



Celebrate READING PACK

PROGRESSION STEP 2 & 3



Cross-curricular activities

Here are some suggestions for cross-curricular activities for pupils of different ages, to stimulate their enjoyment of books and reading for pleasure and their response to a variety of literature.

Language, Literacy and Communication

Oral and listening activities

- Work in small groups to create statements on the basis of 'Reading is important/beneficial because ...' before discussing and grading the statements in the form of a diamond grading task.
- Create a list of five books to take with them to a desert island, explaining their reasons.
- Hold a 'Book Battle' as a class – pupils to sum up and promote their favourite book orally in one minute, before the rest of the class gets the chance to vote for one of the books, based on the micro-presentations.
- Conduct a regular session for pupils to share a favourite book, author, poet or illustrator with the rest of the class.
- Conduct a quiz based on books and/or authors. Older pupils could create questions and conduct a quiz for younger pupils.

- Introduce their favourite author, book or character in a two/three/five-minute presentation and answer questions from the class about the presentation.
- Create questions to ask a character from a book in an imaginary interview – 'The Red Chair' activity.
- Write a script and record a podcast on the theme of celebrating reading or celebrating books.

Writing activities

- Try to sum up their favourite book in 20, 50 or 100 words on a Post-it note or postcard.
- Create a poster of top tips to enjoy reading or reading for pleasure, to display in the classroom or school.
- Create reading pledges to display in class, e.g. 'This week ... / This month ... / This year I would like to read ...'
- Create a top five list based on books and reading, e.g. five favourite books, favourite characters, favourite authors or poets, favourite illustrators, favourite lines from books, etc.
- Think of a list of suitable questions to ask their favourite author, poet or illustrator.





- Write a diary or blog entry from the point of view of a character from a book, or a series of entries from different characters' perspectives.
- Write a review of their favourite book for pupils the same age as them (see the Let's Talk Books resource, the [Adolygiad-Review.pdf](#) (books.wales) template for younger pupils and the micro-review template). Then why not ask pupils to share their reviews on [gwales.com](#) or the [Sôn am Lyfra](#) website?
- Create a story based on characters from different books meeting each other in an imaginary situation.
- Use the first line of a famous story as a springboard to create a brand-new story.
- Older pupils to write stories or create word-and-picture books or comic books for younger pupils.
- Hold a competition for writing micro stories (no more than 50 or 100 words).
- Write a special poem or rap to celebrate reading and books (an acrostic poem with the words READING or BOOKS might be an easier option for younger pupils).
- Create a brand-new literary character and write a description or draw a picture of him/her.
- Create a word search grid or crossword based on a favourite author or book.
- Create a Meet the Author/Poet/Illustrator leaflet or information pamphlet (see the Books Council of Wales' [Meet the Author](#) sheets for ideas).
- Create a magazine or class fanzine based on reading and books.
- Select favourite quotes from books

or poems and display them in speech bubbles in class.

- Create an invitation for one of the school's activities to celebrate reading.
- Write a letter or e-mail to a favourite author, poet or illustrator.

Language games

- Play the Post-its game in pairs or small groups based on characters from books. (Put a Post-it note on the forehead, and the children have to guess the character.)
- Play a game of Consequences using the opening line of a book as a driver.
- Play a version of Guess Who based on characters from books.
- Play a game of Top Trumps – pupils can use ready-made cards or create their own cards based on characters of their choice (e.g. characters from the term's class novel). See the [Top Trumps templates](#).
- Play a 'Guess the title of the book' game, using gestures instead of words as clues. Fill a shoebox with clues to encourage others to guess the title of the book, or the name of the character or author.
- Play bingo using book titles, pictures of covers or names of authors.
- Play a game of Pictionary based on book titles or names of authors.
- Collect pictures of friends, peers, teachers or staff hiding their faces with a favourite book from their childhood, or a book that says something about them, and guess who's who.
- Collect pictures of bookshelves belonging to different pupils or members of staff and try to guess whose bookshelf each one is.
- Create a quiz to pair the blurb with the title or cover of a book.



Special events in the world of books

Don't forget the **Tir na n-Og Awards Shadowing Scheme** for KS2 and KS3 readers. The shadowing scheme is designed to raise awareness among children and young people of the Tir na n-Og Awards short-listed titles while offering the opportunity to enjoy reading and discussing the books with their peers.

There is also a new element to the scheme, the Readers' Choice Award – a special award chosen by children and young people taking part in the shadowing scheme. Schools, libraries and other reading groups can register to take part in the scheme and be unofficial judges to select a winner from the shortlist, using the special shadowing pack. The shadowing pack includes a summary of the books, comments from the official judges, information about the authors, games and voting cards. During the Tir na n-Og awards ceremony, pupils will have the opportunity to present the 'Readers' Choice award'. For more information, visit the [Books Council of Wales](http://www.books.wales) website or contact plant@books.wales.

