

World Book Day

What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day is an annual event which promotes reading for pleasure and aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own. It was created in 1995 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) who are the organisation responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.



What Happens on World Book Day?

On World Book Day, schoolchildren are encouraged to take part in fun and exciting activities, such as dressing up as characters from their favourite books, learning about authors and taking part in fun reading challenges. These activities are aimed at inspiring children's love of books and reading. Many different organisations and institutions (such as libraries, authors, publishers and booksellers) also take part in World Book Day.

On World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a token to choose a book for £1 which should enable all children to get at least one new book each year.

Why Is Reading Important?

Studies have shown that reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by helping to develop **comprehension** skills and improving vocabulary. By reading a variety of texts, children may also improve their general knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure also helps to improve problem-solving skills and can encourage greater **empathy**; these are skills which can help children to build positive relationships with others.



Books for Everyone

The money that is raised during World Book Day helps to fundraise for a number of charities, such as Book Aid International. This charity believes that 'books have the power to change lives' and that everyone deserves the right to access high-quality books. They provide books for people around the world who, for whatever reason, cannot access them, such as those affected by war and **poverty**.



Not Sure What to Read?

It can sometimes be difficult to find a book that interests you. Here are some top tips to help you to select your perfect book:

Read the blurb on the back cover. This will tell you more about what the book is about. If the description interests you, then you may decide to give the book a try.

Have a quick flick through. By having a brief look at the inside of the book, you will be able to get an idea of the size of the text and whether it contains any illustrations, pictures or diagrams that may appeal to you.

Ask for a recommendation. Why not ask your friends and classmates if they have read any good books recently that they might recommend?

Read a non-fiction text about a favourite topic. This could be a fact book, a biography/ autobiography or a magazine about something or someone that interests you.

Variety is key. While it is often easier to stick to what we know we like, by trying something new we can often surprise ourselves.

Consider a book based on a film. Why not try reading the text that inspired a film that you have seen?

Persevere a little. It can sometimes take a few chapters to become gripped by a story and its characters.

Visit your local library. Borrowing a book is free of charge for children and librarians are often able to provide some helpful advice and offer suggestions.

Glossary

comprehension: The ability to understand something.

empathy: The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

publisher: A company that prepares and supplies books.

Questions

1. Who created World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ UNEFCO
☐ UNESCO
☐ UNESFO
☐ UNESCO

2. Which of the following are schoolchildren given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ a book
☐ a token
☐ £1
☐ a bookmark

3. Look at the section called **What Is World Book Day?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'yearly'.

4. Fill in the missing words.

World Book Day activities are aimed at inspiring
children's love of _____ and _____ .

5. Find and copy the name of the description on the back cover of a book.

6. **Read a non-fiction text about a favourite topic.**

Explain why you think the author has made this suggestion.

7. How do you think that money is raised during World Book Day?

8. Explain why you think that the author chose the sub-heading **Books for Everyone**.

9. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day using 30 words or fewer.
