



Roots to Reading

Resource pack

bookmarkreading.org

Registered Charity No. 1177681

Artwork by Sarah Harrison Illustration harrisonillustration.com/



**Bookmark
Reading Charity**



Bookmark
Reading Charity



We are Bookmark Reading Charity

We want every child to read

We improve children's literacy by promoting a reading for pleasure culture in primary schools, with a focus on supporting children in the most disadvantaged communities. Our one-to-one reading support allows us to reach the children who need us most.

Founded in reading for pleasure pedagogies, our reading programme provides twelve, 30-minute reading sessions, with a fully trained and vetted volunteer. Programmes take place over 6 or 12 weeks.

Perfect for children who lack reading confidence, enthusiasm or opportunities to read one-to-one with an adult.

Bookmark partner schools not only have access to our volunteer-led reading support, but literacy resources designed to embed reading across the school including free termly book packs and magazines as well as the opportunity to access annual grants and much more!

All at a cost of just £1 per session - that's just £12 for a full programme



99% of teachers confirmed that Bookmark had a positive impact on their students

"Out of 11 children who have completed a programme this term, eight have made accelerated progress. Three of these have increased from being one year behind to just one term behind expectations for their age."

- Teacher at a Bookmark partner school

Register your interest now:

bookmarkreading.org/schools



Our school packages

How we invest in our partner schools

Whichever package you choose, the volunteer-led reading programme and support from Bookmark, as well as the £1 per session cost, is the same. The difference in our packages is in the literacy resources your school will receive as we reinvest the money you've paid back into your school.

*Bronze packages are available for face-to-face schools only.

	Platinum	Gold	Silver	Bronze*
Number of pupils on reading programmes per full term	40+	25-39	15-24	10-14
Access to our Kahoot! page with stories, activities and quizzes linked to <i>The Story Corner</i> magazine	✓	✓	✓	✓
Termly newsletter to promote a whole-school reading culture	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bookmark scrapbooks to use as a reading record alongside our 'whole-school reading challenge'	✓	✓	✓	✓
Access to exclusive CPD through webinars and resources around developing whole-school reading culture	✓	✓	✓	✓
Subscription to termly magazine, <i>The Story Corner</i> , for children to take home (up to 200 copies per term)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Receiving our termly Rocket Pack: curated, high quality library pack with accompanying lesson resources, worth £150 per term	✓	✓	✓	✗
£250 annual grant for Literacy CPD or to promote a whole-school reading culture (annual application June/award September)	✓	✓	✗	✗
£500 annual grant for Literacy CPD or to promote a whole-school reading culture (annual application June/award September)	✓	✗	✗	✗
Choice of book clubs for disengaged readers (worth £600)	✓	✗	✗	✗

Roots to Reading



Our Roots to Reading programme offers schools in specific areas the opportunity to develop a whole-school reading culture and embed reading for pleasure into the lives of their pupils.

Here's a reminder of what your pack includes:

200 new, high-quality books suitable for children aged 4 - 10



- Delivery of books will come directly from our chosen supplier, Peters
- **There is no cost to your school**
- For any questions about your delivery, contact us at school@bookmarkreading.org.

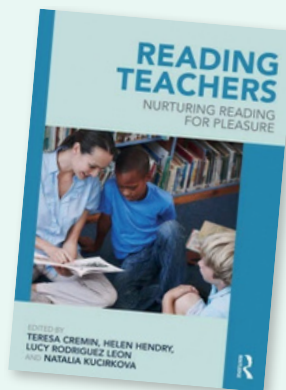
An annual subscription to Bookmark's termly magazine

- Our magazine, *The Story Corner*, includes stories, activities and games for pupils to enjoy
- You will receive 200 copies each term
- The magazines are for children to take home and enjoy high quality reading outside school



A copy of Reading Teachers: Nurturing Reading for Pleasure, edited by Teresa Cremin, Helen Hendry, Lucy Rodriguez Leon and Natalia Kucirkova

- This engaging text supports primary teachers in nurturing the life-changing habit of reading in childhood
- Informed and inspiring, Reading Teachers shows how motivated, engaged and reflective teachers can deepen their understanding of reading for pleasure
- Encourages teachers to make a meaningful difference to young readers

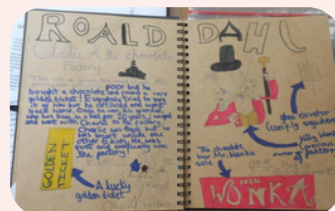


Digital resources

- Some books in your pack come with free resources from publishers and authors
- Resources include guided teaching notes, activity sheets and videos of author readings
- Designed to enhance the reading experience and inspire enthusiastic book discussions
- **Follow the QR code to check out our Literacy Resources page**



Our reading scrapbook



- A reading scrapbook helps engage young readers and build excitement around reading for pleasure
- Supports children in developing their own reading identity
- A scrapbook is included in your pack, along with ideas to help you get started

We really hope your pack proves valuable in developing your whole-school reading culture and promoting reading for pleasure among your pupils.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch by emailing school@bookmarkreading.org.

