

## It's great to talk about BOOKS

Here are some great ideas for encouraging you and your children to talk about books. I really hope you enjoy them and send some pictures in of these activities taking place in your home, garden, country walks etc or via the internet with grandparents and loved ones. We are so proud of how you are all doing and the amazing learning you are taking part in at home. Thinking of you all, stay safe and take care Mrs McCaig.

### Ideas for children of all ages

#### **Book talk**

Talking about reading is an important part of developing reading skills and vocabulary. Remember to ask your child about their reading and to share your own thoughts.

#### **For fiction:**

- Which character is their favourite? Why?
- What do they think is going to happen? Why?
- What would they do in this situation?
- Is there anything about the book they would change?
- What was their favourite part of the book? And their least favourite?
- Did anything in the book remind them of their own experiences?
- How does the book make them feel?

#### **For non-fiction:**

- What is the book about?
- Why would someone use this book?
- How is the information presented?
- What was the most interesting part?
- Is there anything about the book they would change?
- Is there anything missing from the book?

#### **Watch, listen, interact**

Audiobooks are a great way to encourage an interest in books. Borrow from the library, and listen in the car, at bedtime, or anywhere you can. Encourage your child to respond to what they're hearing and to look for books by the same author, or in the same style or genre. For younger children, [CBeebies Bedtime Stories](#) is a lovely way to introduce new stories. For older children, the [CBBC Book Club](#) is a great source of information on good books and allows children to read and submit reviews, drawings, comments, and book-related selfies! Children can also access a wide range of free [eBooks](#) via Oxford Owl Home (please note you will have to register for free first).

Try [BookTrust](#) too – a fantastic source of information about children's books with a range of [quizzes](#) for children.

### Reading dens

Children love dens! Create a reading den somewhere in your house or garden. It doesn't have to be large or elaborate – curling up under a sheet or duvet with a torch is great fun! Add cushions, blankets, and soft toys if possible. Low lighting creates a cosy atmosphere, so a lamp, lantern, or good torch will make the experience even more special. And if you can get inside the den with your child, all the better!

If your den is permanent, encourage your child to choose their own small stash of books to place there to start with, and then swap others in now and again. If not, create space in your child's bedroom for a bookshelf or a box of books, and do the same.

If space and finances allow, there are some great indoor tipis online. Or look for further inspiration on Pinterest.

### Make it a family affair!

Enabling your child to see you reading is incredibly valuable in developing their own enthusiasm for reading. Draw attention to your own reading – whether that be fiction, non-fiction (such as a cookbook or a manual), a newspaper, or a magazine – and tell them what you're reading and why. Tell them whether you're enjoying the book or finding it useful, and why you chose it, and encourage them to do the same. Share snippets from the book or newspaper where possible.

You could organise a socially distance book swap with a friend of neighbour.

## Book swap



Why should your friends read this book? Fill in the sheet yourself, or ask an adult to help. Then cut it out, and put it inside the book you are swapping.

### Read me!

I am funny/exciting/scary/sweet/ \_\_\_\_\_

I am suitable for children aged \_\_\_\_\_

Children who like \_\_\_\_\_ will enjoy reading me.

### Read me!

I am funny/exciting/scary/sweet/ \_\_\_\_\_

I am suitable for children aged \_\_\_\_\_

Children who like \_\_\_\_\_ will enjoy reading me.

## Ideas for children in Reception to Year 2

1

### Words are all around us

Reading isn't just about books! Read signs aloud when you're out and about, and ask your child to do the same. If the words are tricky, encourage them to look for clues to their meanings: where is the sign? Does it have a picture or a symbol? If it's on a lorry, what's the lorry carrying? Look at speed limit signs and ask your child whether you should be driving faster or slower than at the previous sign.

2

### The number plate game

Look at the letters on vehicle number plates, and try to make up silly phrases or rhymes beginning with the letters:

**BF14 TEH** = Big Fierce Tortoises Eat Haribo

3

### Shop till you drop

Take a shopping list with you next time you go, and ask your child to read it to you as you shop. (You may need to write in capital letters to help them with this.) Ask them for help reading labels too. Add a bit of fun by thinking of words to describe the item, especially ones beginning with the same sound: *brilliant bananas, marvellous mince*.

4

### Pack a bag

Take turns to pack an imaginary bag for a book character known to you and your child, but don't reveal who the bag is for. The other player must guess.

*'I am packing a bag with straw, sticks, and bricks.'*

This is a bag for the Three Little Pigs.

*'I am packing a bag with three plums, four oranges, once slice of watermelon, one lollipop, and one piece of chocolate cake.'*  
This is a bag for the Very Hungry Caterpillar.

You can make this more challenging by naming one item at a time and seeing how quickly each of the players guesses the owner of the bag. The player who guesses with the fewest clues wins.

5

### Design a home

Encourage your child to draw or build a home for a favourite book character. They could use simple pencil and paper, Lego, recycled materials such as cereal boxes, or sticks and leaves, etc. if outside. Encourage them to think about what the character might particularly need or like in their home. For example, the Gruffalo might want a big, strong door to protect him from the mouse!

