Hope: George's concoctions are created with the hope of improving his grandmother's disposition. He hopes that by making her a marvellous medicine, he can bring happiness and harmony back to his family. | | Aspire: George aspires to create a medicine that will transform his grandmother into a kinder, more pleasant person. His determination to achieve this goal reflects a sense of aspiration. | | Believe: George believes in the power of his medicines and is determined to find a solution to the problems caused by his grandmother. His belief in the efficacy of his medicines drives the plot of the story. | | Love: While the story's focus is more on George's frustration with his grandmother, there is an underlying theme of love within his family. His actions are driven by a desire to make his family's life better and more peaceful. | | Thanks: The book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but George's actions can be seen as a form of seeking thanks or appreciation from his family for his efforts to improve their lives. |
| Look Up! by Nathan Bryon | Belong: Rocket belongs to her community and her family. She shares her passion for space with her brother, Jamal, and the other people in her neighbourhood. Her sense of belonging within her community is evident as she shares the event with them. | | Hope: Rocket has hope and enthusiasm throughout the story. She hopes to see the meteor shower, and she encourages her neighbours to join her in watching it. Her optimism and hope are infectious, and she spreads them among those around her. | | Aspire: Rocket aspires to be an astronaut and dreams of traveling to space. Her passion for space and the meteor shower serves as an example of aspiring to achieve one's dreams and interests. | | Believe: Rocket believes in the power of the meteor shower to bring people together and inspire them. She also believes in the importance of sharing the experience with her community and encouraging them to look up at the sky. | | Love: The story doesn't explicitly focus on love, but the bond between Rocket and her brother Jamal is evident, as is the sense of community and support from their neighbours. Love can be inferred from the care and support that surrounds Rocket. | | Thanks: While the book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, the act of Rocket bringing her community together to enjoy the meteor shower can be seen as an expression of thanks for the beauty of the universe and the connections formed among people. |
| YEAR THREE |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| The Iron Man- (classic)Ted Hughes | Belong: The Iron Man initially arrives on Earth and seems like an outsider, but he eventually forms a connection with Hogarth. He belongs to Hogarth's world through their friendship, showing that belonging can be found in unexpected places and with unexpected friends. | | Hope: The story is infused with themes of hope. Hogarth hopes that the Iron Man can be a force for good, and the Iron Man hopes to find a way to coexist with humanity without causing harm. The message of hope is that positive change is possible. | | Aspire: The Iron Man aspires to coexist peacefully with humanity. His willingness to adjust his behaviours and make sacrifices reflects the aspiration for harmony and cooperation between different entities. | | Believe: Both Hogarth and the Iron Man have to believe in the possibility of a better world, where fear and violence do not reign. Their belief drives their actions and decisions throughout the story | | Love: Although the story doesn't explicitly focus on romantic love, it does portray love in the form of friendship and care. The deep friendship between Hogarth and the Iron Man is a prominent example of caring for and supporting one another. | | Thanks: Gratitude is not explicitly addressed in the story, but the ending of the book, where the people thank the Iron Man for saving the Earth from the space-bat-angel-dragon, can be seen as an expression of thanks and appreciation. |
| Stig of the Dump- (classic)Clive King | Belong: Barney develops a strong bond with Stig despite their differences. He makes Stig feel like he belongs in his world, and Stig provides a sense of belonging and companionship for Barney during his summer holidays. | | Hope: Barney's initial hope is to have an exciting summer holiday, but his discovery of Stig adds a layer of hope for adventure, friendship, and the unknown. The story is filled with the hope of new experiences and deepening bonds. | | Aspire: Stig inspires Barney to think creatively and learn more about the world. Barney aspires to help Stig and find ways to improve his life, showing the value of aspiring to make a difference in someone else's life. | | Believe: Barney believes in Stig, despite others' doubts about the existence of a caveman. His unwavering belief in Stig drives the story and showcases the power of belief in the extraordinary. | | Love: While not explicitly romantic love, the deep friendship and camaraderie that develop between Barney and Stig exemplify love and care. Their bond demonstrates how friendship can be a form of love, emphasizing the importance of understanding and supporting one another. | | Thanks: The book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments when Barney helps Stig can be seen as expressions of thanks for their friendship and the joy they bring to each other's lives. |