Ideas for unboxing your new books

While the texts provided in this book bundle are for ages 4-11, sharing them with your students is at the discretion of the teachers, and we suggest reading the texts before using them.

Book reveal parties

Host exciting unboxing events during a whole-school assembly where everyone watches the new books being revealed. You could have your pupil reading ambassadors bring in the "mystery box" and introduce the books with a fun guessing game to build excitement! With lots of new books, you might want to spread the titles across classes or key stages, or save some to open each half-term and host mini book reveal parties.

Parent-child unboxing events

Invite parents and students to a live unboxing event in the school library or hall. They can open the books together, explore the covers, and share first impressions. You could also have a sign-up sheet for borrowing books or a 'shopping list' for titles they'd like to find in the local library.



Mystery book challenge

Turn the unboxing into a challenge! As the books are unwrapped, students can guess the genre, author, or theme based on the cover or a few clues.

Book reporters

Get pupils excited about their new books by appointing students as "book reporters" to take photos or short videos. Form a mini news crew with a reporter, camera operator, and photographer. If devices aren't available, they can jot down notes in a notebook instead. These children could even have 'Roots to Reading reporter' lanyards to wear! They could record clips like "I can't wait to read XXX because..." or "My favourite cover is..."

Use the footage to create a "the day the books arrived" slideshow for display in busy areas (especially where parents might see it). Your "book reporter" pupils can also write a blog-style report for the school newsletter.

Unboxing videos

Choose a group of reading ambassadors or staff to record themselves unboxing the new books. Share the videos on your school's digital platforms to build excitement and show that reading is loved by the whole community. Involve a mix of children, teachers, TAs, admin staff, and even parents or governors to showcase everyone's passion for reading.

School-wide DEAR time (Drop Everything And Read)

After the unboxing, every class stops to read for 20-30 minutes with the new books. Use a bell to signal DEAR time. Encourage older students to buddy read with younger ones if possible.

Book activity day

Browse through our Literacy Resources page and choose some exciting activities to try out with different classes. Schedule a time for each class to unwrap some of the new books and dive into a lesson or activity designed to spark curiosity, encourage discussion, and help pupils make meaningful connections with their new reading material.



Bookmark ambassadors

Select (or let children volunteer) to become Bookmaker Ambassadors in your school. Their role will be to share *The Story Corner* magazine copies and read them with their peers during playtimes - completing all the activities inside!

Extending your book buzz beyond your unboxing

Pupil blogs

Encourage older students or avid readers to write short book reviews for the school website or social media. It's a fun way to share excitement and give recommendations to classmates. Don't forget to tag authors or publishers (and Bookmark!) - you might get replies!

Book clubs and reading challenges

Use the new books for themed book clubs or reading challenges, where students read and discuss specific books. Link this to scrapbook challenges and set up a child-led area in the library for independent participation.

First readers

Take photos of the first readers with each new book and display them in a common area. Add the Bookmark logo and letters from featured authors.

Book rotations

Create a timetable to rotate new books across classrooms. Each class can "host" the books for a week in their library or reading corner, giving students a chance to try books they might not choose. They can write mini reviews or use templates like 'If you like..., you'll enjoy this book.' You could also have a book scavenger hunt with a checklist of genres/themes (e.g. animals, magic, poetry), ticking them off as they go.

Book cover art

After seeing the new books, children can design a cover for their favourite. Display the artwork around the school as a gallery.

Involving staff

Encourage staff to read the books so they can recommend them better. They can share what they're reading and invite students to ask about the books. Set up a display in the staff room with YSC book recommendations, and have each year group take turns updating it each half term.

Displays

Create eye-catching displays in busy areas, like hallways or the library entrance, to showcase new books. Include brief descriptions, quotes, or a "book of the week" to maintain interest. Rotate the displays weekly or monthly to keep things fresh.

Pupil reviews

Create a space for pupils to share their book reviews, with snippets, ratings, or recommendations. This keeps the conversation going after unboxing day.

