Nurturing learner assets through children’s literature.
Compiled by Kath Murdoch 2018

Books to help explore what it means to be a self manager

Browne, A. Willy the Wizard. Red Fox books.
Like the other “Willy” books, this is a book about managing one’s personal challenges, hopes and dreams.

Beaty, A. (2013) Rosie Reveer Engineer Abrams Books
A book about the importance of failure, resilience and persistence.

Perfect for philosophical Inquiry, this books explores the nature of happiness, of needs and wants. Big themes for young and old alike.

This is a book about self expression and discovery told through the story of a child who thinks she can’t draw.

Reynolds, Peter (2006) So Few of Me.
A book about being focussed, prioritising, time management and reflection.

On problem solving and creative thinking

A truly inspiring book about the benefits of being open minded, awake to learning and the journey that is life!

Lawson, R. (1936 – many reprints since) The Story of Ferdinand
Ferdinand is not like the other bulls. This is the story of being different - and being OK with that. Its all about being true to yourself.

A story about grief – but also about the journey one person takes from loss to renewal.

When a little girl’s idea for making a magnificent thing does not work out – she is infuriated. But gradually she controls her emotions, shows some grit and problem solves her way through. With the help of her trusty assistant.

A great book that helps notice and name the various emotional states we can find ourselves in. Lovely for provoking conversations about recognising and managing our emotions

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Books to help explore what it means to be a **communicator**

*A beautifully written, mysterious story about relationships, connection and learning. Wide open to interpretation and prompts wonderful discussion*

*A beautiful, whimsical book about books – and their power to communicate worlds to the reader*

*A simple story about the power of connection – experiencing goodness and passing it on to others.*

*Stunning story about the need to nurture ideas and believe in yourself as a creative person*

Graham, Bob (1992) *Rose meets Mr Wintergarten*. Walker books
*The classic tale of Rose who bravely asks for her ball back when it lands in scary Mr Wintergarten’s yard. Her communication skills are exemplary and the connection has a huge impact on the community around her.*

Books to help explore what it means to be a **collaborator**

*A powerful story in which a young girl offers a refugee words to help her feel a sense of belonging through language. This is about compassion, empathy and connection.*

*A book about leadership and the dangers of considering yourself better than others.*

Jeffers, O. (2013) *The Hueys in It Wasn’t Me*
*A wonderfully silly tale of poor collaboration, blame shifting, responsibility, conflict and moving on.*

Reynolds, Peter and Paul (2014) *Going Places* Atheneum books
*Two children work together to design a go cart. And they think creatively while they collaborate!*

Books to help explore what it means to be a **thinker**

*Wonderful Collection of questions to make everyone ponder…*

*This picture book raises the question: So what would happen if we just left nature to itself? What would the world really be like? ’*
Burmingham, J. (1978) **Would you Rather** Red Fox Books
A classic Book posing some wonderful ‘would you rather’ questions to the reader. Hilarious and creative but a great way to learn to justify your position!

A series of powerful illustrations accompanied by a small thread of text. It begs to the reader to ask for more. What happened? What happened next? What could this mean?

King, Stephen M. (2008) **Leaf** Scholastic.
A gorgeous, wordless text that invites imagination, creative thinking and wonderment.

Joyce, W.E **The fantastic Flying Books of Morris Lessmore**, Simon and Schuster An extraordinary book – and one that opens up a multitude of questions, inferences, ideas, possibilities. A book to respond to with wonderment and awe!

Trudy’s whimsical questions and drawings not only inspire discussion and creative thinking, they often prompt students to ask their OWN questions. The random and non linear nature of the text makes it delightfully fun to read and play with.

A beautiful wordless text showing a child’s curiosity as she walks with her preoccupied father

A book of ‘surreal possibilities’ that never fails to have children thoroughly curious and engaged!

Pfister, M (2011) **Questions, questions** NorthSouth Books
A beautifully illustrated collection of questions to spark conversation and imagination.

Russell, H. (2011) **Sixty Impossible things before Lunch** Maurizio Corraini www.harrietrussell.co.uk
A collection of 60 questions or curiosities to which there are no clear answers...the author has a delightful “play” with each....

Beautiful book full of intriguing art work and prompts for thinking

Ellis, C. (2017) **Di Iz Tak** Walker books
This book demands creative and critical thinking. Written in a made up language, it is up to the reader to look for patterns, be creative infer and analyse to make sense of the story.
Books to help explore what it means to be a researcher


*The beautiful ‘Stella’ books are all about inquiry. Sam – Stella’s little brother’ asks many wonderful questions to which his big sister replies with her theories on the way the world works. Creative, magical and quirky. Checkout [www.marielouisegay.com](http://www.marielouisegay.com)*

Hanson, F. *The Wonder* (2014) Templar Books
*Another story about a child with a curious mind*

*A great book for mathematical inquiry. Questions are posed throughout the text (How high is high? How stretchy is stretchy?, etc) and some fascinating facts to accompany each one. This book can trigger some wonderful scientific and mathematical investigations*

*A beautiful book about wonder across the globe*

Taylor, G. *Why is the sky Blue? & Do Dogs Dream?* Ladybird Books UK

Jenkins, S. *Hottest, Coldest, Highest, Deepest* Haughton Mifflin. [www.stevejenkinsbooks.com](http://www.stevejenkinsbooks.com)

*Steve Jenkins Books are wonderful for stimulating inquiry into the natural world. They appeal to students thirst to find out fascinating facts about the world as well as using the power of comparison to stimulate curiosity and awe.*

Frost, H. and Lieder, R. *Step Gently Out* Candlewick Press
*An ‘up close’ look at nature - the amazing art work invites children to ponder the natural world in more detail – and offers the perfect springboard for questions*

Papp, Lila. (2005)*’Why?’* Kane Miller books
*Using the world of animals as her context, ”Why? is a series of questions about animals. For example, ”Why do kangaroos have pouches?” ”Why do rhinos have horns on their noses?”*

*A glorious book introducing a child to planet Earth. The text prompts wonder and emphasises the importance of getting to know this extraordinary planet.*

*This book tells the story of a little boy who grows up with a friend he calls the ‘wild one’. As an adult, he loses sight of the wild one only to be reunited later in life. Perhaps the wild one is inside him? This is a story about never losing a connection with nature.*

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Guillain and Zommer (2017) The Street Beneath My Feet. Quarto publishing
A gloriously presented picture book that folds out into a long poster. It is all about exploring the earth – what lies beneath your feet from the surface to the core.

This is a book about noticing. Taking the time to stop and notice the world around you. And then it is about problem solving and making a difference to the life of another.

Lonely Planet Kids The Incredible Cabinet of Wonders
A Glorious pop up/lift the flap book that uses key artefacts to help the reader dive deeper into the wonders of the world.

While this is essentially a book of facts and figures it is beautifully presented and one of those books kids can pour over to find out about the world.

The story of one class’s mathematical inquiry!