

# World Book Day

## What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day is a yearly event which encourages reading for pleasure and aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own. It was created in 1995 by UNESCO, who are responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.



## What Happens on World Book Day?

On World Book Day, children take part in exciting activities in school, such as dressing up as their favourite characters, learning about authors and taking part in fun reading challenges. These activities are aimed at encouraging children's love of books and reading. Many libraries, authors, **publishers** and booksellers also take part in World Book Day.

### Did You Know...?

On World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a token to choose a book for £1. This should enable all children to get at least one new book each year.

## Why Is Reading Important?



It is important that children enjoy reading. Reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by improving their **comprehension** skills and **vocabulary**. When children read a variety of texts, they also improve their general knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure also helps to improve children's problem-solving skills. It can also help them to understand other people's thoughts and feelings.

### Did You Know...?

The money that is raised during World Book Day helps a variety of charities, including Book Aid International. They provide books for people around the world who are affected by issues such as war and **poverty**.

## Not Sure What to Read?

It can sometimes be difficult to find a book that interests you. Here are some top tips to help you to select your perfect book:

Read what is written on the back cover. This description, called the blurb, will tell you more about what the book is about.

Have a quick flick through. You will be able to see the size of the text and whether it contains any illustrations, pictures or diagrams that interest you.

Ask a friend. Why not ask your friends if they have read any good books that they might recommend?

Read a non-fiction text about one of your favourite topics. This could be a fact book, a biography/ autobiography or a magazine about something or someone that interests you.

Try something new. It is often easier to stick to what we know we like. However, we may find a book or author that we love if we try something different.

Choose a book based on a film. Why not try reading the text version of a film that you have seen?

Keep going. It can sometimes take a few chapters to become hooked on a story and its characters.

Visit your local library. Borrowing a book is free for children and librarians can often provide some helpful advice and offer suggestions.

## Glossary

**comprehension:** The ability to understand something.

**poverty:** When someone is extremely poor.

**publisher:** A company that prepares and supplies books.

**vocabulary:** The range of words that a person uses.

# Questions

1. In which year was World Book Day created? Tick one.  
☐ 1997  
☐ 1995  
☐ 1996  
☐ 1992
2. What are schoolchildren given on World Book Day? Tick one.  
☐ a token  
☐ a bookmark  
☐ a sticker  
☐ a certificate
3. Which charity provides books for people around the world who are affected by issues such as war and poverty?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Fill in the missing word.

Read what is written on the back cover. This description,  
called the \_\_\_\_\_, will tell you more about what the book is about.

5. Which section of the text gives you tips on how to choose the right book?  
  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain why you think that it is a good idea to try something new when choosing a book to read.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. **UNESCO... are responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.**  
Explain how World Book Day helps them to do this.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day.

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# Answers

1. In which year was World Book Day created? Tick one.

- ☐ 1997
- ☒ **1995**
- ☐ 1996
- ☐ 1992

2. What are schoolchildren given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☒ **a token**
- ☐ a bookmark
- ☐ a sticker
- ☐ a certificate

3. Which charity provides books for people around the world who are affected by issues such as war and poverty?

**Book Aid International provides books for people around the world who are affected by issues such as war and poverty.**

4. Fill in the missing word.

Read what is written on the back cover. This description, called the **blurb**, will tell you more about what the book is about.

5. Which section of the text gives you tips on how to choose the right book?

**The section called Not Sure What to Read? gives tips on how to choose the right book.**

6. Explain why you think that it is a good idea to try something new when choosing a book to read.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it is a good idea to try something new because if you read the same kinds of books, then you may get a little bit bored. Also, by trying a different type of book you may find an author whose work really enjoy and you may even learn something new.**

7. **UNESCO... are responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.**

Explain how World Book Day helps them to do this.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: World Book Day helps UNESCO's aim because reading helps people to learn. World Book Day raises money for charities which help people around the world who don't have access to books. They also give tokens to schoolchildren so that every child can own a book.**

8. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: World Book Day is an event that happens every year. It began in 1995. On World Book Day, schoolchildren take part in lots of activities related to books and reading.**



# World Book Day

## What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day is an annual event which promotes reading for pleasure and aims to give every child the chance to own a book of their own. It was created in 1995 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) who are the organisation responsible for making sure that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.



## What Happens on World Book Day?

On World Book Day, schoolchildren are encouraged to take part in fun and exciting activities, such as dressing up as characters from their favourite books, learning about authors and taking part in fun reading challenges. These activities are aimed at inspiring children's love of books and reading. Many different organisations and institutions (such as libraries, authors, publishers and booksellers) also take part in World Book Day.