Golden tickets

Hide 'golden tickets' in random books from the YSC pack. Winners can receive book prizes like hot chocolate with the headteacher, a book to take home, or bookmarks.

Sign-up lists and book tasting

Create sign-up sheets for popular books so students can reserve the ones they want to read. Display these lists in the library or classroom. To start, hold a 'book tasting' where children can read blurbs, titles, and a few pages, then note their top picks and rate them with star ratings on a simple menu sheet.

Across the curriculum

Extend the buzz by weaving the new books into classroom lessons.

Take a look at our Literacy Resources page for activities, lesson plans and more!



Top tips for building a whole-school reading culture



1. One-to-one reading support and positive role models



Adults who enjoy reading make great role models. Encourage your staff to read for pleasure - you could start a book club or set up a book swap using the resources we've provided. Our one-to-one volunteers love sharing their passion for reading with children. [Visit our website](#) to learn how you can get involved.

We will achieve our mission to improve children's literacy by promoting a reading for pleasure culture in primary schools by implementing the following five pathways to reading.



2. Engaging reading spaces and high-quality, diverse reading resources

With 200 new books, there are lots of fun ways to create cosy reading spaces! Try a reading tent outside or a quiet corner in the classroom - comfy, welcoming spots help children enjoy reading and feel good. Share a photo of your space and tag Bookmark on X (@BookmarkCharity)!

You can also use your books to make eye-catching displays. Try one in the school entrance to show how important reading is, or create a 'reading quilt' or 'reading river' to show the range of books children enjoy. A 'what are we reading?' sign on your classroom door is another great idea - just add copies of your pupils' favourite books from the bundle.



3. Teacher training and resources

As a Roots to Reading partner school, you can join our Teacher CPD group on 360Learning. It includes exclusive Open University training videos, school case studies, book recommendations, and more. You should have received an invite already - if not, email school@bookmarkreading.org.

4. Creating a reading buzz across the whole-school

There are lots of fun ways to get children excited about reading! Try a read-a-thon, a reading challenge, or a treasure hunt. Add a suggestion box to your reading area so pupils can share ideas and help shape your school's reading culture.

Use our book review worksheet to spark book talk, and keep reading for more ideas. Don't forget to share your favourite reviews or activities with us on X!



5. Family and parental engagement

There are lots of ways to get families involved in the excitement of your 200 new books! You could open the library after school to show them off, or host a fun 'booknic' event. Share book unboxing videos in your parent newsletter and highlight popular titles that pupils have borrowed.



Book review worksheet

Use this book review worksheet to encourage book talk and share your favourite reviews with us on X (@BookmarkCharity) or send scanned copies to school@bookmarkreading.org with the name of your school.



What is your name?

Can you draw a picture of your favourite book?

What did you like about this book?

How many stars will you give the book?



Building book buzz

Quick tips to ignite the joy of reading

Making recommendations

- **Bigging up your book** - a bit like show-and-tell! This is a lovely way for children to verbally recommend stories to their peers and share their enthusiasm
- **Leave recommendation notes inside library books** - you may wish to fill out printed labels or write on post-it notes to share inside books for the next reader
- **Peer recommendation shelf** - let your readers become book experts and take ownership of sharing the books they have enjoyed
- **Write book recommendation postcards** - send these to children at another local school to begin building book blether in your community



Peer recommendation shelf

Image courtesy of Jon Biddle from Moorland Primary Academy

<https://ourfp.org/ebp/pupil-recommendations-shelf/>

Keep up to date
with children's
literature – set your
own reading goals!



A small choice
regularly updated
is better than lots
of books with few
changes

Make sure there is
a wide range of
text types children
can select from



Broaden what
counts as reading -
instruction leaflets,
road signs...



Book tasting

Images courtesy of Literacy with Miss P2

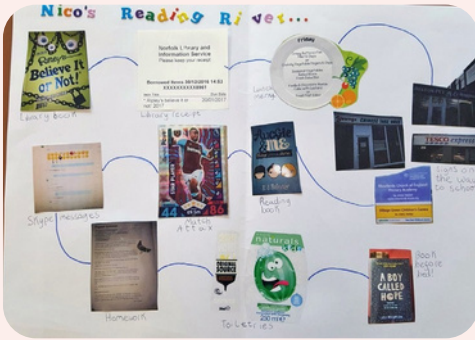
<https://literacywithmissp.com/2018/06/08/hosting-a-book-tasting/comment-page-1/>



Expanding taste

- **Book tasting** - have a selection of less familiar texts and host a 'tasting' session in which children can sample books they would not usually choose. You may wish to provide your pupils with a 'tasting card' to jot down the titles of the books they were interested in and would like to continue reading
- **Create a 'poetry zone'** - introduce a 'poem of the day' to read aloud as a class. Can you think of actions to do for the repeated words? Perhaps choose your favourite from the week to perform in an assembly!

