

Our Favourite Books



About this topic – *Learn about World Book Day which takes place on the 1st Thursday in March in the UK. Find out about one another's favourite books and make a bookmark. You may find there is enough material here for a second session.*

Resources for this topic

- Suggested session plan
- About World Book Day
- Some quotes about books and reading
- Our Favourite Books interview sheets
- Our Favourite Books bookshelf example and template
- Additional Activity – Design and make a bookmark

We are happy for you to use the material in this Toolkit exactly as it is or to modify it as required for your purposes. We do however ask that you always acknowledge its source as follows:

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Suggested session plan (one and a half hours approx.)

Whilst the plan below has been developed for face to face meetings, all the activities can be modified for use in Virtual meetings too, using the shared screen facility on Zoom for example, and break out rooms for some activities.

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Working in small groups take turns to read aloud and discuss **About World Book Day** and **Some quotes about books and reading**. Which quote do you like best?
3. For the next activity divide the children and older people into pairs (or small groups if numbers are uneven). Hand out **Our Favourite Books** interview sheet. Children and adults take turns to ask one another the questions on the sheet
4. Refreshments and group discussion – make a list of each person's favourite book and arrange alphabetically by author
5. Either ask for a volunteer to write all the book titles and authors on the **"Our Favourite Books"** bookshelf template **OR** cut out strips of card and get everyone to write on the title and author of their favourite book. Glue the strips of card onto the bookshelf arranging them in alphabetical order by author
6. Additional activity if time - Make **bookmarks**
7. Thankyous and goodbyes - Before the children and older people leave you may wish to say something about the topic you have planned for the next session. This gives everyone the opportunity to be more prepared and, if appropriate, to bring photographs or other memorabilia.

What is World Book Day?

World Book Day is an annual event organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). It is also known as World Book and Copyright Day, or International Day of the Book. Its aim is to promote reading, publishing and copyright.

World Book Day was first celebrated on 23rd April 1995 and continues to be recognised on that day in many countries. However in the United Kingdom and Ireland, World Book Day is now celebrated on the first Thursday in March. Organizers in the UK moved the event from April to March to avoid clashes with the Easter school holidays and with St George's Day.

The aim of World Book Day in the UK is to encourage children and young people to read for pleasure through its work with authors, illustrators, bookshops and libraries. Each year, in partnership with schools, book publishers and booksellers, the World Book Day charity distributes more than 15 million £1 book tokens to children and young people in the UK and Ireland.

You can find out more information about World Book Day here

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>

World Book Night

Another event called World Book Night is organised by another UK charity called The Reading Agency and is held each year on 23rd April. Books are given out across the UK with the particular aim of reaching people who don't regularly read. Books are given out through organisations including prisons, libraries, colleges, hospitals, care homes and homeless shelters, as well as by passionate individuals who give out their own books within their communities.

The Reading Agency's vision is for a world where everyone, irrespective of their age or economic background, is reading their way to a better life.

You can find out more information about World Book Night here

<https://readingagency.org.uk/adults/quick-guides/world-book-night-1/>

Some quotes about books and reading – Here are just a few things that some famous writers have said about books and reading

Which quote do you like best?

"So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall." – Roald Dahl

"You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me."
– C.S. Lewis

"Think before you speak. Read before you think." – Fran Lebowitz

"In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you." – Mortimer J. Adler

"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go." – Dr. Seuss

"I kept always two books in my pocket, one to read, one to write in." – Robert Louis Stevenson

"The person who deserves most pity is a lonesome one on a rainy day who doesn't know how to read." – Benjamin Franklin

"There is more treasure in books than in all the pirate's loot on Treasure Island."
– Walt Disney

"A book is a gift you can open again and again." – Garrison Keillor

If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." – J.K. Rowling

“Our Favourite Books” Interview sheets

Here are some suggested questions for the children to ask the adults

1. Are there particular books that you remember enjoying as a child?

2. Did you have many books in your house when you were growing up?

If yes, do you still have any of those books? Which ones?

3. When you were growing up did you have a public library or a school library where you could borrow books?

4. Is there one particular book or author that you enjoyed most as a child?
Can you explain why?

5. Do you read much nowadays?

If Yes, what sorts of things do you enjoy reading? Are there particular times when, or places where, you like to read?

If No, are there any particular reasons why you don't read much nowadays?

Here are some suggested questions for adults to ask the children

1. What sorts of books do you enjoy reading?
2. Have you got one particular favourite book and/or favourite author? Can you explain why you like them?
3. Do you borrow books from a public library and/or the school library?
4. Are there particular times when, or places where, you like to read?

“Our Favourite Books” Bookshelf

When all the children and adults have completed their interviews make a list of everyone’s favourite book titles and authors and arrange them in alphabetical order by author. Have any of the books been mentioned by more than one person?

Now either ask for a volunteer to write all the book titles and authors on the **“Our Favourite Books” Bookshelf** template **OR** cut out strips of card and get everyone to write on the title and author of their favourite book. Glue the strips of card onto the bookshelf arranging them in alphabetical order by author as in the example below.

“Our Favourite Books” Bookshelf							
<i>Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte</i>	<i>Matilda by Roald Dahl</i>	<i>David Copperfield by Charles Dickens</i>	<i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C S Lewis</i>	<i>Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone by J K Rowling</i>	<i>Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone by J K Rowling</i>	<i>Black Beauty by Anna Sewell</i>	<i>Billionaire Boy by David Walliams</i>

“ Our Favourite Books” Bookshelf

Additional Activity - Design and make a bookmark

You will need:

Thin Card – cut into strips approx. 20cm by 5cm

Scissors

Pencils/ coloured pencils

Glue

Old birthday cards (optional)

Decide how to decorate your bookmark – remember to decorate both sides

Here are a few suggestions:

- Draw a picture of a character from your favourite book
- Cut out pictures from old birthday cards and stick them on your bookmark
- Write your favourite quote about books and reading