On World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a token to choose a book for £1 which should enable all children to get at least one new book each year.

## Why Is Reading Important?

Studies have shown that reading for pleasure can help children to achieve well at school by helping to develop **comprehension** skills and improving vocabulary. By reading a variety of texts, children may also improve their general knowledge and understanding of other cultures.

Reading for pleasure also helps to improve problem-solving skills and can encourage greater **empathy**; these are skills which can help children to build positive relationships with others.



## Books for Everyone

The money that is raised during World Book Day helps to fundraise for a number of charities, such as Book Aid International. This charity believes that 'books have the power to change lives' and that everyone deserves the right to access high-quality books. They provide books for people around the world who, for whatever reason, cannot access them, such as those affected by war and **poverty**.



## Not Sure What to Read?

It can sometimes be difficult to find a book that interests you. Here are some top tips to help you to select your perfect book:

Read the blurb on the back cover. This will tell you more about what the book is about. If the description interests you, then you may decide to give the book a try.

Have a quick flick through. By having a brief look at the inside of the book, you will be able to get an idea of the size of the text and whether it contains any illustrations, pictures or diagrams that may appeal to you.

Ask for a recommendation. Why not ask your friends and classmates if they have read any good books recently that they might recommend?

Read a non-fiction text about a favourite topic. This could be a fact book, a biography/ autobiography or a magazine about something or someone that interests you.

Variety is key. While it is often easier to stick to what we know we like, by trying something new we can often surprise ourselves.

Consider a book based on a film. Why not try reading the text that inspired a film that you have seen?

Persevere a little. It can sometimes take a few chapters to become gripped by a story and its characters.

Visit your local library. Borrowing a book is free of charge for children and librarians are often able to provide some helpful advice and offer suggestions.

## Glossary

**comprehension:** The ability to understand something.

**empathy:** The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

**publisher:** A company that prepares and supplies books.



# Questions

1. Who created World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ UNEFCO
- ☐ UNESCO
- ☐ UNESFO
- ☐ UNESCO

2. Which of the following are schoolchildren given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ a book
- ☐ a token
- ☐ £1
- ☐ a bookmark

3. Look at the section called **What Is World Book Day?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'yearly'.

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4. Fill in the missing words.

World Book Day activities are aimed at inspiring  
children's love of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. Find and copy the name of the description on the back cover of a book.

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6. **Read a non-fiction text about a favourite topic.**

Explain why you think the author has made this suggestion.

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7. How do you think that money is raised during World Book Day?

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8. Explain why you think that the author chose the sub-heading **Books for Everyone**.

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9. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day using 30 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. Who created World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ UNEFCE
- ☐ UNESCO
- ☐ UNESFO
- ☒ **UNESCO**

2. Which of the following are schoolchildren given on World Book Day? Tick one.

- ☐ a book
- ☒ **a token**
- ☐ £1
- ☐ a bookmark

3. Look at the section called **What Is World Book Day?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'yearly'.

**annual**

4. Fill in the missing words.

World Book Day activities are aimed at inspiring  
children's love of **books** and **reading**.

5. Find and copy the name of the description on the back cover of a book.

**blurb**

6. **Read a non-fiction text about a favourite topic.**

Explain why you think the author has made this suggestion.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author has suggested this because if someone is interested in a particular topic, then they will probably enjoy reading about this topic in a text. For example, if someone enjoys cycling then they may enjoy a book about bicycles.**

7. How do you think that money is raised during World Book Day?

**Pupils' own responses, such as: On World Book Day, I think that money is raised when people give a donation to take part in different activities. Some people may also receive sponsorship money for activities (like 'Readathons').**

8. Explain why you think that the author chose the sub-heading Books for Everyone.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author chose this sub-heading because the charity, Book Aid International, helps to give books to people who may not otherwise be able to have a book. This means that everyone can have a book of their own.**

9. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day using 30 words or fewer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: World Book Day is an event that happens each year and started in 1995. On World Book Day, people take part in different activities which encourage reading for pleasure.**

# World Book Day

## What Is World Book Day?

World Book Day is an annual event which aims to promote reading for pleasure and provide every child with the opportunity to own a book of their own. The event was created in 1995 by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization): an organisation responsible for ensuring that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn.



## What Happens on World Book Day?

On World Book Day, schoolchildren are encouraged to partake in fun and exciting activities, such as dressing up as characters from their favourite books, learning about authors and taking part in fun reading challenges (such as 'Readathons'). It is hoped that, in doing so, children will be further inspired to engage more with books and reading materials, helping to encourage them to read for pleasure.

Over the years, an increasing number of organisations and institutions have joined schools in celebrating World Book Day, including: libraries, booksellers, publishers and authors.