Celebrate reading



Reading River

Image courtesy of Jon Biddle from Moorland Primary Academy

<https://ourfo.org/eqp/reading-rivers/>

- **'Reading at home' display** - encourage home/ school reading by having the children take ownership of updating a 'Reading at Home' display. They could add pictures of them reading with people outside of school, recommendations and reviews they have written, artwork inspired by texts... let the readers celebrate
- **Reading rivers** - celebrate all the reading children do in a day, it's not just books

Use your reading environment with purpose - avoid using it for storage or time-outs!

Model quiet reading



Giving choice

- **Reading cafés** - promote excitement and informality in reading by holding reading cafes! The readers can choose to sit individually or in groups, with the staff joining the tables. You may wish hold this during your KS1 free fruit time or a snack break
- **Book blankets** - invite the children to independently explore a spread of books placed all around an inviting reading space. You could do this across classroom tables, a carpet area or on blankets outside
- **Give the children agency** - during reading times, allow them to choose where they sit, if they have discussions or are silent, if they engage in play, or if they read to others
- **Votes for daily class reads** - offer a choice of texts for the daily teacher read-aloud. Have the children vote with counters in pots, Lego towers or named clothes pegs for their choice. You may wish to model points to consider when making this choice. By revealing the voting options before break time, natural conversations can happen to spark interests in the books.
- **Promote outdoor reading** - reading shouldn't just be done at desks, so provide the children with opportunities to read during breaktimes with outdoor reading boxes or reading sheds



Reading cafés

Image courtesy of X user Ceridwen Eccles @Teacherglitter

<https://twitter.com/Teacherglitter/status/1197619003134484489>



Book blankets

Image courtesy of South Wilford Endowed Primary School

<https://ourfo.org/eqp/reading-rivers-2/>



Votes for daily class reads

Image courtesy of Tiverton Academy

<https://www.tiverton.bham.sch.uk/voting-for-our-class-story-reading-for-pleasure/>

whole-school engagement

- **whole-school reading challenge** - this could be based on genres or themes. Provide prizes for those who complete the challenge (you may wish to have rewards for different stages to make this manageable to encourage all readers)
- **Book postcards** - write on one side and share the cover art on the reverse. This could be drawn or made using IT. Post your postcard to a member of staff or another pupil in the school. These could be displayed in the library
- **What are the staff reading?** - have a display showing the books that staff members are reading. Can the children guess who it belongs to? Share the answers in an assembly and have the staff members briefly talk about their book interests
- **Favourite book displays** - share pictures of staff with their favourite book. This could be rotated to feature different year groups each half term
- **Extreme reading** - hold a competition or set up a working wall to share photos of staff and pupils reading in unusual ways or places! You may wish to rotate the challenge around classes and let them know in advance when their turn is so they can start to think of creative ways to show unusual places they are reading
- **Staff reading clubs** - arrange a staff reading group to share children's book recommendations around a shared theme or genre. Could you invite another local primary school to join?

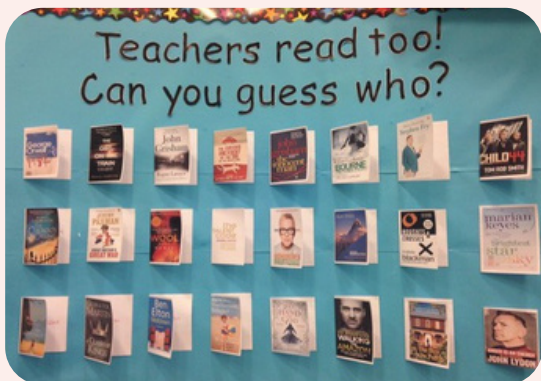
Encourage making connections, sharing views, and thinking aloud

Encourage re-reading to develop confidence

Reading in class

- **Be a reader!** - make sure staff are reading during any sessions
- **Have regular drop everything and read sessions** - have the children pre-select books, ensure everyone joins in and schedule time for it. Mix up how it works e.g. read to the class, read in pairs, read independently, browsing book session, reviews, or recommendations sessions
- **Create opportunities to be creative** - make and use 'story sacks' to support children's retelling of stories