| Boy who Biked the World- Alistair Humphreys | Belong: Tom's journey around the world is a quest to discover and belong to different cultures and places. His adventures highlight the value of connecting with people from diverse backgrounds and finding a sense of belonging in the global community.  . | | Hope: Tom's adventures are fuelled by hope, curiosity, and a desire to explore the world. He hopes to learn, experience new things, and connect with people from different cultures, emphasizing the power of hope in pursuing one's dreams. | | Aspire: Tom's epic journey is an aspiration to explore the world, learn about different cultures, and gain a broader perspective on life. His adventures serve as an inspiration for others to aspire to explore and understand the world. | | Believe: Throughout his journey, Tom faces challenges and uncertainties. He learns to believe in his abilities and adapt to new environments and cultures. His belief in himself and the kindness of strangers is a central theme in the series. | | Love: While the series doesn't explicitly focus on romantic love, it emphasizes the love and kindness of people from around the world who help and support Tom during his journey. The generosity and care he encounters underscore the importance of human connection and love | | Thanks: Throughout the series, Tom expresses gratitude for the support and kindness he receives from strangers and the experiences that shape his journey. His moments of thanks highlight the importance of appreciating the people and opportunities encountered during his travels. |
| Born to Run- Michael Morpurgo | Belong: The story revolves around the sense of belonging that Best Mate finds when he becomes a part of Patrick's family. Best Mate goes from being a retired racing greyhound to a cherished family pet, highlighting the theme of belonging. | | Hope: The story is filled with hope. Patrick hopes to help Best Mate overcome his traumatic past, and Best Mate hopes to find a loving and caring home. Their journey together is driven by hope for a better future. | | Aspire: Patrick aspires to provide the best life possible for Best Mate. His determination to help Best Mate heal and overcome his past reflects the value of aspiring to make a positive impact on the lives of others. | | Believe: Patrick believes in Best Mate's potential for happiness and his ability to overcome the challenges he faces. His unwavering belief in Best Mate's ability to heal and thrive is a central theme in the story. | | Love: The bond between Patrick and Best Mate is a significant aspect of the story. Their deep friendship and the love and care that Patrick provides for Best Mate showcase the importance of love and companionship. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of joy and contentment that both Patrick and Best Mate experience can be seen as expressions of thanks for the positive changes in their lives. |
| A Bus Called Heaven –  Bob Graham | Belong: The story powerfully shows the quality of belonging through the way the bus becomes a shared space that brings people together and makes everyone feel included and valued. | | Hope: Hope is shown through the belief that things can get better—even in small, everyday moments. Through Stella’s actions and the community’s response, the story reveals how hope can bring people together and create positive change. | | Aspire: Aspiration—or the desire to make things better and to hope for more is represented through the characters’ dreams, actions, and determination to create a better community. | | Believe: Bob Graham shows the quality of belief in powerful and gentle ways—through a young girl's vision, a community's trust in each other, and the shared faith that something broken can be made beautiful again. | | Love: Illustrates the quality of love through its characters’ actions, the transformation of the community, and the symbolic meaning of the bus itself. | | Thanks: Thanks—or gratitude— is shown through the characters’ actions, their appreciation for one another, and the way the community cherishes the bus and what it represents. |
| YEAR FOUR |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Sky Hawk-Gill Lewis | Belong: The story touches on the idea of belonging to the natural world. Callum's deep connection with the ospreys and the natural environment around him highlights the importance of feeling connected to and responsible for the world in which we live. | | Hope: Callum's discovery of the ospreys and his determination to protect their nesting site is driven by hope. He hopes to ensure their safety and survival, which becomes a central theme in the story. | | Aspire: Callum aspires to be a protector of the ospreys and the natural world. His aspiration to take action and make a positive difference in the lives of these birds reflects the value of aspiring to protect and preserve the environment. | | Believe: Callum believes in the ospreys and their right to exist. His belief in their importance and the need to protect them from harm is a significant aspect of the story. | | Love: It portrays a deep love and appreciation for nature and the ospreys. Callum's actions are driven by his love for these birds and his desire to safeguard their well-being. | | Thanks: The book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but Callum's efforts to protect the ospreys and the natural environment can be seen as a form of thanks and respect for the beauty and importance of the natural world. |
| Anglo-Saxon Boy- Tony Bradman | Belong: The story illustrates the sense of belonging within the context of the Anglo-Saxon community. Bryn and his family belong to a village, and the story delves into the sense of community and shared values during that time.  , | | Hope: Bryn's journey and the challenges he faces are imbued with hope. He hopes to prove himself as a worthy member of his community and looks forward to a better future. | | Aspire: Bryn aspires to be a successful and respected member of his community. His determination to achieve this aspiration leads him to face various challenges and grow as an individual. | | Believe: Throughout the story, Bryn believes in his abilities and the values instilled in him by his family and community. His belief in his capacity to grow and contribute to his society is a central theme. | | Love: The book it portrays the love and support within Bryn's family and community. The care, guidance, and support he receives reflect the importance of familial and community love. | | Thanks: While the book doesn't explicitly address gratitude, the story conveys the sense of appreciation for the support and guidance provided by Bryn's family, mentors and community. |
| Secrets of a Sun King Emma Carroll | Belong: The story highlights the sense of belonging within a family and a community. The main character, Lil, is trying to uncover her family's history and feels a strong connection to her late mother. The story also touches on Lil's sense of belonging in her new school and friendship group. | | Hope: The central theme of the story revolves around hope. Lil hopes to solve the mystery of her mother's past and unlock the secrets of the Egyptian amulet. Her unwavering hope drives her determination and actions throughout the book. | | Aspire: Lil aspires to honour her mother's memory and heritage by solving the mystery and preserving her family's history. Her determination to achieve this aspiration is a central element of the story. | | Believe: Lil believes in the importance of uncovering her family's history and is committed to solving the mystery of the amulet. Her belief in the value of her mother's past and the importance of preserving history is evident. | | Love: While the book doesn't focus on romantic love, it portrays the deep love and connection between Lil and her family, especially her mother. Lil's love for her family motivates her to uncover the secrets of her mother's past. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but Lil's journey to uncover her family's history can be seen as a form of thanks and appreciation for her heritage and her mother's legacy. |
| Beowulf –  Michael Morpurgo | Belong: The story explores the quality of belonging through the connections between characters, their loyalty to their people, and their desire to be part of something greater than themselves—whether it’s a tribe, a kingdom, or a legacy. | | Hope: Through the courage of its characters, their belief in good triumphing over evil, and the way acts of bravery inspire future generations – hope is shown. Even in the darkest moments, the story offers hope that peace, justice, and honour can win. | | Aspire: Aspiration is shown through Beowulf’s drive to achieve greatness, protect others, and live a life of purpose—through the choices, courage, and determination. | | Believe: The quality of belief is evident in many important ways—through the faith characters have in themselves, in each other, and in the values that guide them. This belief drives the story forward and helps the characters face great challenges. | | Love: Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo, though full of epic battles and heroic deeds, reveals the quality of love in deep and powerful ways—particularly through loyalty, sacrifice, and the bonds between people. | | Thanks: Thankfulness is demonstrated in subtle but meaningful ways—through respect, gratitude for help, and appreciation for loyalty and sacrifice. |
| YEAR  FIVE |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Holes- (classic)Louis Sachar | Belong: The story centres around a group of young boys at Camp Green Lake, where they form their own small community. They come from different backgrounds and have a sense of belonging to this community despite their differences. | | Hope: The characters in the book often harbour hopes for a better future. Stanley hopes to overcome the family curse, Zero hopes to learn to read, and others hope for justice or redemption. These hopes are central to the characters' journeys. | | Aspire: Stanley aspires to break the family curse, and he also aspires to help Zero learn to read. His determination to make a positive impact on his life and the lives of others reflects the value of aspiration. | | Believe: Stanley's belief in the power of friendship and justice is evident throughout the story. He believes in the goodness of people and the possibility of changing his circumstances. | | Love: While the story doesn't focus on romantic love, it does explore the love between Stanley and his family, as well as the camaraderie and friendship that develop among the boys at Camp Green Lake. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of redemption, justice, and personal growth can be seen as expressions of thanks and appreciation for the positive changes in the characters' lives. |
