

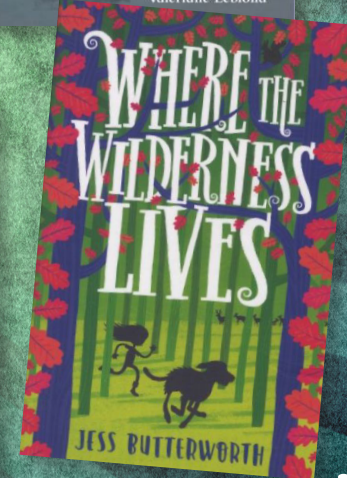
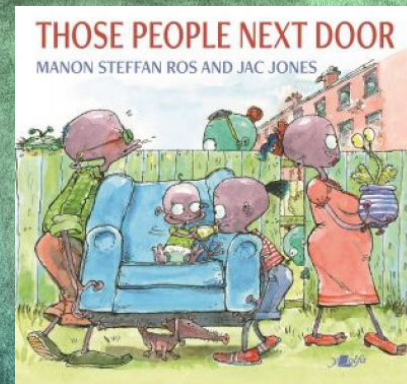
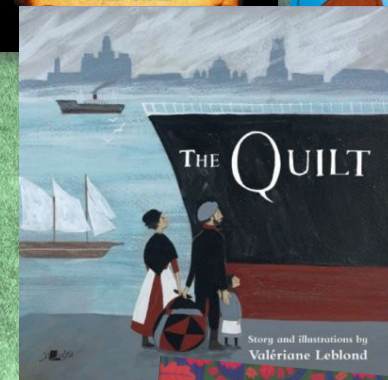
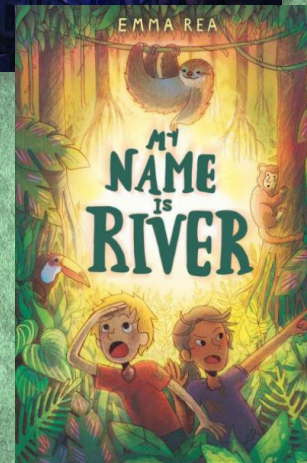
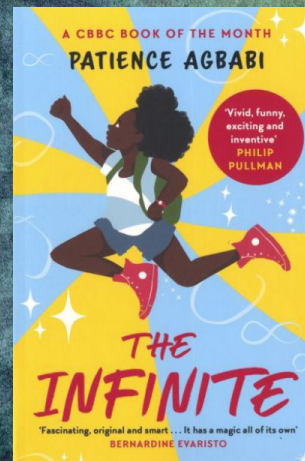
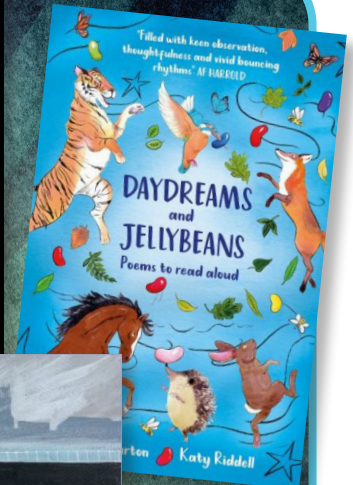
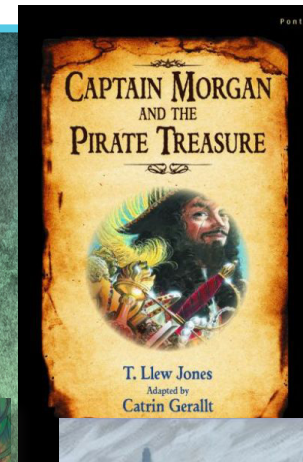
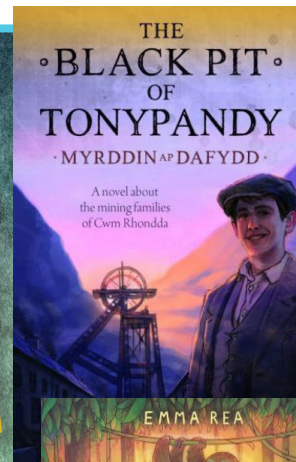
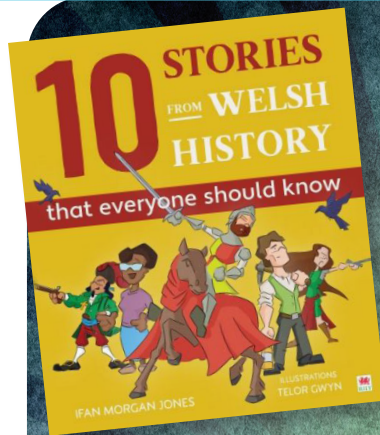
Reading challenge

