

Implementation: English-Writing at New Horizons Academy

At New Horizons Academy, we deliver our English curriculum through the Literacy Tree scheme, which places high-quality literature at the heart of every lesson. To meet the specific needs of our learners, we implement this through the following strategies:

A Text-First Approach

- Immersive Hooks: Each unit begins with a "hook" to ignite curiosity and re-engage learners who may have had negative experiences with writing.
- High-Quality Literature: We use diverse, award-winning texts that serve as "mirrors and windows"—allowing students to see themselves reflected in stories while looking out into worlds different from their own. These are carefully selected by our staff to ensure that they are appropriate for our pupils and meet their needs.

Scaffolding for Success

- Adaptive Planning: While following the Literacy Tree planning sequences, teachers adapt the pace and complexity to suit the individual baseline of their students.
- Phonics and Spelling Integration: As well as having separate phonics and spelling sessions to meet the needs of our pupils; opportunities to revisit and practise these skills are woven into writing sessions, allowing students to see the immediate purpose of their technical learning.
- Punctuation and Grammar in Context: Grammar and punctuation are taught through the lens of the chosen text, helping students understand how specific grammatical choices impact the reader's emotions and understanding. Similarly to our phonics and spelling sessions, punctuation and grammar skills are taught both in stand alone sessions as well as being

linked into and revisited through the Literacy Tree sessions. Giving the children multiple opportunities to learn and practise these skills, helps us to meet their varied needs.

Fostering Oracy and Expression

- Talk for Writing: Before a pen hits paper, students have opportunities to engage in various drama, role-play, and discussion based activities. These build the oral vocabulary necessary for written success. Oral composition is encouraged to support students prior to writing and during writing.

The Writing Cycle

- Opportunities for writing: We aim to provide opportunities for students to write in every session. Having the ability to constantly revisit and practise core and foundational skills, we support our pupils to address gaps in their learning.
- Reflect and improve: Through our editing and drafting process, our pupils (with support and guidance through modelling as well as verbal and written feedback) have opportunities to reflect on and improve their writing. Building their resilience as well as developing their understanding and writing skills.

Impact: English-Writing at New Horizons Academy

The impact of our English curriculum is measured not just by the quality of the work in books, but by the transformation in our students' attitudes toward communication.

Re-engagement and Increased Confidence

The primary impact is the shift from "reluctant writer" to "engaged author." Students who previously faced barriers to learning begin to view writing as a positive outlet rather than a source of frustration. This is evidenced by increased stamina in writing

sessions and a willingness to "have a go" at new vocabulary.

Academic Progress and Literacy for Life

- **Vocabulary Growth:** Students develop an improved "word bank" curated from high-quality texts, which they use confidently in both their speech and writing.
- **Functional Accuracy:** Learners demonstrate an improved ability to apply spelling and grammar rules, ensuring their writing is clear and coherent—a vital skill for their transition back to mainstream education or onward to the next stage in their educational journey.

Emotional Resilience and Self-Regulation

Through the exploration of complex characters and themes within the Literacy Tree texts, students develop greater empathy and self-awareness. Writing becomes a tool for self-regulation, allowing them to express thoughts and emotions that they might otherwise struggle to verbalise.

Improved Oracy and Social Skills

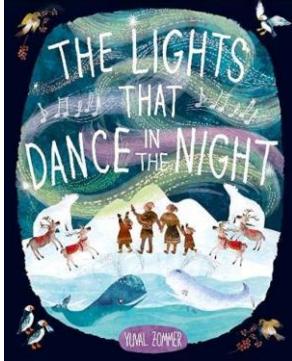
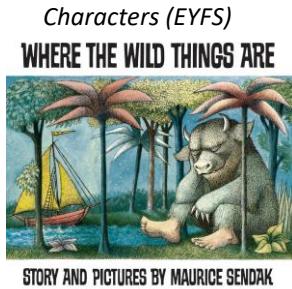
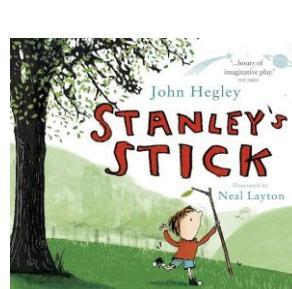
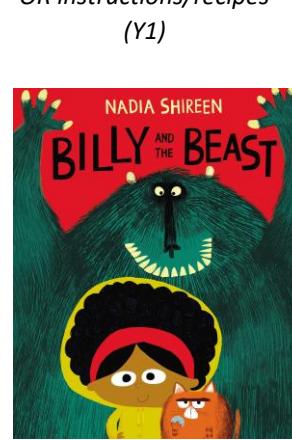
The emphasis on talk and drama results in students who can articulate their ideas clearly. This boost in communication skills leads to improved social interactions across the school day and a greater ability to advocate for themselves in the wider world.