| Boy at the Back of the Class- Onjali Q. Rauf | Belong: The story revolves around the new boy, Ahmet, who joins a class where he initially feels like an outsider. However, the classmates, led by the narrator, work hard to make Ahmet feel welcome, emphasizing the value of belonging and inclusion. | | Hope: The book is filled with hope as the children hope to reunite Ahmet with his family, who are refugees. Their hope and determination to help their new friend reflect the power of hope in making a difference in the lives of others. | | Aspire: The children aspire to make a difference by helping Ahmet find his family and raising awareness about the plight of refugees. Their aspiration to create positive change reflects the value of aspiring to improve the lives of others. | | Believe: The children in the story believe in the possibility of reuniting Ahmet with his family, even when faced with significant challenges. Their belief drives their actions and their campaign to raise awareness. | | Love: While the book doesn't focus on romantic love, it does emphasize the deep friendship and care that develops between the children and Ahmet. Their bond showcases the importance of love, empathy, and understanding. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of joy and accomplishment that the children experience can be seen as expressions of thanks for the positive changes they bring to Ahmet's life and the lives of others. |
| Hacker- Malorie Blackman | Belong: The story addresses the concept of belonging, particularly in the context of online communities. Vicky, through her hacking skills, becomes part of an online hacking group, which gives her a sense of belonging and identity. | | Hope: Vicky's actions are often driven by hope—hope for justice, hope for uncovering the truth, and hope for making a positive impact on the world. Her determination to expose wrongdoing reflects the power of hope in fighting for what is right. | | Aspire: Vicky aspires to use her hacking abilities for a noble cause, exposing wrongdoing and seeking justice. Her aspiration to make a positive impact in the world is central to the story. | | Believe: The story delves into the notion of belief in the power of information and the importance of truth. Vicky believes in the potential of exposing corruption and making a difference through her hacking skills. | | Love: While the book doesn't focus on romantic love, it explores the love and support within Vicky's family. Her family's care and concern for her well-being are significant aspects of the story. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of justice and revelation can be seen as expressions of thanks for the exposure of wrongdoing and the potential for positive change. |
| The Promise – Nicola Davies | Belong: | | Hope: The value of hope is demonstrated through hope through its message of renewal, growth, and positive change even in difficult circumstances. | | Aspire: Aspiration is shown through the characters’ hopes and efforts to create a better, greener world and to transform their lives and community for the better. | | Believe: The Promise, shows the value of belief through faith in change, hope in the future, and trust in the power of small actions to make a big difference. | | Love: The value of love is portrayed through the transformative power of kindness, care for the environment, and the deep connections that emerge when individuals choose to nurture and give. | | Thanks: Thankfulness is evident through the characters’ recognition and appreciation of kindness, change, and the gifts of nature. |
| YEAR  SIX |  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |  |
| Kensuke’s Kingdom (classic)Michael Morprugo | Belong: The story delves into the sense of belonging as Michael and Kensuke form a unique bond on the deserted island. They develop a deep connection despite their differences in age and background, illustrating that belonging can be found in unexpected places. | | Hope: Hope is a central theme in the story. When Michael and his dog, Stella Artois, become stranded, they hope for rescue and to return to their family. Kensuke, too, harbours hopes and dreams that play a significant role in the story. | | Aspire: Michael aspires to reunite with his family, and Kensuke aspires to honour the memory of his lost family by helping and caring for Michael. Their shared aspirations underscore the importance of aspiring to make a positive impact on each other's lives. | | Believe: Both Michael and Kensuke believe in the possibility of rescue and in the goodness of people. Their belief in the potential for positive outcomes drives their actions and decisions throughout the story. | | Love: While the book doesn't focus on romantic love, it does explore the deep friendship and care that develop between Michael and Kensuke. Their relationship exemplifies love and compassion in the face of adversity. | | Thanks: Gratitude is not explicitly addressed in the story, but the moments of understanding, kindness, and mutual support can be seen as expressions of thanks for the companionship and aid they provide each other. |
| After Tomorrow- Gillian Cross | Belong: The story revolves around a family's journey to find safety and a sense of belonging during a time of crisis. The characters seek a community where they can belong and find support in a world turned chaotic. | | Hope: Hope is a central theme in the story. The family's journey is fuelled by hope for a better future and a safe haven. The characters' unwavering hope drives their determination to persevere in challenging circumstances. | | Believe: The characters believe in their ability to overcome adversity and find a better life. Their belief in their own resilience and the potential for positive change is evident throughout the story. | | Aspire: The family aspires to find a place of safety, security, and normalcy. Their determination to achieve this aspiration reflects the value of aspiring to create a better life for themselves and their loved ones. | | Love: The story portrays the deep love and support within the family. Their bond and care for each other are central to their journey, and it underscores the importance of love and family relationships. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of safety and security that the family encounters can be seen as expressions of thanks for the moments of respite and calm in a chaotic world. |