BookSlam

her ddarllen

2021-22

CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU
BOOKS COUNCIL of WALES



#LoveReading

“I enjoyed all the times that we could sit together, all four of us, and talk about the book.”

pupil

“I’ll look back and say, oh yeah, I did that, it was awesome!”

pupil



“It ticks a lot of boxes, but more than that, it’s the enjoyment and the experience that children have.”

teacher

What is BookSlam?

BookSlam is an annual competition for primary schools in Wales and is based on reading English-language books. The competition is open to pupils in Years 3 to 6.

The aims of the competition are to:

- Promote books from and about Wales, and by Welsh authors, to children.
- Foster positive and long-lasting attitudes towards reading.
- Develop interpretation, discussion and presentation skills.
- Strengthen language, literacy and communication skills.

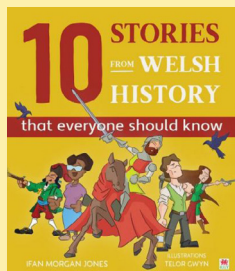
Here’s a video clip to explain more:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2QNJ9zAlo3M>



How does it work?

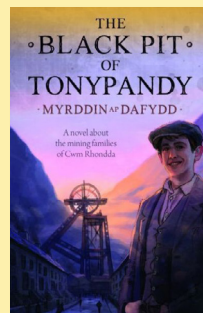
- Contact us at children@books.wales or your BookSlam organiser to register.
- Browse the comprehensive selection of books.
- Choose two books: one for a group discussion and another for a promotional advert.
- Order your books (details at the end of this guide).
- Read and enjoy the books with your pupils.
- There are Young Reviewers resources available on [Hwb](#) to support your preparations.
- Choose your discussion group members (up to 4 pupils) and your promotional video group (up to 8 pupils).
- Use the discussion tips and example questions to discuss the book in detail and create a promotional advert to encourage other readers to read your chosen book.
- Your BookSlam co-ordinator will be in touch to organise the regional rounds.



9781849675567

10 Stories from Welsh History (That Everyone Should Know) (non-fiction)
Ifan Morgan Jones
(illustr. Telor Gwyn)

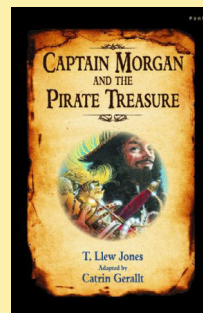
A factual book with the aim of encouraging children to discover and learn more about 10 key events and characters from Welsh history.



9781845278298

The Black Pit of Tonypandy (novel)
Myrddin ap Dafydd

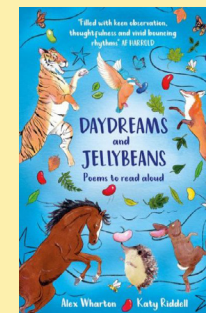
14-year-old Guto Lewis lives in the coal-mining valley of Cwm Rhondda, a place of struggles and hardships, which all come to a head in the Tonypandy riots, 1910.



9781785620683

Captain Morgan and the Pirate Treasure (novel)
T. Llew Jones

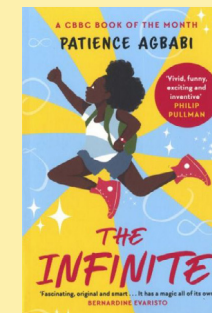
A story telling the exploits of Harry Morgan, a 17th-century Welsh adventurer and pirate who became a legend in his lifetime for his daring raids on the Spanish in the West Indies.



