

World Book Day

What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day was created in 1995 by UNESCO: the organisation who are responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn. It is a yearly event which encourages reading for pleasure and aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own.



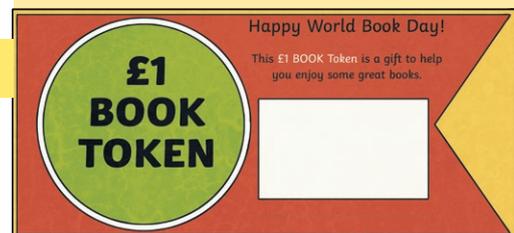
What Happens on World Book Day?

On World Book Day, many children take part in exciting activities in school, such as dressing up as their favourite characters, learning about authors and taking part in fun reading challenges. These activities are aimed at encouraging children's love of books and reading. Many 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. This should enable all children to get at least one new book each year.

Why Is Reading Important?

It is important that children enjoy reading. Reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by improving their **comprehension** skills and their **vocabulary**. When children read a variety of texts, they also improve their general knowledge and problem-solving skills. Reading can also help with friendship skills by allowing children to better understand other people's thoughts and feelings.



Take a Moment to Look at the Book

Have a quick flick through the book. You will be able to see the size of the text and whether it contains any illustrations, pictures or diagrams that interest you. Then, read the blurb on the back cover of a book. This description will give you more of an idea about what the book is about.

How Can I Choose the Correct Book?

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

Think About Your Favourite Topics

You could try reading a non-fiction text about something or someone that interests you. This could be a fact book, a biography or a magazine. Why not try reading a book which is based on a film that you have seen?

Visit Your Local Library

Borrowing books costs nothing for children and librarians can often provide some helpful advice and offer suggestions.

Ask Someone

Why not ask your friends if they have read any good books that they might recommend? They should know you well so will be able to offer some useful advice or give a summary of a book they may have read recently.



Try Something New

It is often easier to stick to what we know we like. However, we may find a book or author that we love if we try something different.

Keep Going!

It can sometimes take a few chapters to become hooked on a story and its characters.

Glossary

comprehension: The ability to understand something.

publisher: A company that prepares and supplies books.

vocabulary: The words that a person uses.

Questions

1. Who created World Book Day? Tick one.

- schools
 authors
 UNESCO
 schoolchildren

2. Which word from the text tells you that World Book Day happens every year? Tick one.

- 1995
 event
 yearly
 organisation

3. List two skills that children can develop by reading a variety of texts.

- _____
- _____

4. Fill in the missing words.

Reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by improving their _____ skills and their _____ .

5. Look at the section called **How Can I Choose the Correct Book?**

Think of another sub-heading that could be used for this section of the text.

6. Explain why it might be a good idea to read a book based on a film that you have seen.

7. **World Book Day ... aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own.**

Explain how World Book Day achieves this aim.

8. Why do you think that reading is important for children?

Answers

1. Who created World Book Day? Tick one.
 - schools
 - authors
 - UNESCO**
 - schoolchildren
2. Which word from the text tells you that World Book Day happens every year? Tick one.
 - 1995
 - event
 - yearly**
 - organisation

3. List two skills that children can develop by reading a variety of texts.

Accept any two of the following: comprehension skills; vocabulary skills; problem-solving skills; general knowledge skills.

4. Fill in the missing words.

Reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by improving their **comprehension** skills and their **vocabulary**.

5. Look at the section called **How Can I Choose the Correct Book?**

Think of another sub-heading that could be used for this section of the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Top Tips for Selecting Your Next Book

6. Explain why it might be a good idea to read a book based on a film that you have seen.

Pupils' own responses, such as: It might be a good idea to read a book based on a film that you have seen because you will already be familiar with the story. If you enjoyed the film, then it's also likely that you will enjoy reading the book.

7. **World Book Day ... aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own.**

Explain how World Book Day achieves this aim.

Pupils' own responses, such as: World Book Day gives every child a chance to own their own book by offering every child the chance to select a new book for £1 using the tokens that are given to them on World Book Day.

8. Why do you think that reading is important for children?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Reading is important for children because it can provide them with a good general knowledge and improved vocabulary. By reading about the thoughts and feelings of characters in stories, children can also help to develop their relationship skills.