Build respect and acknowledge that there are no right or wrong answers



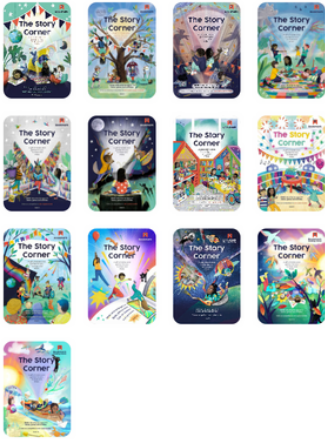
Favourite book displays Image courtesy of X user @OutwoodBydales7
<https://twitter.com/OutwoodBydales/status/722847237198360578>



Story sacks

Image courtesy of National Literacy Trust
<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/how-make-and-use-story-sack/>

Can't get enough of The Story Corner magazine?



Over a million copies of *The Story Corner* magazine have been given to children through schools and community settings including food banks, warm banks, prisons, hospitals and refuges.

The magazine is produced three times a year in time for the school holidays.

Each edition is filled with inspiring stories and fun activities.

You can read current and past issues online at:
bookmarkreading.org/schools/the-story-corner-magazine-archive



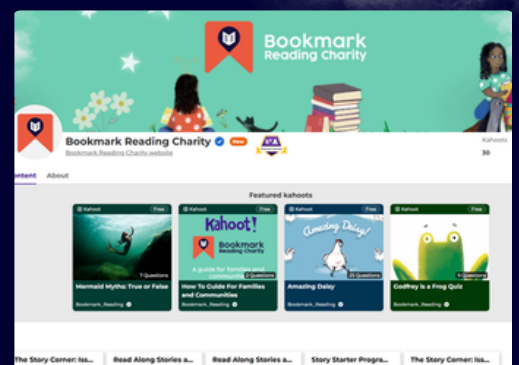
Try our Kahoot! activity page

Find online games, reading activities, and quizzes featuring characters and topics from *The Story Corner* magazine.



Scan the QR code and select an activity from our wide range, then click 'play solo' to experience the fun!

create.kahoot.it/profiles/Bookmark_Reading



Teacher guide



Why use a reading scrapbook?

We're dedicated to igniting the joy of reading in children. A reading scrapbook is a wonderful way of engaging young readers and helping them to develop excitement around reading for pleasure as well as their own reading identity.

How should we complete the reading scrapbook?



You may wish to follow one of these ideas, depending on how many children you choose to involve.



- send the scrapbooks as a homework task
- choose one of the reading challenges assembly for the whole-school to focus on
- leave the scrapbook out in the classroom for during children to add to in reading times or as a child-initiated task
- take turns in each class sending the scrapbook home

As your scrapbooks grow, they'll be a lovely record of what your children have been reading. It will also be a place of inspiration where children can be encouraged to expand their reading tastes and take recommendations from their peers. The scrapbook is a place to celebrate all types of reading! For some ideas on how your children can creatively make their scrapbook pages, we've included some photos to give you a bit of inspiration.

Share your creations on social!

We'd love to see what you've been reading! Tag us on X (formerly Twitter) with your images of your reading scrapbooks.

 @bookmarkcharity



© Roundhay School EYFS, Twitter user @RSch_Eyfs



© Chris Baker, Twitter user @MrBakerKS2



© St Barnabas School, Twitter user @stbarnabasyork



Scrapbook Reading Challenge

Choose a challenge bubble, read the text, and create a two-page spread in your scrapbook based on what you've read!

A book with over 200 pages

A book that helps you understand someone different from you

A book with a mystery to solve

A book you can read in 1 day

A book that taught you something

A book that's been a TV show or film

A book by an author you haven't heard of before

A book that makes you laugh

A book with an animal as the main character

A book about going on an adventure

A book you read at home

A book about a real person

A book set in the past

A book about your favourite topic

A book published in the last year

A book set in a place you'd like to visit

A book with illustrations on every page

A book recommended by someone in your class

A graphic novel or comic book

Online reading resources and activities

There are many collections of reading resources available to access online. Some are collated by organisations, others are shared by very kind individuals! Below is a selection to get you started.

