



IT'S COMPETITION TIME!

Welcome to the Regional
Competition Pack

**BOOK
SLAM** **2026**

WELCOME TO THE BOOKSLAM REGIONAL CHALLENGE PACK!

Get ready – BOOKSLAM is back!

Wales' annual reading competition returns, inviting pupils in **Years 3–6** to dive into the exciting world of books. Through fun and creative challenges, young readers will have the chance to become **BookSlam 2026 champions**.

This year's prizes:

1st prize – £200 worth of books and the BookSlam trophy (and bragging rights!)

2nd prize – £150 worth of books

3rd prize – £100 worth of books

This pack contains everything you need to take part in this year's **regional challenges**.

Your **BookSlam regional coordinator** will also be in touch to support you through the competition stages.



Let's get reading!

HOW IT WORKS

(in 4 easy steps!)

Registration is now open ...

STEP 1
Register your school for the regional rounds.

Time to get reading!

STEP 2
Choose a book to read from the BookSlam reading list.

Time to hit the finals!

STEP 4
Win at the regionals and earn your place at the national in June!

Challenge accepted!

STEP 3
Compete in the regional rounds with BookSlam's fun challenges.



FIRST THINGS FIRST...

Choosing the right book for your team from this year's BookSlam reading list...

One of the first and most important steps in taking part in **BookSlam** is selecting a book from this year's **official reading list**. With a wide variety of titles to choose from, picking the right one can be a challenge – but also a great opportunity to get pupils excited about reading!

Each team or class will use their chosen book as the basis for **two regional challenges** detailed in this pack:

The discussion challenge – pupils will explore and discuss themes, characters, and events from their chosen book.

Create a video advert – pupils will produce a short video promoting their book in a creative and engaging way.

Important note!

Teachers and pupils *do not* have to choose the same book for both rounds. You can select one book for the discussion challenge and a different one for the video advert challenge.

You can also split your class into **different teams**, with each team choosing their own book for the challenges.

Pointers to choosing the right book

- Consider your pupils' reading abilities, interests, and what will engage them most.
- Choose books that offer rich discussion points or exciting elements for creative video ideas.
- You can split your class into teams, with each team choosing a different book for the same challenge.
- Think practically – factor in time available and whether books will be read aloud, together, or independently.

THE REGIONAL CHALLENGES

Challenge 1: The discussion round

Welcome to the first regional BookSlam 2026 challenge! This round is all about your team's ability to take part in a thoughtful and engaging discussion about one of the books from the official BookSlam 2026 reading list.

What's the challenge?

- 1 Choose a book** from the BookSlam 2026 reading list. (You should have received this as part of the BookSlam teacher pack.)
- 2 Read the book** – either as a whole class or in smaller reading groups.
- 3 Form a team of 4 pupils** to take part in the discussion round. All four team members must have read and be ready to talk about the same book.

Note: You can enter more than one team from your class or school. Each team can choose a different book to discuss.

Judging the discussion

A regional judge will join your team of four to observe and score your discussion. This may be:

- An **in-person** visit to your school, or
- An **online video call**

To enter your teams, simply let your **regional coordinator** know how many teams will be taking part from your school.

Do's and Don'ts

Do: make sure that everyone in your team takes an active role in the discussion!

Do: make sure the team has enough knowledge about the book to discuss it confidently for about 8 minutes.

Don't: prepare or learn a script in advance! The judge will like to hear a natural discussion about the book!



What the regional judge will look out for:

Your regional judge will look out for the following in your discussion:

- A thorough knowledge of your chosen book, including your ability to delve into the story and characters of the book, if appropriate
- A good understanding of the book's message and themes
- Your team's ability to express opinions clearly and fairly with the ability to ask, agree, disagree and to challenge politely
- Demonstrate good use of vocabulary, expressions and book terminology
- Any thoughtful mentions to other books where appropriate

Scoring

The discussion round will contribute towards 50% of your overall regional score!



Examples of discussion points

- Was there anything in particular that you enjoyed or did not enjoy about/in the book?
- Which character did you find most interesting? In what way? Why?
- What caught your attention about/in the book?
- Have you read any books like this before?
- What would you like to change about the book?
- Who do you think this book is suitable for?
- How would you describe this book to someone your age? Would you recommend it?
- If you could meet one character from the book, who would you like to meet? Why?
- What have you learned by reading this book?
- What questions did you have after reading this book? Have you found answers to those questions? What were the answers?
- How do you think reading non-fiction books is different from reading fiction books?
- What do you think is the most important thing about this book?



Challenge 2: Promotional video advert

The second regional challenge will ask your class to create a short video advert to encourage children your age to read your team's chosen book.

What's the challenge?

Create a **video advert** that:

- Shows your understanding of the book
- Appeals to children in the same age group
- Encourages others to want to read the book!

Video length: Your video should be no more than 3 minutes long.

Note: One mark will be deducted for every 30 seconds the video runs over!



Creating your video

- Let your imagination go wild! You can use humour, drama or any other techniques to promote the book.
- Pupils from Years 3–6 can contribute.
- Remember that anyone can get involved in terms of acting, scripting, filming, editing or performing.

Creating your video

Let your imagination go wild! How about some of the ideas below as inspiration?

- Perform a live drama scene from the book
- Film in multiple locations or use creative props
- Use green screen or video editing tools
- Add music or sound effects

Pupils are allowed to use simple video editing software – but don't worry, the technical quality of the editing will not be judged.

Submit your video as an MP4 file format.

Do's and Don'ts

Do: Keep your video under 3 minutes

Do: Speak, clearly, confidently and with energy

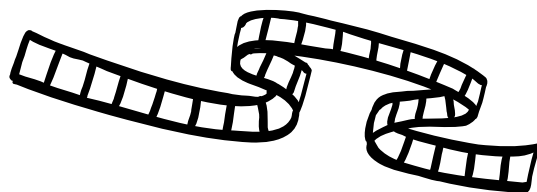
Do: Use persuasive language and dramatic effects

Do: Work as a team and let everyone contribute

Do: Show the themes of the book

Don't: Worry about high-end editing – an enthusiastic and creative advert matters the most!

Subtitles or captions are allowed but not required.



What will the judge look for?

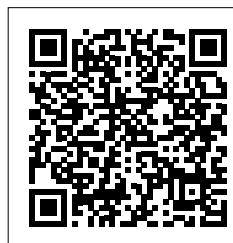
Judges will be looking for a video that:

- **Captures the feel of the book** and encourages others to read it
- Shows **enthusiasm and energy**
- Includes **confident, clear speaking**
- Uses **persuasive language** to highlight themes and ideas
- Demonstrates **teamwork and inclusion**
- **Engages the viewer** from start to finish!



Looking for inspiration?

Take a look at **last year's winning videos:**



Submitting your video

- Submit your final MP4 video to your regional judge and coordinator



Scoring

This round contributes **50%** of your team's total score in the regional competition.

KEY DATES

Looking for further information?
Contact a BookSlam coordinator
by emailing plant@llyfrau.cymru

County Organisers
inform the Books
Council of the county
results by **MAY 20**

**JAN 1 –
MAY 15**

County rounds take place
across Wales. Your county
organiser will contact you to
arrange a date for the Discussion
Round and a date for you to
send them your Promotional
Advertisement.

JUNE 19
National Round
takes place at Arad
Goch Theatre,
Aberystwyth.

BOOK SLAM 2026


CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU
BOOKS COUNCIL of WALES



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