9781913102432

Daydreams and Jellybeans (poetry)
Alex Wharton (illustr. Katy Riddell)

From forgotten jellybeans to sparking daydreams, these poems are funny and thoughtful, and aim to spark familiarity and inclusion.

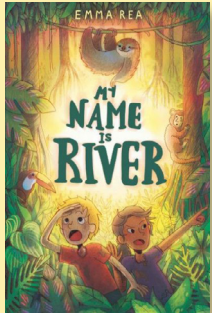


9781786899651

The Infinite (novel)
Patience Agbabi

Leaplings, children born on the 29th of February, are very rare. Rarer still are Leaplings with The Gift – the ability to leap through time. Elle has The Gift, but she's never used it. Until now.

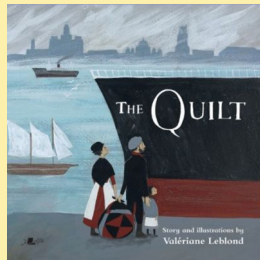




9781913102142

My Name is River
(novel)
Emma Rea

When Dylan overhears his dad say that their farm has been sold to a global company, he decides he has to make them change their minds.



9781784618087

The Quilt
(picture book)
Valériane Leblond

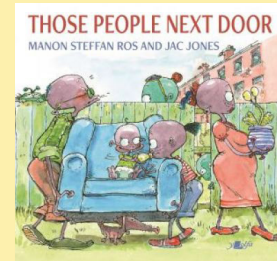
In the 1900s, a family leaves Wales in search of a better life in the USA. On the seemingly never-ending journey, and on their arrival, a homemade quilt proves a great comfort.



9781474966849

The Shark Caller
(novel)
Zillah Bethell (illustr. Saara Söderlund)

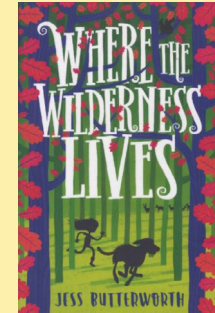
All Blue Wing wants is to become a shark caller, so what will Maple's arrival on Papua New Guinea mean for Blue Wing and her dream? An enchanting adventure of friendship, forgiveness and bravery.



9781800990098

Those People Next Door
(picture book)
Manon Steffan Ros
(illustr. Jac Jones)

A new family of purple aliens moves in next door to Bob and his family, who are green aliens. This book is a celebration of difference and kindness.



9781510105508

Where the Wilderness Lives
(novel)
Jess Butterworth

An epic race for survival that follows five children and a dog through treacherous waterways, dense forests, and the deep, dark wilderness of Wales.

Discussion Tips

- Booktalk is the main aim of this part of the challenge. That is, discussing the book, its characters and events, as well as the overall reading experience. Take a look at the suggested booktalk questions on the next page.
- The pupils are not expected to have prepared or memorised a specific discussion.
- Each member of the group is expected to contribute, to respond to open questions and comments from the adjudicator as well as each other's comments.
- A maximum of 4 pupils are allowed per discussion group.
- The discussion will last approximately 8 minutes.

What will the adjudicator be looking for?

Knowledge

- Evidence that the pupils have a good knowledge of the book, the story and the characters.
- A clear understanding of the themes and message of the book.
- References to wider reading beyond the chosen books, where appropriate.

Expressing opinions

- Expressing opinions clearly and giving fair and honest reasons.
- The ability to ask each other questions, answer, agree, disagree and challenge where appropriate.
- Listen to each other and build on each other's comments.
- Offer relevant comments in response to others.

Working and discussing as a group

- The ability to discuss independently as a group.
- Equal or balanced contribution from each member of the group.
- Lively, natural conversation.
- The ability to respond to questions that arise from the discussion.