| Gorilla Dawn- Gill Lewis | Belong: The story underscores the concept of belonging in the context of the wildlife reserve and the efforts to protect endangered gorillas. The characters, including the young protagonist, Amara, find a sense of belonging and purpose in their commitment to wildlife conservation. | | Hope: Hope is a central theme in the story, as the characters, particularly Imara, hope to save the gorillas and their natural habitat from poachers. Their unwavering hope drives their determination to make a positive impact. | | Aspire: Imara aspires to follow in her mother's footsteps as a wildlife ranger and to protect the gorillas. Her determination to achieve this aspiration reflects the value of aspiring to make a positive impact on the environment. | | Believe: The characters believe in the importance of wildlife conservation and the need to protect endangered species. Their belief in the value of their mission and their ability to make a difference is evident throughout the story. | | Love: While the book doesn't focus on romantic love, it does portray the deep love and care for the gorillas and the natural world. The characters' commitment to wildlife conservation reflects their love for the environment and the animals they are trying to protect. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of success in protecting the gorillas can be seen as expressions of thanks for the positive changes in the lives of the characters and the environment. |
| Wonder- R. J. Palacio | Belong: The central character, Auggie Pullman, struggles with feeling like he belongs because of his facial deformity. The story illustrates the importance of inclusion and the impact that kindness and acceptance have on a person's sense of belonging.  . | | Hope: Auggie and his family harbour hope for a better future. They hope for Auggie to have a successful school experience, and the story highlights the power of hope in overcoming challenges. | | Aspire: Auggie aspires to be seen for who he is beyond his facial deformity. He aspires to be a regular kid and have a normal school experience. His determination and his family's support reflect the value of aspiring to overcome adversity. | | Believe: The characters in the book, including Auggie, his family, and his friends, believe in the potential for kindness and empathy to make a positive difference in the world. They believe in the importance of seeing beyond appearances | | Love: Love, particularly the love within Auggie's family, is a central theme in the story. Auggie's parents and sister provide unwavering support, care, and love, showcasing the importance of family bonds. | | Thanks: The story doesn't explicitly address gratitude, but the moments of understanding, acceptance, and friendship can be seen as expressions of thanks for the positive changes in Auggie's life and in the lives of those around him. |
| Hidden Figures – Margot Lee-Shetterly | Belong: This book shows the quality of belonging through the story of African American women mathematicians who contributed critically to NASA’s space missions, despite facing discrimination and exclusion. | | Hope: Hope is shown through the inspiring stories of African American women who overcame discrimination to make vital contributions to NASA’s space program and helped pave the way for future generations. | | Aspire: The quality of aspiration is demonstrated through the inspiring ambitions and achievements of African American women who pursued careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) despite facing systemic barriers. | | Believe: Belief is evident through the unwavering faith the women have in their own abilities, the possibility of progress, and the importance of equality. | | Love: Margot Lee Shetterly shows the value of love through the deep care, support, and dedication the women have for their families, communities, and each other, as well as their passion for their work. | | Thanks: Thankfulness is demonstrated in several meaningful ways, highlighting gratitude for opportunities, support, and progress despite challenges. |
| When the Sky Falls – Phil Earle | Belong: The quality of belonging is evident through the experiences of Jaxon as he searches for safety, friendship, and a place to call home. | | Hope: Hope is seen through the story of a young boy named Jaxon living through the hardships of World War II, and his journey toward finding safety, friendship, and a better future despite the war’s dangers. | | Aspire: Aspiration is demonstrated through Jaxon’s hopes and dreams for a better life despite the hardships of war. | | Believe: Jaxon’s faith in himself, others, and the possibility of a better future despite the chaos and fear of World War II demonstrates how someone can have belief. | | Love: Love is evident through the deep care, protection, and bonds between characters, especially in the difficult context of war. | | Thanks: Thankfulness takes place through moments where characters express gratitude for kindness, safety, and support during the difficult times of war. |