

WORLD BOOK DAY

IDEAS



THE GRUFFALO

by Julia Donaldson & Axel Scheffler

Published by Macmillan Children's Books

PREPARATION

Costume ideas

- Encourage children to come dressed as a character from the story – they could dress as the little mouse, the fox, the owl, the snake or even the Gruffalo (to see how, visit bookaid.org/worldbookday).
- **Optional activity:** Children could be encouraged to donate £1 to dress up, to fundraise for Book Aid International bookaid.org/worldbookday

Things that could be set up in a classroom

- Set up a woodland-themed role-play area with woodland animal toys or photos, tall paper trees, paper leaves, animal spotting forms, magnifying glasses, pictures or toys of the characters and maybe even a Gruffalo toy or picture.
- Use a small tent or large cardboard boxes to create a Gruffalo cave. Place copies of the book, torches and Gruffalo toys or pictures inside.

THE DAY ITSELF

Start of the Day

- Introduce World Book Day to the children and read *The Gruffalo* together. Encourage the children to listen carefully to the story and look at the illustrations. Also encourage the children to listen to the rhythm of the story and identify the rhyming words.
- After reading the story, encourage the children to talk about their favourite parts and characters and why they like them.

Morning activity ideas

- Using a large picture of the Gruffalo, encourage the children to match labels to the picture based on the little mouse's descriptions from the story, such as the purple prickles on the Gruffalo's back or his orange eyes.
- Create a small world version of the story using a tray of soil or sand, small world toys or puppets, small plastic trees and small pebbles. Encourage the children to retell the story using the props.

Lunch/snack time ideas

- Make and decorate some small chocolate cakes and decorate

them to look like the Gruffalo's face. Chocolate sprinkles could be used for his fur, small coloured sweets for his eyes and nose, mini-marshmallows for his teeth and tusks and chocolate buttons for ears.

- Other foods could also be provided to represent the recipes mentioned in the story, such as fruit crumble for Gruffalo crumble or ice-cream for owl ice-cream.

Afternoon activity ideas

- Using playdough or clay and buttons, beads, pieces of coloured lolly sticks or pipe cleaners, encourage the children to make Gruffalo models and take a photo of their finished creation.
- Hide toys or pictures of the animal characters and the Gruffalo around the outside area. Tell the children that they are helping the little mouse through the woods. As you move around the area, find the animals and retell the story.

To end the day

- Talk about the children's' favourite part of the story. Would they like to meet the little mouse or the Gruffalo?
- Encourage the children to retell the story to another class, a visitor or a friend.

HOME LEARNING

- Encourage children to tell the story to someone at home. They could draw their favourite part or character from the story.
- Children may like to find out about some other animals that live in local parks or woodlands.
- Encourage parents to visit their local bookshop with their children to redeem their £1 World Book Day book token if they have one, to get a FREE World Book Day book.