

## READERS - AVANÇAT 1 - 2018/2019

### ***Land of my Childhood. Stories from South Asia.***

Oxford Bookworms stage 4.

ISBN: 9780194792813

**Summary:** The book is based on stories about people from India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, who reached turning points in their lives. Some of these stories are the following:

**Carapace:** This story is about a young woman who chooses a husband leaving her childhood behind. She has to choose between two men. The first one is Vijay, her true love. He is older than her and works as a cook at the Beach Hut. He is always smiling and never eats. He'd rather see his food eaten by other people. He is very good at cooking prawns in front of the ocean. However, he is not able to commit to her. The second one is Anura Parera. He is from Australia. He earns a lot of money and has a house in Sydney. He is interested on her and he has serious marriage intentions. He can provide her with a good life with a modern house, a big car, designer clothes, expensive things and also his lifelong respect.

**The inspector of schools:** This story is about a inspector who visits schools in dirty, smelly and distant villages and towns. Moreover every school has not enough books, local people do not care, lazy students and masters expect free meals and presents. The inspector wants to do his best making recommendations but they are refused by the Planning and Development Department which plan little and develop less. However, one day he visits one school set in the middle of a sugarcane field. Students are sitting on the ground and there are different levels. They have no rooms however. Local people don't want a school because they think children waste their time having fun when they have to help their fathers in the field or look after the cattle. Besides they are the best students he has found in three years on his job and it is worth providing them with a room, what can he do? He knows that his recommendation is going to be refused.

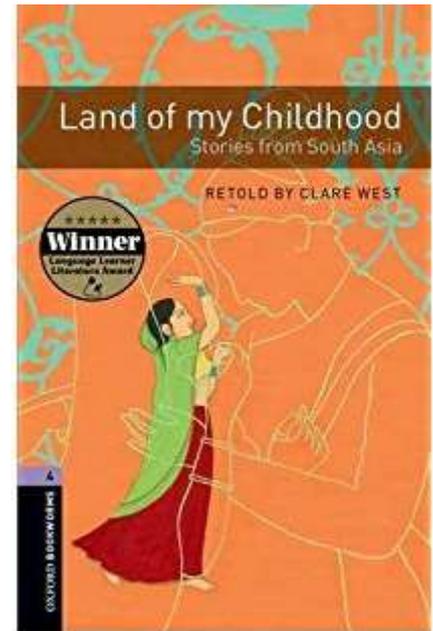
**The Kite-maker:** It is about a man who wishes for peace in his village because of the war. For that reason, he makes a kite shaped like a dove with silver bells on it legs for "utraan". It is a Hindu festival where kites are flown.

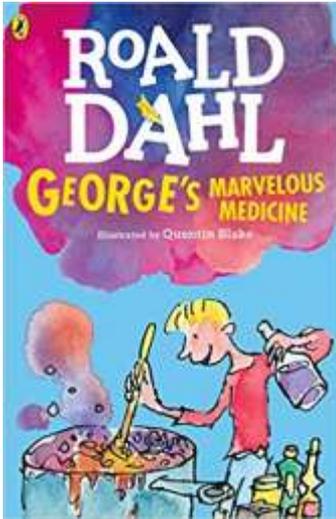
**The Stepmother:** This story is about a boy who fights with his new stepmother. He hates her. He starts to do nasty things so that she punishes him and his father gets rid of her. Nevertheless somehow he begins to accept her.

**The Night Rain at Deoli:** This story is about a young man who remembers a girl at a railway station. He meets her there when she tries to sell him a basket. But when he starts to show some interest on her, he has to get on the train because it is leaving. They meet twice. After that, he wants to find her to take her with him. However, she is not at the railway station any more.

**A Devoted Son:** This story is about a parents who work very hard to give their son the best education and start in life. The son is pretty grateful and takes care of them making their last years comfortable and peaceful. Nevertheless, the end is not as peaceful as his father wants to.

**For a Horse Nail:** This story is about a boy who needs money and sells his kidney to get it. However the person who receives it dies. He does not tell anybody he is ill.





***George's Marvelous Medicine*, by Roald Dahl.**

Penguin.

ISBN: 9780141369297

**Summary:** George's Marvelous Medicine is a children's novel by Roald Dahl that follows the misadventures of George in attempting to make a medicine to make his Grandma a nicer person. When the novel begins, George's mom, Mary, is going shopping in town while George's father, Killy, is out working on the farm. Mary tells George to behave and to remember to give Grandma her medicine at 11 o'clock. George is then left with cranky, mean, and selfish Grandma. Nothing George does for her is good enough, so he decides to make her a new medicine that will change her.

George sets to work on the medicine at once, adding everything from jujube fruit juice to spices, shoe polish, engine oil, and toothpaste. George brings the marvellous medicine to a boil, then pours some into Grandma's medicine bottle. George then gives Grandma the medicine. It causes her to grow enormous, leading her to believe she is magical. George says this is not true, and demonstrates how the medicine works on a chicken. The chicken grows gigantic. It is at this time that both Mary and Killy get home. They are amazed by what they see. Killy is especially amazed because this means that large animals will ensure no one ever goes hungry again. He decides the medicine must be mass produced for farmers, which will make Killy and the family rich while making George famous.

Unfortunately, George's second test batch of the medicine does not turn out well like the first. Tested out on a chicken, all it does is to grow the legs of the chicken because it is missing flea powder and shoe polish. The third batch of the medicine turns out only to grow the neck of a chicken, as the medicine is missing engine oil and antifreeze. The fourth batch of medicine has the opposite effect. It causes chickens to shrink. Grandma, angry and mistaking the medicine for tea, drinks it. She rapidly shrinks until she disappears altogether. George's father is delighted, while George's mother is sad at first. Ultimately, George's mother believes Grandma disappearing has been for the best. George himself comes to feel trembly, as he knows he has been able to touch the world of magic with his medicine.

***On the road*, by Jack Kerouac.**

Penguin Readers 5. Pearson.

ISBN: 9781405879996

**Summary:** On the Road, first published in the United States in 1957, is the most famous of Jack Kerouac's many novels. It is semi-autobiographical, and is based on events that took place in the United States in the late 1940s and early 1950s. This is when Jack Kerouac (Sal Paradise in On the Road ) and his friend Neal Cassady (Dean Moriarty in the novel) traveled throughout the United States, covering huge distances in a very short time. The story begins with Sal meeting Dean when he comes to New York for the first time. They discuss traveling to the west of the United States or "going West." At first, Sal goes traveling on his own. He goes to San Francisco, staying with friends on the way there and falling in love on the way back. He and Dean do not travel together until some time later, going from the East to the West and back again by car. Their adventures on the road involve meetings with girls, wild parties, getting drunk, taking drugs and enjoying sex. They never have much money and have to rely on delivering cars for people who don't want to drive long distances themselves, doing casual work when they can, and sometimes stealing food, drink and gas. The loosely structured writing style and the freedom of the behavior and lives of the young people involved captured the attention of the public at the time. On the Road has remained a cult classic.