The British Library

- bl.uk/hubs/schools

BBC Teach

- bbc.co.uk/teach/topics/cg|pxyn1rlrt

Authorfy

- Masterclasses: authorfy.com/masterclasses/
- Classroom resources: authorfy.com/resources/
- Downloadable activity packs: authorfy.com/creative/

Great School Libraries

- Recommended Blogs/podcasts: greatschoolibraries.org.uk/recommended-school-library-blogs

Author of the week resources

- (Emily Weston @primaryteachew and Cassie HT, @CassHT): dropbox.com/sh/q2hf089dgn8ldjm/AAAlg36cvhF25AAe14o50fJda?dl=0

Whole class reading resources

- (via Adam Levick, @MrLevick): dropbox.com/sh/w91xi7vIm7k60b3/AABQj5Db7c_Ke5VWVaYBKYcaa?dl=0

Library Lady

- Blog: alibrarylady.blog/

Padlet.com

- (via Jon Biddle, @jonnybid), an incredible Year 5/6 teacher and English lead who shares his best practices for reading for pleasure: padlet.com/Jon_Biddle/reading-for-pleasure-woam2an149vg
- (via Mathew Tobin, @Mat_at_Brookes), a range of picture books to be used throughout the curriculum in order to inspire critical thinking, drama and cross-curricular planning: padlet.com/p0077346/PictureBookPlan

Watch our Author Corner videos!

We've put together some videos for our school partners to share with their pupils so they can hear from authors reading an excerpt of their work.



Courses

There are free courses available online that focus on developing reading for pleasure and encouraging book chat amongst pupils.

Some examples include:

Exploring books for children: words and pictures

- open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/exploring-books-children-words-and-pictures/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab

Developing reading for pleasure: engaging young readers

- open.edu/openlearn/education-development/developing-reading-pleasure-engaging-young-readers/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab

Supporting reading at home

- ourfp.org/supporting-rah/



Reading for pleasure resources

There are many organisations that are passionate about sharing information and guidance on reading for pleasure, as well as creating a whole-school reading culture and encouraging book chat. Below are some great resources to get started with.

The Open University - reading for pleasure

Social reading environments

- ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/social-reading-environments/

Reading aloud

- ourfp.org/finding/reading-aloud/

Independent reading

- ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/independent-reading/

Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations

- ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/booktalk-and-recommendations/

OU/UKLA teachers' reading groups

- ourfp.org/schools-teachers/teachers-reading-groups/

The Reading Schools Programme: building a culture of reading

- ourfp.org/schools-teachers/reading-schools-programme/

Sharing the pleasure: the role of talk in reading (webinar)

- youtube.com/watch?v=vP7stKQpdFg

The School Library Association

Get everyone reading

- sla.org.uk/get-everyone-reading

Great School Libraries

Reading for pleasure information

- greatschoolibraries.org.uk/reading-for-pleasure-information

UKLA

Promoting reading for pleasure

- ukla.org/reading-for-pleasure/

National Literacy Trust

Words for life:

- wordsforlife.org.uk/

The Reading Agency

Resources:

- readingagency.org.uk/resources/

Teaching resources on publisher websites

Many publishers provide free teaching resources to accompany their children's books. We have included a list of the resources available for the books in your pack, including links to the files online and some printed versions. Many publishers also have their own YouTube channels, podcasts and blogs which focus on reading for pleasure.

- puffinschools.co.uk/
- learning.dk.com/uk
- hachetteschools.co.uk/
- harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-resources-and-activities/
- bloomsbury.com/uk/discover/childrens/teachers-librarians-parents-carers/
- nosycrow.com/teachers-resources/
- barringtonstoke.co.uk/teachers-and-librarians/
- walker.co.uk/grown-ups/activities-for-home-and-school.aspx



Reading at home guidance

Reading is an essential skill which allows children to progress at school and in life.

Learn a wide
range of subjects

Confidence and
independence

Access health
information

Opportunities for
high-paid work

Literacy it is also a strong foundation for healthy emotional development and mental wellbeing.

Emotional
intelligence

Validation

Sense of
achievement

Inspiration and
escapism

Tips for supporting reading at home



Talk about what
you're reading



Sit somewhere
comfy and relaxing



Take part in
book swaps



Go to your local
library together



Be seen reading
yourself



Listen to
audiobooks



Let your child
choose the book



Celebrate all
reading!



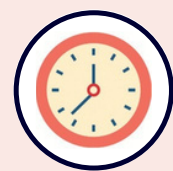
Bring a book with
you for when
you're out and
about!