Don't forget the Books Council of Wales' **Gornest Lyfrau/BookSlam**, an entertaining annual reading challenge to encourage reading for pleasure among KS2 children. It encourages learners to discuss the books they read and prepare a creative video, as a group or class, based on one of the books on the reading list. The challenge is open to Welsh-medium, bilingual and English-medium schools and is suitable for years 3-6, as whole classes or as reading groups.

It's a fun reading challenge that:

- encourages children to get hooked on reading and enjoying good books
- fosters positive and long-term attitudes towards reading
- supports the development of emotional literacy and engenders discussion, communication and analytical skills

- aligns with the Curriculum's requirements by offering a range of activities to individuals and groups across the Areas of Learning and Experience
- promotes and raises awareness of books, authors and illustrators
- celebrates an exceptional standard in children's literature.

For more information, see [BookSlam | Books Council of Wales](#).

Expressive Arts

- Design some of the following:
 - book cover (imitating an existing cover or designing a brand-new cover)
 - book token
 - celebrating reading badges
 - bookmark
 - special ownership label for a favourite book
 - celebrating reading bunting
 - cover for the Books Council of Wales' annual Children's Yearbook/Young Adults' Yearbook
 - T-shirt based on a favourite book
- Design and create costumes using second-hand or recycled materials and create a fashion show based on a literary theme or on characters from books.
- Decorate cakes or biscuits based on a literary theme.
- Decorate an object (e.g. egg, potato, toilet paper roll, fruit and vegetable seeds/pips) as a character from a book.
- Turn a favourite book or story into a comic strip or digital graphic novel.
- Play the role of a favourite character from a book or act out scene/scenes from a book.
- Create stills to convey scenes, events or emotions based on a specific book.
- Create a dance to convey a scene or a series of scenes from a book.
- Create a spoken advertisement or trailer advertising a favourite book.



- Develop an imaginary playlist of songs that would suit their favourite character or a specific character from a book.
- Compose and perform a piece of music to accompany a book of their choice, or with a favourite scene from a book.
- Create a playlist of songs to listen to while reading, with the emphasis on reading for pleasure.

Mathematics and Numeracy

- Collect, present and analyse data about the favourite books, authors, poets or illustrators of pupils in the class, or in the school as a whole.
- Create a budget for the purchase of suitable reading texts for the school resource library, or for specific reading areas in the school or classroom.
- Fund a trip to visit a place with literary connections in the local area (e.g. printing press, library, bookshop, home of a famous author or poet).

Science and Technology (and Digital Competence)

- Create a spoken advertisement or digital trailer to advertise a favourite book.
- Create a digital poster to display in the classroom or school to encourage pupils to read ('Reading is important/beneficial because ...')
- Create a list – '20 reasons why we should read' – and create a poster to display them.
- Come up with suitable slogans to encourage others to read and create digital posters of them.

- Create a digital animation based on a scene or scenes from a book.
- Create oral reviews of books and film them.
- Turn a favourite book or story into a comic strip or digital graphic novel.
- Create a digital booklet of book reviews written by pupils in the class.
- Create a digital advert to promote one of the school's events to celebrate reading.
- Bake and decorate cakes or biscuits based on a literary theme.
- Create an imaginary menu or diet that would suit a character or characters from a book.
- Create a recipe book based on foods from different books and set about cooking a few recipes.

Humanities

- Research and present information about a period in history associated with a particular book, author or poet, or a major event in literature. For a list of current fiction and non-fiction books relating to Welsh history, see: [10 Stories from Welsh History.pdf \(books.wales\)](#)
- Create a collection of books relating to a contemporary environmental theme, e.g. climate change, or relating to a particular country or countries. Create a presentation or video based on the information contained in the books to share with the rest of the class.



Health and Well-being

- Make sure there are regular opportunities for an adult to read aloud to pupils of all ages, for pleasure above all, to give them the opportunity to relax while listening to a good story.
- Don't forget the Books Council of Wales' **Reading Well** book lists for **children** and **teens**. Also, don't forget the **lechyd Da** scheme's **books** and **activities**, and the **Empathy Lab's** list of books suitable for discussing mental health and empathy with pupils of all ages.
- Keep a reading diary, with a particular focus on how different books make them feel.
- Conduct oral and written activities which encourage empathy and discussion about all kinds of emotions, e.g. the pupils to put themselves in the shoes of a character from a book (How do they feel? What will they do?).