6

### Who am I?

This is a game for two or more players where you each have the name of a character, and you take turns to ask questions to guess the identity of your character. The tricky part is that the player answering the question can only answer with a yes or a no!

Cut out the character cards from the

Cut out the character cards below and give one to each player. Use the question guide to help you guess which character the other player is. Or of course you can make up your own questions!!

Have fun 😊

Who am I? Resource cards

<b>Cinderella</b>	<b>Goldilocks</b>
<b>The Gruffalo</b>	<b>The Big Bad Wolf</b>
<b>The Enormous Crocodile</b>	<b>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</b>
<b>Paddington Bear</b>	<b>The Tiger Who Came to Tea</b>
<b>Harry (and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs)</b>	<b>Winnie the Witch</b>
<b>The Twits</b>	<b>Fantastic Mr. Fox</b>
<b>Mog</b>	<b>Horrid Henry</b>
<b>Elmer</b>	<b>Kipper</b>
<b>The Cat in the Hat</b>	<b>Peter Rabbit</b>
<b>Hairy Maclary</b>	<b>Percy the Park Keeper</b>

## **Suggested questions for the Who am I? game**

Is this character a person?

Is this character a girl/boy/man/woman?

Is this character an animal? (Is it a dog/cat/elephant, etc.?)

Is this character young/old?

Is this character funny/sad/lonely/kind?

Do I like stories about this character?

Does this character have adventures?

Does this character have a special outfit?

Does this character have a special friend?

Is this story written in rhyme?

Does this character change at the end?

Does this character live with their family?

## Ideas for children in Years 3 to Year 6

### **Online reviews**

Why not encourage your child to submit an online book review? The site [Lovereading4kids](#) offers children the chance to join their review team, where they can sign up to receive books before they are released and to review them for the publisher. It also hosts competitions to win free books. Or try [A Pocketful of Books](#), where children can complete a review form and submit it straight away.

### **Just three words**

This is a great activity for developing vocabulary. Ask your child to describe a book/setting/character in just three words.

For example, Alex Rider might be *brave*, *quick*, *clever*...

Encourage them to be adventurous with their vocabulary (*courageous* instead of *brave*, for example). You could even ask them to improve on their choices by using a thesaurus. There are some good tools online if you don't have a thesaurus at home.

### **Compare and contrast**

We all love a chance to relax in front of a film or TV series, and there are plenty around that are based on children's books. Why not encourage your child to read by showing them the beginning of a book-based film or series and then reading the beginning of that book together, comparing the two versions? Move on to the next part, and do the same until you finish. (You can do this over several days.) Which version did you both prefer and why?

### **Lucky dip**

Give your child a random page number and a random line number. Ask them to pick a word on that line and remember it (or write it down). Repeat several times. Using the given words, make up a poem or phrase. It can be as silly as you like! (Any unfamiliar words can be looked up in the dictionary.)

## Top Trumps

In the game Top Trumps, every card has a list of categories, each of which has a score. The aim is to compare these scores in order to 'trump' opponents' cards.

Each of the **Top Trumps cards in Resource 5** (below) is based on a well-known book character. The categories for comparison are: age, goodness, strength, intelligence, and humour.

The age category has been filled in for you. The other categories have been left for you and your child to discuss and decide upon a score. This is a great way to share your opinions! You can decide between you whether you give a score out of 10, 20, or 100. There are some blank cards for you and your child to choose your own characters should you wish.

Once you have filled in the scores, cut out the cards to play the game.

Take turns to present a card and choose a category. Read out the score for that category. The highest score wins the card. You must win all cards to win the game.

See the resources on the next page to get you started with your Top Trump games.

<p><b>Danny, Champion of the World</b></p> <p>Age: 9</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Alex Rider</b></p> <p>Age: 14</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Harry Potter</b></p> <p>Age: 11</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Tracy Beaker</b></p> <p>Age: 10</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>
<p><b>Professor Dumbledore</b></p> <p>Age: 115</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Percy Jackson</b></p> <p>Age: 17</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Matilda</b></p> <p>Age: 5</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Billionaire Boy</b></p> <p>Age: 12</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>



<p><b>Hermione Granger</b></p> <p>Age: 11</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Horrid Henry</b></p> <p>Age: 10</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Alice in Wonderland</b></p> <p>Age: 7</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>The Wimpy Kid</b></p> <p>Age: 13</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>
<p><b>Hiccup Haddock</b></p> <p>Age: 15</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Ron Weasley</b></p> <p>Age: 11</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Gandalf</b></p> <p>Age: 2020</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Tom Gates</b></p> <p>Age: 10</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>

<p><b>Professor Snape</b></p> <p>Age: 36</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Miss Trunchbull</b></p> <p>Age: 46</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Asterix</b></p> <p>Age: 35</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Hagrid</b></p> <p>Age: 60</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>
<p><b>Pippi Longstocking</b></p> <p>Age: 9</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Huckleberry Finn</b></p> <p>Age: 13</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Mowgli</b></p> <p>Age: 10</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>	<p><b>Charlie Bucket</b></p> <p>Age: 11</p> <p>Goodness:</p> <p>Strength:</p> <p>Intelligence:</p> <p>Humour:</p>

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour:

**Character:**

Age:

Goodness:

Strength:

Intelligence:

Humour: