This resource for secondary schools provides support and inspiration for leaders, teachers and librarians on how to make the most of World Book Day as a focus to raise the profile of reading, and celebrate reading for pleasure in all its shapes and sizes in your setting.

The activities are designed as flexibly as possible to enable not just librarians and English teachers, but all departments in your school to get involved to make our 20th anniversary celebration a day to remember. The resource is designed to support planning for the day and beyond, and provide inspiration and ideas to promote literacy right across the curriculum, to help you to break it out of assembly and form time.

Linked to the wealth of amazing resources on the World Book Day website (www.worldbookday.com), enjoy a comprehensive, creative and fun exploration of celebrating the amazing world of books on this worldwide day of reading revelry.
GETTING READY

The logistics and sheer size of secondary schools means that planning in advance is key to making your day a success. In doubt whether reading for pleasure is priority? Check out our rationale for reading section at the end of these notes, to help bring all staff on board.

Ideally, activities and events would be run by students and staff alongside normal timetables in break and lunchtimes. Alternatively, why not go for broke and have a whole school focus that celebrates with lessons right across the curriculum, focussed on lots of different types of book activities? The expertise and resources in secondary schools make for a powerful day of celebrations to galvanise everyone to do something booky ...

GET YOUR TEAM IN PLACE

- It’s a big job for a small team to run a really creative and inspirational day, so use the best resources you have – your students! Put the call out for some creative and enthusiastic leaders from across the year groups – or target your book or library groups, prefects or the student council. They’ll be full of ideas and able to recruit for the different activities you want to develop. See the National Literacy Trust’s Leaders for Literacy project for an idea of the impact your students can have on others and themselves by getting involved.

  literacytrust.org.uk/blog/7398_a_successful_literacy_leaders_pilot_project

- If you have a school library, make the library a focal point for the day or week, ensuring your librarian is a key member of the planning team (if not the leader already!).

- If you really want to inspire students and ignite reading for pleasure on the day, an author or illustrator visit is a must, but will need to be booked well in advance – it’s a popular day! Find practical guidance on why and how to book a visit here. worldbookday.com/2016/07/your-guide-to-organising-an-author-or-illustrator-visit/

- If it’s an illustrator you have in mind, why not take part in the fabulous new World Book Day and National Book Tokens’ Design a Book Token competition, with online inspiration from 40 of World Book Day’s illustrator alumni, including political cartoonist and Waterstones Children’s Laureate, Chris Riddell worldbookday.com/ideas/oodles-of-doodles/. There are National Book Tokens to be won for the pupil, school and teacher!

- Author/illustrator visits provide fantastic inspiration any day of the year, so if you’re not successful in booking one for World Book Day, try again for a less busy time – or book early for next year’s World Book Day!

ORGANISE A STANDOUT WORLD BOOK DAY ASSEMBLY

- As assembly time is the key moment to bring students together, use this part of the day to maximise your booky messaging to students and get them thinking about the role books and reading play across all areas of their lives, not just English. worldbookday.com/wbdtv

- Use World Book Day’s new video assembly resource, featuring key authors talking about their love of books and reading in all its forms to inspire students.

- Encouraging the students to take part in – or even take the assembly on the day – will communicate a powerful message to the rest of the school
£1 WORLD BOOK DAY BOOK TOKENS:

• Encouraging students to redeem their £1 book tokens is the key element of the campaign, so make sure you have yours ready to distribute to students on the day, and that they know that they can get a FREE World Book Day book with them.

• Use the bookshop finder on the World Book Day website to make sure you know the nearest places to guide students, where they can exchange their book tokens. They can be redeemed in thousands of independent bookshops, Waterstones, WHSmith, Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury’s and Tesco stores (booksellers.org.uk/Campaigns/WBD-Search)

• Check out and order copies of 2017’s World Book Day books to display in school to keep the profile of the books high, and as a constant reminder throughout the month and before the deadline to redeem their tokens. The tokens are valid from 27 February – 26 March 2017.

• This year the authors are the hugely popular and talented David Almond (Skellig) and Michael Grant (Gone) – a treat for any student

• Collect other books by the same authors to create a World Book Day author display – or, other books that students would enjoy if they are already David Almond or Michael Grant fans.

FUNDRAISING FOR BOOK AID INTERNATIONAL

• Book Aid International are one of World Book Day’s charity partners – and fundraising for them on World Book Day can often provide a great secondary focus for the day, so you can have fun and fundraise at the same time.

• If you decide to fundraise, it is important that students know why they should take part (if they can) and the difference their fundraising makes. Hold an assembly in advance of World Book Day, using the resources from Book Aid International’s website, to raise awareness of their campaign. Use their ready-made assembly ppt or one of their short films to encourage pupils to think about how they might raise funds to support the charity as part of your World Book Day activity. Samuel’s story is very moving, and sure to inspire secondary students to try to make a difference.

bookaid.org/2016/04/07/samuels-story/
bookaid.org/support-us/world-book-day/

• Students can organise a fundraising team to run activities on the day, costing only £1 to take part (of course, this is optional). Create a display of facts and research, with videos from Book Aid International on iPads to help inform fellow students, alongside cupcake sales, smoothie stations etc. They may want to create their own flyers or leaflets to support fundraising. You can find a whole host of fundraising ideas at bookaid.org/worldbookday.

• Bring Your Favourite Book Character to Life – many secondary schools don’t do dressing up as a World Book Day activity, as it can be seen to be too young, but many teenagers do still enjoy dressing up as favourite book characters. You could put a creative spin on it by encouraging students to make a simple prop with items they already have at home or that can be bought very cheaply instead, rather than a full costume, such as hats, masks or accessories. See a range of simple step-by-step sheets and videos for costume ideas and props at bookaid.org.uk/worldbookday. Students could then guess which books they are from and this could act as the basis of a good book recommendation discussion.

• Perhaps students could run their own reading café for the day, with a percentage of the proceeds going to Book Aid International. Add book-themed tables and decorations, serving home made cakes and biscuits with entertainment from fellow music students or help from the drama department, with short performances of famous scenes from books they love. A pop-up library of books to explore while in the café is a great way to get new titles out there whilst enjoying a quick break and a drink at the same time.
RAISING THE PROFILE OF READING FOR PLEASURE

• Use World Book Day’s amazing Writes of Passage resource – the ultimate list of 50 books that will change YOUR life! Complete with posters to download, use the resource to create a library display of the titles to prompt discussion. The library could have a student survey set up to test the school’s preferences against the national 50 and an interactive area of the display where students can pin their own ideas of books that have changed their lives, to create their own bespoke list. This could also act as the basis for a brilliant range of discussion activities, with pupils recommending books to one another – peer recommendation is incredibly powerful.
worldbookday.com/writes-of-passage/

• For easy display ideas to create, have a look at the Lookbook (wbdeenfest.com/diy-4-lookbook/) or Fanzine (wbdeenfest.com/diy-1-fanzine/) idea videos from the Teenfest video collection. These are great ways to show off the students’ own work.

• Get the art department on board with a mural painting project to celebrate the power of reading or invite a local graffiti artist into school to help guide students.

• Challenge all form tutors and their students to spend tutor time on World Book Day decorating their form doors as book jackets – you could photograph them and hold a competition for the best ones as part of an assembly at the end of the day.

• Shelfies: Ask all staff to submit a picture of their bookshelf at home to create an interactive display where students match staff photos to their bookshelf.

• Create a list mania area where students are encouraged to add Post its to giant pre-created displays, to create extended lists of book recommendations (ask the students for their ideas): a list of books to make you laugh, books you’d never give away, books that thrill you, books that scare you, favourite books that have been made into films, etc.

• Involve the DT department, by asking them to construct a reading tree for display, onto which students can tie simple luggage tags with the titles of their recommended reads on one side and their ‘why I chose this book’ on the other.

• The library may want to create a display of the ‘most borrowed books’ – helium balloons can be great for this and super-eye-catching at the same time, with long ribbon tails carrying coloured cards naming the books.

• A simple way to promote books is for all staff and students to take over the school screensavers for the day, so every computer has a book cover as a screensaver – a super way to promote discussion about preferences and start the day with books at the centre.

• Encourage office and reception staff to use the simple and easy ‘What I’m Reading’ website to create a poster to promote their current book choice and prompt discussion: whatimreading.org

• Steal a scene. Students, along with the art and drama department, can create 3D displays with artefacts and actual objects to create a real life-size scene from one of their favourite books in corridor areas and classrooms. Fellow students are challenged to guess which book the scene is from.

• Organize students to run small pop-up library areas for the day, where book boxes and displays bring the books out of the library into communal areas, canteen and corridors.

• Make book bunting – students can recreate their favourite book covers and join them together to festoon the public areas.
UNIVERSAL IDEAS

• Inspirational video and written content – the WBD TEENFEST area of the World Book Day website (wbdteenfest.com) is FULL of exclusive blogs, videos, readings and playlists created by top authors, vloggers and World Book Day, especially for teenagers. You could use a selection of these as the basis for discussion, written stimuli, a creative project or careers and writing advice. With topics like ‘Advice for Young Writers’ by Louise O’Neill, ‘To Plan or Not to Plan?...That is the Question’ by Sophie McKenzie, ‘Why I’m Banned from Watching Game of Thrones’ by Justin Somper, ‘Finding My Style’ and ‘Enough Feisty Females – What About the Boys?’ as well as a whole range of informative videos including Trade Secrets, looking behind the scenes of different publishing jobs, tips on using Twitter effectively, getting published, and fun DIY crafts, like making fanzines, book folding and stamp-making.

• Use the KS3 Bumper Book Quiz resource to pit form groups against one another, to test their book knowledge, with small prizes up for grabs. worldbookday.com/quiz/

• Choose the same short story for each year group with a section to be read aloud at the start of each lesson to encourage booktalk

• In tutor time encourage students to write a quote from their favourite book or character to display on postcards on their form room.

• Use tutor time for book swaps and as a focus for some of the display creation ideas above.

• Make your own books – Paul Johnson, Director of the Book Art Project has created a number of exclusive new ideas for making different types of books, suitable for children and young people of all ages worldbookday.com/resources

For lots more ideas visit the WBD secondary resources area: worldbookday.com/resources/secondary/

DO SOMETHING BOOKY IN ENGLISH LESSONS

Challenge all staff in English to run a ‘booky’ workshop to replace their English lesson on World Book Day. Workshops could include:

• Year group book blog entries
• A 100-word story writing competition
• Book speed-dating sessions
• Creating a reading journey display – a short personal book biography in words and images of favourite reads from preschool to current day.
• Twitter book reviews in 140 characters
• Prepare for a poetry slam – download the National Literacy Trust’s Poetry Slam Toolkit for supportliteracytrust.org.uk/resources/practical_resources_info/5156_write_on_poetry_slam_toolkit
• Use Storycraft, an amazing storywriting tool with videos and tips as the basis for creative writing workshops with top tips and ideas from expert authors like Charlie Higson, Michelle Paver and Malorie Blackman worldbookday.com/storycraft
• Visit World Book Day’s Imagination Channel for inspiration on creative writing sessions where well known authors share ideas of where they write and how they get their ideas. worldbookday.com/imagination-channel
• Find further lesson ideas on The Big Book Off (secondary), full of case studies encouraging students to explore, experience and create. worldbookday.com/big-book-off
DO SOMETHING BOOKY IN OTHER DEPARTMENTS

Drawing on the amazing expertise in other departments means that even more creative approaches to celebrate books can be achieved.

• Mini drama pop-ups where students perform key scenes from famous books throughout the school break and lunch times get the Drama department involved.

• In Art, the possibilities are endless. Students could create a portrait gallery of their favourite book characters in different styles or help design collaborative murals to depict settings from classic stories. Mini case studies on favourite illustrators could be introduced, where students can use the different style or techniques favoured by these illustrators in their own bookmaking activities. See World Book Day’s Oodles of Doodles for some inspiration and a wide range of different art styles and materials, from a simple pencil or Sharpie to photographic collage. worldbookday.com/ideas/oodles-of-doodles

• The Media and Technology department could help students to script and make their own book trailers on the day, using the great collection on the World Book Day website for inspiration. They could be judged in a mini Oscars-style film festival at the end of the day. worldbookday.com/booktrailers-online/

• In Art and DT, designing story boxes and story museums to represent favourite stories would provide a lovely creative workshop, the results of which could form a lasting library display. Just take a shoebox, decorate and fill with artefacts which make your story memorable. Others should be able to guess your story by the items you choose. Collect the shoeboxes together and display as a story museum.

• Music workshops could explore the creation of original soundtracks, soundscapes or playlists to accompany the book trailers or composed to match different genres or favourite books.

• In Photography, a paparazzi posse could be employed to document the day’s activities, to create a whole school display for the school website.

• Staff in any subject area should be encouraged to bring in their favourite books and share authors who write about or within their subjects. Humanities may like to use the National Literacy Trust book list as a starting point: literacytrust.org.uk/assets/0001/7877/Books_that_complement_the_Humanities_subject.pdf or download their reading in subject areas powerpoint with science in focus literacytrust.org.uk/resources/practical_resources_info/6941_reading_in_subject_areas_secondary

• Ideas for Shakespeare based lesson plans for English and Drama, Science, History, Art and Design along with Citizenship/Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development from the National Literacy Trust’s Mark the Bard celebrations could be used for ideas. literacytrust.org.uk/resources/practical_resources_info/7136_mark_the_bard

Get your students on board, your staff fired up and celebrate alongside over 100 countries around the world in DOING SOMETHING BOOKY for World Book Day 2017!
RATIONALE FOR READING

The National Literacy Trust’s annual survey continues to show a clear correlation between attainment and reading enjoyment, frequency and attitudes. The more that can be done to develop and sustain children and young peoples’ intrinsic motivation to read throughout their school journey, the more success they will enjoy both academically and in future life.

This annual survey allows the tracking of trends over time and this year’s Reading report highlights a gulf in reading enjoyment and attitudes between primary and secondary pupils.

There has been a huge amount of energy put into reading for enjoyment at primary stage since the National Literacy Strategy, involving creative work by both primary schools and the third sector. Findings suggest that it is time for these energies to be released into the secondary stage, where pupils seem to be struggling to sustain enjoyment of reading.

“Young people who enjoy reading very much are three times as likely to read above the level expected for their age compared with young people who do not enjoy reading at all” NLT (2015)

“Enjoyment of reading has a greater impact on a child’s educational achievement than their parents’ socio-economic status.” OECD (2009)

“Children who read for pleasure made more progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling between the ages of 10 and 16 than those who rarely read.” Institute of Education (2013)

FOR FURTHER DETAILS
literacytrust.org.uk/research/nlt_research/7163_childrens_and_young_peoples_reading_in_2015