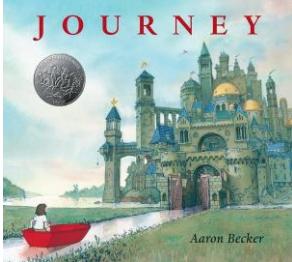
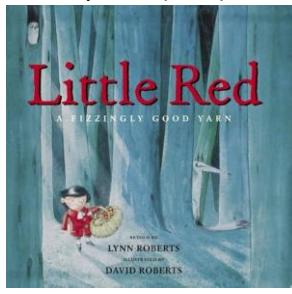
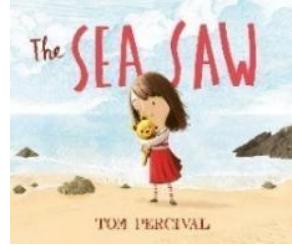
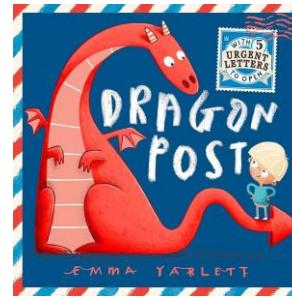
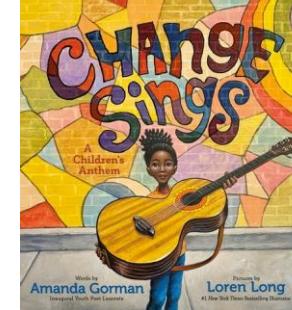
Pride in Presentation

The impact is visible in the physical work produced. Students take pride in their "final drafts," showing care in their handwriting and layout, reflecting a newfound respect for their own creative voice.

English-Writing Supporting Resources

<https://literacytree.com/>

		<u>KS1</u> Cycle A				
	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
NHA Writing Curriculum	<p>The Lights that Dance in the Night <i>Poetry</i></p> 	<p>Where the Wild Things Are <i>Narrative Characters (EYFS)</i></p> 	<p>Stanley's Stick <i>Narrative Endings (Y1)</i></p> 	<p>Billy and the Beast <i>Narrative - OR instructions/recipes (Y1)</i></p> 	<p>Toys in Space <i>Narrative - Own version fantasy narrative (Y2)</i></p> 	<p>The Midnight Panther <i>Narrative - Shared write</i></p> 

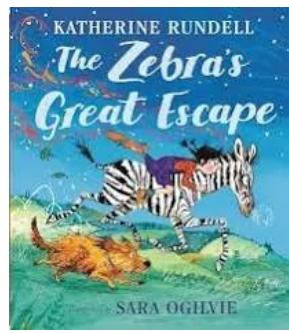
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	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
NHA Writing Curriculum	<p>Journey Narrative Story sequel (WSWR)</p> 	<p>Little Red Narrative Fairy tales (EYFS)</p> 	<p>The Sea Saw Own version narrative (Y1)</p> 	<p>Dragon Post Non-Fiction Instructional guide (Y1)</p> 	<p>If all the World were Non-narrative poem (Y2)</p> 	<p>Change Sings Poetry Shared poem to perform (WSWR)</p> 

			<u>LKS2</u> Cycle A			
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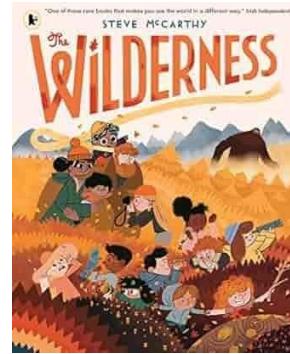
The Lights that Dance
in the Night Poetry



