

# Charter School Challenge

## SUGGESTED BOOK LIST

Below are some suggestions for books that explore themes of:

- citizenship and rights
- the Magna Carta and Great Charter
- woods and trees
- developing characters for stories

They are a mix of fiction and non-fiction, and a variety of styles and formats to help develop breadth in the books that pupils explore together as a class or individually.

### Younger readers – Key stage 1 and lower key stage 2

**A Tree Is Nice** by Janice May Udry  
ISBN: 9780064431477

This beautifully illustrated book explores the many benefits that trees bring us. They “fill up the sky,” and “make everything beautiful.” “Even if you have just one tree, it is nice too.”

The book goes on to describe the beauty of leaves, the fun of playing in them, and even bonfires with them in the fall when they are at their most beautiful. You can climb the tree, lean things up against the tree, enjoy the shade, be protected from winds, use the sticks for drawing in the sand, and hang swings and flower baskets in the branches. Trees make perfect backgrounds for picnics, too.

**The King of Space** by Jonny Duddle  
ISBN: 9781848772267

*The King of Space* is a story about 6-year-old Rex and his dream to take over the galaxy. Rex lives on his parents’ moog farm and goes to mini galactic citizen school but this isn’t enough – he wants to take over the galaxy. This is a story about people’s rights and fairness.

### Older readers – Upper Key Stage 2

**The animals of Farthing Wood** by Colin Dann  
ISBN: 9781405225526

Farthing Wood is being bulldozed and a drought means the animals no longer have anywhere to live or drink. Fox, Badger, Toad, Tawny Owl, Mole and the other animals band together and

**We Live Here Too: Kids Talk about Good Citizenship**  
by Nancy Loewen  
ISBN: 9781404803688

Uses an advice-column format to define citizenship and explain how it can be demonstrated or used in daily situations.

**How to Write a Story** by Simon Cheshire  
ISBN: 9781408854389

Bursting with ideas from the first page to the last, *How to Write a Story* is a fun and engaging, fully-illustrated activity book from Bloomsbury. It gives budding authors aged 7 and above all of the tools they need to write a brilliant page-turner of a story, including how to develop characters.

leave their ancestral home and set off to move to a far-away nature reserve. Their journey is full of adventure and fraught with disasters: a fire, a storm, a treacherous river crossing and a hunt. The animals must unite in adversity and in doing so, they learn about each other’s habits and limitations. This is a story about tolerance, cooperation, survival and friendship.

Continued...



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## SUGGESTED BOOK LIST

### Older readers – Upper Key Stage 2 (continued)

**The owl tree** by Jenny Nimmo and Lewis Anthony  
ISBN 9781406305180

The owl-tree is not like any tree Joe has ever seen. It's huge and leafy and shivers like a person; it even seems to speak. Granny Diamond once saw an owl perched among its branches and she has loved the tree ever since. It means the world to her. But her neighbour, Mr Rock, wants to cut it down. Why does he dislike the owl-tree so much? Does it have a secret to tell Joe? And how can he, a boy too scared even to climb the tree, be the one to save it?

**The Path of the She Wolf** (Forestwife saga)  
by Theresa Tomlinson ISBN: 978-0099402657

In this third and final part of the powerful Forestwife saga, the already dramatic and dangerous times of the medieval court have intensified. King John has been forced to sign the Magna Carta. He reneges after signing it and this leads to an angry uprising by the foresters, which is dealt with harshly by the destruction of their villages. The Forestwife's skills and succour are called upon more than ever. Some look to the future, such as Magda and Isobel, who dare to hope for happiness as they marry their sweethearts and begin families. In the moving conclusion of this compelling trilogy, Marion and Robert, whose lives and battles have been so entwined, finally confront the Sheriff of Nottingham and fulfil their destinies.

**Rupert's Parchment: Story of Magna Carta**  
by Eileen Cameron ISBN: 9781620869840

Rupert, son of a local parchment maker, has a ring side seat at the historic sealing of the great document, Magna Carta, at Runnymede meadow in England in the year 1215. This historical fiction picture book tells the exciting story of the fight for the principles of freedom while readers live through this momentous time through the eyes of young Rupert. Included is a section explaining the history of Magna Carta and a glossary.

**The Magna Carta Chronicle: A Young Person's Guide to 800 Years in the Fight for Freedom**

by Christopher Lloyd  
ISBN: 978-0993019913

*The Magna Carta Chronicle* charts the fight for freedoms from the sealing of Magna Carta by King John in 1215 to the present day. It includes more than 40 newspaper articles, a 2m-long fold-out timeline wallchart, a crossword, a 50 question multiple-choice quiz and a souvenir copy and guide to the Magna Carta itself. Designed as the ultimate souvenir guide for young people to the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015, *The Magna Carta Chronicle* contains more than a hundred beautifully hand-drawn illustrations. The combination of newspaper articles, timeline and quiz provides a highly accessible way for young and not-so-young people to explore the amazing stories of how freedoms and liberties have been won over the centuries. It also highlights how fragile many of them still are today.

**Magna Carta: The Making and Legacy of the Great Charter** by Dan Jones

ISBN: 978-1781858851

On a summer's day in 1215, a beleaguered English monarch met a group of disgruntled barons in a meadow by the river Thames named Runnymede. Beset by foreign crisis and domestic rebellion, King John was fast running out of options. On 15 June he reluctantly agreed to fix his regal seal to a document that would change the world.

A milestone in the development of constitutional politics and the rule of law, the 'Great Charter' established an Englishman's right to Habeas Corpus and set limits to the exercise of royal power. For the first time a group of subjects had forced an English king to agree to a document that limited his powers by law and protected their rights.