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50% of the overall marks are awarded for the discussion.

Examples of discussion group questions

These booktalk questions are inspired by Aiden Chambers and taken from his book, *Tell Me: Children, Reading and Talk* (1995, Stonehouse Publishing).

- Was there anything in particular that you enjoyed in/about the book?
- What caught your attention in/about the book?
- Was there anything that you didn't enjoy in/about the book?
- Did you notice any patterns in the book?

- What were your first impressions of the book?
- Have you read any books like this one before?
- Did you read the book more than once?
 - Did you enjoy it more or less after re-reading it? Can you explain why?
 - Do you think that other people should read it more than once?
- What would you like to change about the book?
- Are there any characters that you'd like to meet? What would you do together?
- In your opinion, who is this book suitable for?
- How would you describe this book to someone your own age?
 - Would you recommend this book to other children your age? Why is that so?

- Which character did you find most interesting? In which way? Why is that so?
If you could meet one character from the book, who would you choose to meet? Why?
Do you think the characters are believable? Why is that so?
- Where does the story happen?
Do you think that matters? Could the story happen and unfold in the same way if it was set elsewhere?
Was the book's setting important to you when you read the story?
- Did you enjoy some poems more than others?
- Do you have a favourite poem in the book?
What makes that poem special to you?
- Have you read any poetry that's similar to this?
- Do you think that reading poetry is different to reading a story of a novel? Why is that so?
- What have you learnt by reading this book?
- What questions did you have after reading this book?
Have you found answers to those questions?
What were the answers?
What was it like to look for those answers?
- How do you think that reading factual books is different to reading fiction?
- After our discussion, what do you think is the most important thing about this book?

Promotional Advert Tips

A new development

This year, we'd like you to create a video of your promotional advert. Your video could be a filmed stage performance, or you could film your advert in different locations. Be as creative as you wish!

The main aim of the task remains the same, to create a promotional advert for one of the books from the booklist, but not the one you'll be discussing.

The national round

The teams who reach the national round will be able to watch each other's videos on a cinema screen. This will also make time in the day's timetable for workshops such as poetry, writing or illustration. The schools who reach the national round will need to send their videos to us by Wednesday 8 June 2022.

- The main aim of the promotional advert is to promote the book in a way that will appeal to children of the same age, encouraging them to read it too.
- Each team must choose one book to promote, which should be a different book to the one used in the discussion.
- A maximum of 8 pupils in each group.

- The pupils who take part in the discussion do not have to take part in the promotional advert, therefore up to 12 pupils can take part in the competition.
- A maximum of 6 minutes is allowed for the video.
- One mark will be deducted for every 30 seconds over the 6 minutes time allowance.
- You can film a stage performance, or you can film in different locations – be as creative as you dare!

What will the adjudicator be looking for?

- An advert that conveys the tone and the themes of the book, and which encourages young readers to choose to read it.
- A lively performance with a variety of dramatic effects.
- Movement and effective use of the space selected.
- Clear and audible presentations.
- Teamwork and meaningful contributions from every member of the group.
- Effective use of costumes and props.
- Basic editing software can be used by the pupils. The content of the advert will be judged, not the quality of the editing.

50% of the overall marks are awarded for the discussion.

2021-22 BookSlam Timetable

Sharing booklist and competition information	October 2021
Final day to register with local organiser/Books Council of Wales	End of Autumn term (Christmas) 2021
County rounds to be completed	Friday 20 May 2022
Inform the Books Council of the county round results	Friday 27 May 2022
Send promotional advert videos to the Books Council	Wednesday 8 June 2022
National round at Aberystwyth Arts Centre	Thursday 23 June 2022

How to order books

- From your local bookseller.
- On **gwales.com**. We'll pay a commission to a bookshop of your choice.
- Through our Schools Officer:
ysgolion@llyfrau.cymru



Contact us:

Email: children@books.wales

Children's Books and Reading Promotion,
Books Council of Wales, Castell Brychan,
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion SY23 2JB

Phone: 01970 624151