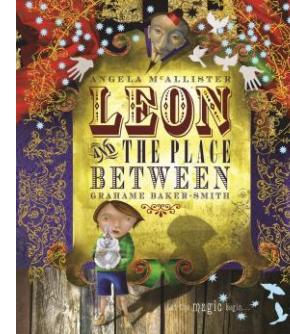
The Zebra's Great Escape
Own version 'great
escape' narrative (Y3)



Wilderness
Non-fiction
Guide leaflet (Y3)



Leon and the Place
Between
Narrative
Version of the story (Y3)



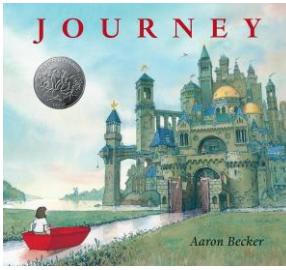
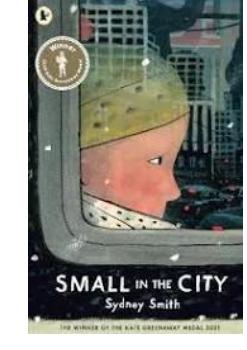
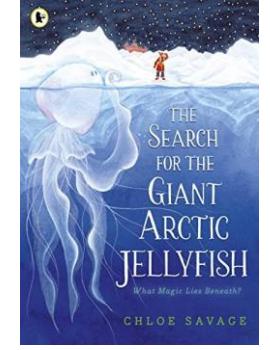
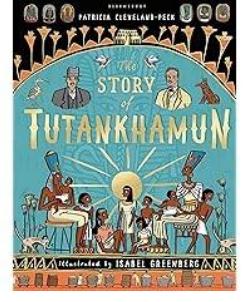
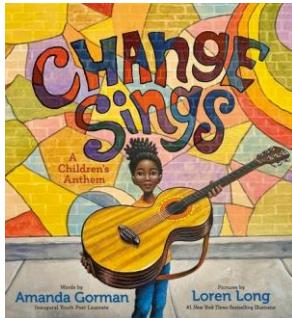
The Crown
(Y4)

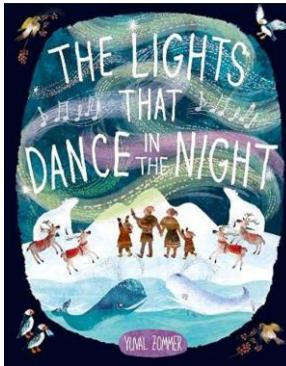
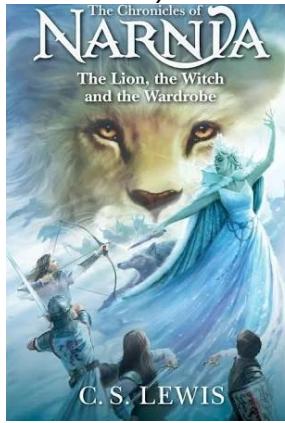
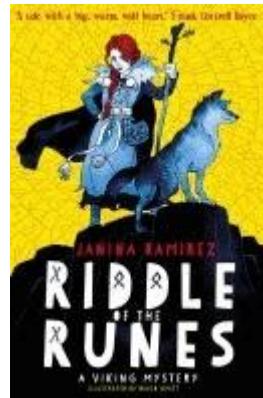
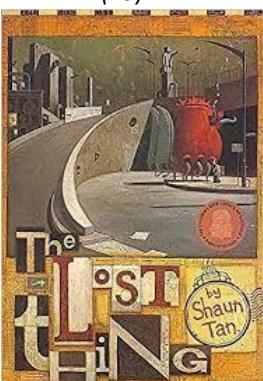