Give
encouragement
and help when
needed



Read in different
voices and make
props



Make it a part of
your routine

Roots to Reading areas we've supported so far

Read more online about our Roots to Reading Programme:
and the schools we've supported

Nottingham

We supported
64 schools and
donated 12,800
books

Wolverhampton

We supported
62 schools and
donated 12,400
books

Birmingham

We supported
119 schools and
donated 23,800
books

Plymouth

We supported
81 schools and
donated 16,200
books

Sheffield

We supported
116 schools and
donated 23,200
books

Lincolnshire

We supported
72 schools and
donated 14,400
books

Leicestershire

We supported
112 schools and
donated 22,400
books

London Borough of Barking and Dagenham

We supported
112 schools and
donated 22,400
books

Hannah Gold

Read our blog
with Hannah on
our website



Hi

My name is Hannah Gold and I write big-hearted children's books which share my passion for the planet.

I have always loved reading. Indeed, one of the best things about books is that you don't have to leave your house to visit faraway places!

Two of my favourite books are Katherine Rundell's *The Explorer* and Nizrana Farook's *The Girl Who Lost A Leopard*. Both of these stories combine conservation, animals and a love of the outside world. In my own books, I also love to offer exciting animal adventures with an added environmental twist. *The Last Bear* and its follow-up, *Finding Bear*, are both set in the snowy wilds of the Arctic, whilst *The Lost Whale* is set in the mighty Pacific Ocean. And then in my newest book, *Turtle Moon*, all the action takes place on the edges of a remote rainforest in Costa Rica.

For me, the best bit about books is not just the incredible journey they can take you on – but also the inspiration they provide.

Remember if you want to look after the animals and protect the planet, then you're never too small to make a difference.

Take care and happy reading!

Hannah x



Joseph Coelho



Hello,

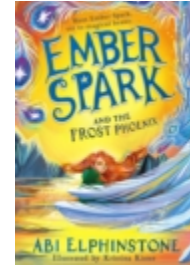
I'm Joseph Coelho a children's author and poet. I love writing and am lucky enough to have had over 45 books published. What I love most about writing is sharing my stories and I am so delighted that you are getting to read some of my books.

Books are special, they take you to other lands, help you learn about other people and, rather magically, help you learn more about yourself. When I was a kid I loved visiting my local library. I would read everything, books about mysteries, books about ghosts and aliens, story books, fairytales, books about beach combing and the natural world. Reading widely helped to widen my horizons, taught me about the world beyond my doorstep. The books in this pack will do that for you too, and once you have made your way through all these wonderful recommendations, perhaps you'll find some other books in your local library, or in your school library, or perhaps you'll get some more recommendations for super books from your friends or family. Maybe you'll even recommend a book or two and will help someone else broaden their horizons too! Good luck and happy reading.

Joseph Coelho OBE
(Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022 - 2024)



Abi Elphinstone



Dear Reader,

I'm Abi Elphinstone and I write adventure books filled with magic: everything from voyages across enchanted seas to quests through glow-in-the-dark jungles! My latest book is called *Ember Spark & The Thunder of Dragons* and it's about a ten-year-old girl called Ember Spark who lives in a sleepy seaside village called Yawn.

All her life, Ember has been waiting for an adventure. Only the adventure seems to be running late. Very late. In fact, Ember is beginning to worry it might not bother showing up at all. Then, one perfectly ordinary Sunday afternoon, strange things start happening in Yawn. Ember discovers a mysterious little creature trapped on a rock out at sea, an odd smell descends over the village and Ember's teacher, Mrs Rickety-Knees, gives Ember and her friend, Arno, a very peculiar assignment in class – one that contains instructions rather than times-tables: go to Stonechatter Castle and help Rusty Fizzbang.

Rusty Fizzbang, it turns out, is a Vet To Magical Beasts and he's looking for two new apprentices. Not just to mend phoenix wings and help baby dragons hatch but also to keep the magical beasts safe from evil Jasper Hornswoggle. But, as Ember and Arno discover, keeping dragons, griffins and unicorns a secret isn't an easy task...

This story includes a flying bathtub, a puppy called Babaganoush and a unicorn fond of meringues. But the landscape – the east coast of Scotland – is real. It's where I live. Here, ancient castles perch on cliff tops, islands rise vertically out of the sea and wild ponies roam the mountains. It is impossible not to find yourself on an adventure. And that's what this story is about: the magic that happens when two children find themselves on an adventure together. It's a magic that says: it's worth being curious, it's worth taking risks and it's worth going the extra mile for your friends. Because, as Ember learns, when life moves in a difficult direction, it's curiosity, courage and friendship that draw you out of the darkness and fling you back into the light.

Abi



Read our blog
with Abi on our
website

Ewa Jozefkowicz

Read our blog
with Ewa on our
website



Dear Reader,

Are you a devourer of mysteries, just like me? I love turning the pages and trying to figure out the clues, just like a real detective. I have to admit that I don't always get it right.

