



Inspiring, enthusing and entertaining
through literature and the arts

Ideas for Teachers



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Get planning for the literary event of the year - World Book Day - and celebrate in style with these great teaching ideas. And if you have any suggestions or ideas that you'd like to include here, please [let us know](#).

Drop everything and read

At 10 a.m. on World Book Day, we invite you to join us in dropping everything and picking up a book. Children, staff, teachers and parents are all encouraged to join in wherever they are! Can we get all of Maidenhead reading at the same time? Let's give it a go!

Stop press

Check out our website for details on all our presenters for the next Maidenhead's Big Read festival.

www.maidenheads-big-read.org-uk



Ideas for your school

Create a Story Sack

A story sack is a large cloth bag containing a favourite children's book with supporting materials such as a CD or DVD of the story, models of characters and objects from the story, paper and pens, activities or games relating to the story etc. Use the sack and objects inside to stimulate language activities and make reading a memorable and enjoyable experience.

Book speed dating

Try holding a book speed-dating session in your school hall or library. Ask students to bring in copies of their favourite book, and they have one minute to tell other students why it is so good before they move onto the next person. At the end hopefully every student has 'met' a book they would like to read!

Write of passage

Ask students to fill out an index card with a book which has meant the world to them. Create a display in one of your school's corridors showing all the index cards and let it be your Write of Passage to share with others.

Library book trail

Create a secret book trail for students to discover. The first clue is collected from the librarian / head teacher, e.g. a teenage wizard starts his new school in this book, and the child then needs to find this book in the library / classroom. Tucked inside the cover is a clue to the next novel in the trail.

Story as a school

Each teacher brings an interesting or unusual object to school. One teacher starts a story with their class using that object. The story is then emailed to the next class who continue the story, incorporating their teacher's chosen object. At the end of the day, the completed story is shared as part of World Book Day with the whole school.

Extreme reading competition

Ask parents to take photos of their children reading in extreme, or at least very unusual, places and email them in to school to display on World Book Day. Google 'extreme reading' for inspiration.

Hangman

Play word games such as hangman or scrabble so students can practice their spelling. Make things more challenging by using phonemes so that students build awareness of sounds.

School Story Time

Invite your pupils back to school in their pyjamas for a very special story time. Teachers also dress in their pyjamas and settle down to read their class a fun story time. Get parents and siblings to do likewise and perhaps assemble in a separate classroom. Project a cosy fire video on the wall to create a warm and snug atmosphere and have popcorn / marshmallows at hand too!

Blind date with a book

Wrap up books in brown paper and write a short advert-style description on the front. Pupils can then choose a book based on the description. Inside the package add a blank bookmark card for pupils to fill in a book review.

Create a soundtrack

Choose a short novel, story or narrative poem that's fun to read aloud to a group (or play an audio book recording) and ask the children to create sound effects for it. These can be self-generated (clicking, shuffling, stamping and so on), hand-made (dried peas in a can) or sophisticated (using music technology software). Use whatever resources are available and go with whatever the group's enthusiasm permits.

Doors as book jackets

Hold a competition between all the forms for decorating their classroom door as a book cover – it will create a real buzz around school.

Create a supervillain

Hold a class discussion to create a supervillain. Within class, create crime scenes, newspaper articles and wanted posters for your supervillain and then write stories and choose 'wow' words to defeat them. You could then round it off with a pantomime where teachers dress up as your supervillain and act out some of the stories the children have created.

Newspaper Research

Share a variety of newspaper clippings with your students and ask them to find a story that resonates with them. Use reproductions of historical newspapers, e.g. wartime or Victorian editions, to link to class topics. Give them time to review the article and any associated photos, then ask them to discuss the photo and article. Was the article biased in any way, how did the people in the article feel?

Poetry race

See which student, or group of students, can perform a tongue twister accurately and quickly. Vary this by getting students to choose a poem they like and reciting it quickly, slowly, beautifully or dramatically.



Ideas for your school

Sharing a joke

Sharing jokes and puns can help children develop language and communication skills. Share your favourite joke with your students and ask them to share theirs ... a mini class comedy club.

Book Exchange

Ask families to donate good quality books that they no longer require. Children can pick a new book to take home for free. Encourage the children to bring the books back to school and share their thoughts on the story, did they enjoy it, what was the best bit, etc?

Word search bingo

In order to keep students focused and engaged while reading, give them a piece of paper with a list of words from the story you are reading. Every time the students come across a word on the list, they have to circle it (alternatively, they can be first to put their hands up, call out, etc).

True or False

Once students have finished reading a story, have them prepare true and false sentences about the story. This can be done in groups, pairs or individually. When ready, swap sentences with other groups or students to answer.

Avoid the line

Prepare a story for the students to read and randomly underline words throughout. Split everyone up into small groups. Each group is given a copy of the story to read and starts with 5 points. In turn, each student reads 5 words out loud but when they come to an underlined word, they must not read it aloud. If they do, the group loses a point. The group with the most points at the end wins.

Find ...

Give each student a story to read but not look at just yet. Prepare a list of words or phrases that the students need to find in the story as quickly as possible. Call out a word and only then should everyone start skimming through the story for that word or phrase. Students should raise their hands when they find the word or phrase.

Word families

Encourage students to spot words that rhyme. Start creating word flashcards and displaying them in their word families around the classroom. This can be adapted to display words in lexical sets or using other categories of your choice.

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