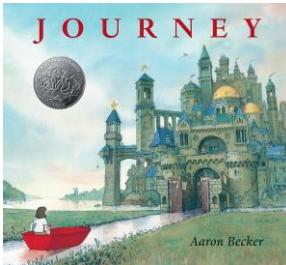
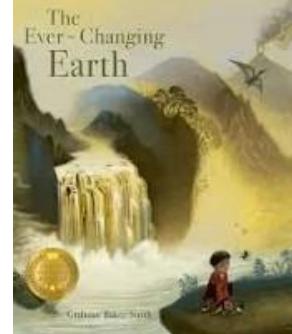
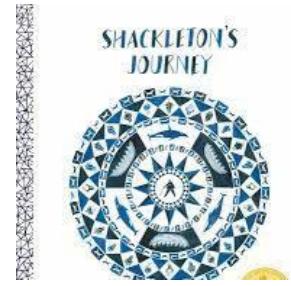
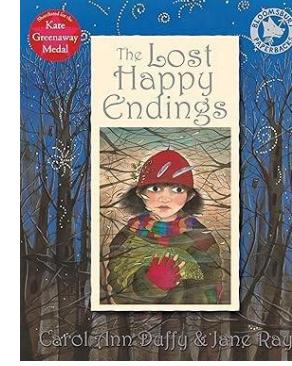
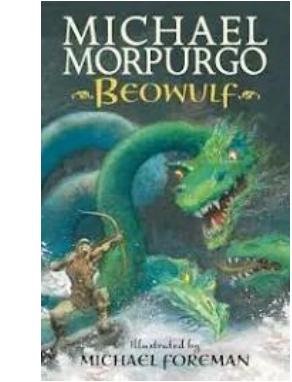
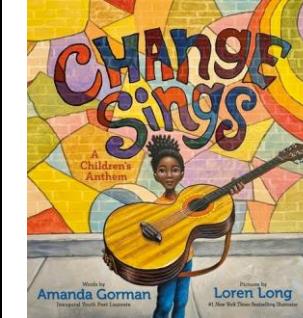
The Midnight Panther
Narrative
animal sub-set



NHA Writing
Curriculum

			<u>LKS2</u> <u>Cycle B</u>			
	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
NHA Writing Curriculum	<p>Journey <i>Narrative</i> <i>Story sequel</i> (WSWR)</p>  <p>JOURNEY Aaron Becker</p>	<p>The Barnabus Project <i>Non-fiction</i> <i>Publish a Brochure</i> (Y3)</p>  <p>THE BARNABUS PROJECT THE FAN BROTHERS</p>	<p>Small in the City <i>Narrative from an alternative point of view</i> (Y3)</p>  <p>SMALL IN THE CITY Sydney Smith</p>	<p>The Search for the Giant Arctic Jellyfish <i>Non-chron report</i> (Y3)</p>  <p>THE SEARCH FOR THE GIANT ARCTIC JELLYFISH Chloe Savage</p>	<p>The Story of Tutankhamun <i>Diary entry/ Biography</i> (Y4)</p>  <p>THE STORY OF TUTANKHAMUN Illustrated by ISABEL GREENBERG</p>	<p>Change Sings <i>Poetry</i> <i>Shared poem to perform</i> (WSWR)</p>  <p>CHANGE SINGS Written by Amanda Gorman Illustrated by Loren Long</p>

		<u>UKS2</u> <u>Cycle A</u>				
	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
NHA Writing Curriculum	<p><i>The Lights that Dance in the Night Poetry</i></p> 	<p><i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (Y4)</i> Write own ending of the story</p> 	<p><i>Riddle of the Runes</i> Historical fiction narrative (Y4)</p> 	<p><i>The Lost Thing</i> Non-fiction guide/invent machine (Y5)</p> 	<p><i>Robot Girl</i> Science-fiction narrative (Y5)</p> 	<p><i>The Midnight Panther</i> Narrative animal sub-set</p> 

			<u>UKS2</u> Cycle B			
	<u>Autumn 1</u>	<u>Autumn 2</u>	<u>Spring 1</u>	<u>Spring 2</u>	<u>Summer 1</u>	<u>Summer 2</u>
NHA Writing Curriculum	<p>Journey Narrative Story sequel (WSWR)</p>  <p>JOURNEY Aaron Becker</p>	<p>The Ever-Changing Earth Narrative sequel as a class book (Y4)</p>  <p>The Ever-Changing Earth Gillian Balow-Smith</p>	<p>Shackleton's Journey Newspaper Report (Y4)</p>  <p>SHACKLETON'S JOURNEY Carol Ann Duffy & Jane Ray</p>	<p><i>The Lost Happy Ending</i> (Y5)</p>  <p>The Lost Happy Endings Carol Ann Duffy & Jane Ray</p>	<p><i>Beowulf</i> Narrative - Own legend/missing chapter (Y5)</p>  <p>MICHAEL MORPURGO BEOWULF Illustrated by MICHAEL FOREMAN</p>	<p>Change Sings Poetry Shared poem to perform (WSWR)</p>  <p>CHANGE SINGS Written by Amanda Gorman Illustrated by Loren Long</p>