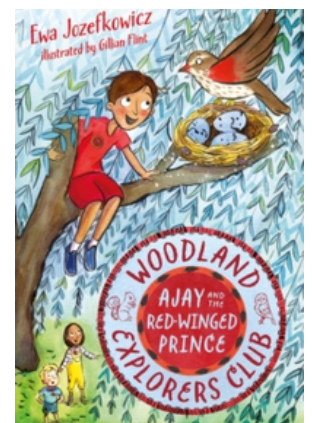
I've loved reading ever since I can remember, and when I was young, I thought my dad had the best job in the world, because he was a librarian, and later a bookseller. I was very lucky to be surrounded by books and whizzed through them a bit like Matilda from Roald Dahl. But I always thought that it would be amazing to write my very own mystery story!

One day my dream came true, and I wrote 'The Mystery of The Colour Thief' which was the first of six very different mystery stories. One is set in the past and is inspired by my grandmother's life during the Second World War, another is about a boy who gets sucked into a book of legends.

I'm excited to now be launching a series for younger readers, 'The Woodland Explorers Club' which is about six friends who meet at forest school and go on many adventures together. It's full of mysteries lurking in the beautiful woodland. I really hope some of you might pick it up and enjoy it.

Happy reading!

Ewa



Pil Van Martin



Hello everyone,

My name is Pil and I'm writing to you from the city of Helm, which is in a world quite a lot like yours, only there's an awful lot of magic in it (maybe too much magic, if I'm being honest).

The magicians here are the ones who are in control of everything, and unfortunately they're very lazy. They use magic to do everything – and I mean *everything*, from cooking their breakfast to brushing their teeth to itching their noses.

I don't think any of us in Helm would mind that much about any of that, but the problem is every time they use magic, just a little spell-waste leaks out into the air and starts trying to animate things that shouldn't be animated or turn things into other things. Don't get me wrong, some of those things are kind of fun – sometimes the river here turns to lemonade, sometimes the cobble stones turn into biscuits and sometimes the statues on buildings come to life and start talking to you.

The problem is spell-waste also turns your floor into lava, makes your kitchen taps start pouring frogspawn instead of water and can even make your house plants come alive and try to eat you.

Thank goodness that Helm has cleaners, who clean up all the magic waste and help everything behave in the way that it ought to.

You have to be quite young to be a cleaner (aged seven to seventeen) because that's the age you're still a bit magically resistant – at your age, a magician could try to turn you into a frog all they liked, but it would only work for a couple of hours (unless that is, you got *cursed*, like one of the kids in this book).

The book I've sent over for you to read has journeyed through several magical portals to get to you, so be sure to give it a good wipe and a brush before you open it just in case there's any spell waste left on the cover.

I'm afraid I couldn't open a portal to bring you all here to see Helm for yourself, but a book is almost as good as a portal and not nearly so messy.

This book is about the magic-cleaners who I've observed here in Helm and in particular the magical cleaning agency known as The Spick and Span. It was created by a ghost, it is managed by a vampire and it's made up of some very interesting characters: a very ambitious dwarf called Ward, a warrior girl from yet another world called Magda and a very snooty magician called Jago who, as I mentioned earlier, has gotten himself cursed and is now stuck as a frog until they can figure out how to turn him back.



If you're brave enough to follow them, they will take you on an adventure darting in and out of other worlds, fighting spell-waste monstrosities, riding giant snails, bargaining with enormous magic-eating creatures from the Void World called Nixes and (possibly) making some friends while they do it.

What are you waiting for? Open up!

Pil x

Philippa Leathley



Dear Reader,

What if a tattoo could predict your future? In the world of Inkbound, every child gets a magical tattoo or “fate” on their tenth birthday that tells them something about who they will become, what job they might have, their personality, or even a dramatic event in their future. But is a person's fate ever wrong?

Inkbound is a story all about making choices, about following your own path and realising that no one gets to decide who you are. My main character Metty grapples with this when her tattoo – an ink-black skull – reveals that she might become a murderer one day. I wrote this book because, like many children, I grew up being told what I should be and had to learn how important it is to pursue your own dreams (even if it takes hard work and a lot of patience).

Inkbound is also a story about fantastical flying cities, and I had so much fun dreaming up the setting of New London, from wind bikes to magical ink, to solar birds that light the city. I hope my book will appeal to anyone who loves spooky mysteries, adventure stories and big families with lots of quirky characters.

Thank you so much for reading Inkbound!
I really hope you enjoy it.

Philippa Leathley





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