

# Whole Book Class Reading Suggestions

Year Five, Spring term: REBIRTH

## **The Night Bus Hero** by Onjali Q. Rauf, published by Orion

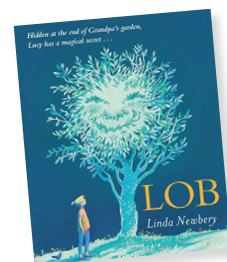
Told from a bully's perspective, this exciting story about statue theft in central London explores themes including prejudice and homelessness. Hector's growing awareness of other people's feelings – and his eventual transformation – is convincingly portrayed. *Middle-grade fiction*

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**Lob** by Linda Newbery and Pam Smy published by David Fickling Books  
Grandpa tells Lucy stories about the mysterious Lob, whose presence helps the plants to grow. When Grandpa dies, Lucy thinks Lob has gone forever, but the Green Man makes a special journey to remind her that spring brings new life and opportunities, wherever we may be. *Illustrated middle-grade fiction*

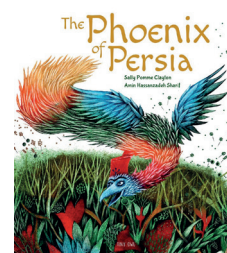
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## **The Phoenix of Persia** by Sally Pomme Clayton

illustrated by Amin Hassanzadeh Sharif, published by Tiny Owl  
The mythical Simorgh is a phoenix – a bird that consumes itself and is reborn through fire. When Prince Zal is abandoned as a baby, the Simorgh adopts him and brings him up until he, too, can be reborn as King of Persia, protected by her magical feathers. This retelling of a traditional story from the Shahnameh is illustrated by an Iranian artist, and specially-composed Iranian music is freely available online to accompany it. *Picturebook*

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## **The Promise** by Nicola Davies and Laura Carlin, published by Walker Books

When a girl steals from an old woman, she is forced to make a simple promise. But planting the stolen seeds takes longer than the girl expects, and changes her own heart as well as the landscapes that blossom all around her. *Picturebook*

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## **The Dam** by David Almond, illustrated by Levi Pinfold, published by Walker Studio

Early one morning, a musician and his daughter visit abandoned houses in a remote Northumbrian village, singing and playing for all the people who've left their homes to make way for a dam. As the waters rise, much is lost, but a beautiful new lake is born, providing fresh water and many jobs. *Picturebook for middle-grade readers*