On World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a token to purchase one of a range of books for £1. This incentive aims to enable all children to receive at least one new book each year, inspiring a passion for reading and books in all.

## Why Is Reading Important?

A number of studies have shown that reading for pleasure has a positive impact on children's achievement at school; it can help aid comprehension skills and widen a child's vocabulary. By reading a variety of texts, children may gain a greater general knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Reading for pleasure also enables young people to develop better problem-solving skills and greater empathy which helps to make and maintain positive relationships with others.

Author of the popular 'How to Train Your Dragon' books and National Literacy Trust Ambassador, Cressida Cowell, said, "Reading gives children the very literacy skills they need to succeed at school, at work and in life... Just one book can make a huge difference."





## Books for Everyone

As well as promoting the importance of reading for pleasure, many of the activities carried out during World Book Day help to fundraise for a number of charities, such as Book Aid International. This charity believes that 'books have the power to change lives' and that everyone deserves the right to access high-quality books. They provide books for people around the world who, for whatever reason, cannot access reading materials, such as those affected by war and poverty.

## Not Sure What to Read?

It can sometimes be difficult to find a book that you find interesting and engaging. Book covers can be very eye-catching and offer a useful snapshot of what a book may be about but sometimes we need help to choose that perfect next read. Here are some top tips to help you to select that perfect book:

Read the blurb on the back cover. This will provide you with a useful insight into what the book is about. If the description arouses your interest, you may decide to give the book a try.

Have a quick flick through. By having a brief look at the inside of the book, you will be able to get an idea of the size of the font and whether it has any illustrations or quirky layout devices that might grab your attention.

Ask for a recommendation. Why not ask your friends and classmates if they have read any good books recently that they might recommend? They may be able to offer you their opinions and give you a quick summary of what a book may be about.

Read a non-fiction text about a familiar topic. This could be a fact book, a biography/autobiography or a magazine about something or someone that interests you.

Variety is key. While it is often convenient to stick to what we know we like, by trying something new we can often surprise ourselves.

Consider a film tie-in. Perhaps you have seen a film lately based on a book. Why not try reading the text that inspired this film version?

Persevere a little. Sometimes, a book may not grab you instantly so it is important to read the first few chapters. It can sometimes take a little time to become engrossed in a story and its characters.

Visit your local library. Borrowing a book is free of charge for children and librarians are often on hand to provide some helpful advice and offer suggestions.

# Questions

1. What does UNESCO stand for? Tick one.
- ☐ United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization
  - ☐ United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - ☐ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - ☐ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Conservation Organization

2. **World Book Day is an annual event which aims to promote reading for pleasure.**

Which word is **not** a synonym of 'pleasure'? Tick one.

- ☐ understanding
- ☐ happiness
- ☐ amusement
- ☐ enjoyment

3. What are schoolchildren given on World Book Day?

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4. Fill in the missing words.

Reading for \_\_\_\_\_ also enables young people to  
develop better \_\_\_\_\_ skills and greater empathy.

5. Look at the section called **Not Sure What to Read?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'something that you have already encountered or experienced'.

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6. Why might a child want to read a book which has a film tie-in?

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7. Explain why you think reading for pleasure can help widen a child's vocabulary.

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8. Why do you think that libraries are involved in celebrating World Book Day?

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9. The charity Book Aid International believes that 'books have the power to change lives'  
Explain what is meant by 'books have the power to change lives'.

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10. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day using 25 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. What does UNESCO stand for? Tick one.
  - ☐ United Nations Educational, Social and Cultural Organization
  - ☐ United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization
  - ☒ **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**
  - ☐ United Nations Educational, Scientific and Conservation Organization
  
2. **World Book Day is an annual event which aims to promote reading for pleasure.**  
Which word is **not** a synonym of 'pleasure'? Tick one.
  - ☒ **understanding**
  - ☐ happiness
  - ☐ amusement
  - ☐ enjoyment
  
3. What are schoolchildren given on World Book Day?  
**Schoolchildren in the UK are given a token to purchase one of a range of books for £1.**
  
4. Fill in the missing words.  
  

Reading for **pleasure** also enables young people to  
develop better **problem-solving** skills and greater empathy.
  
5. Look at the section called **Not Sure What to Read?**  
Find and copy one word which means the same as 'something that you have already encountered or experienced'.  
**familiar**
  
6. Why might a child want to read a book which has a film tie-in?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: A child might want to read a book with a film tie-in because if it is a film that they have enjoyed, then they are likely to enjoy the book too.**
  
7. Explain why you think reading for pleasure can help widen a child's vocabulary.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Reading for pleasure may help widen a child's vocabulary because, by reading a range of different words, the child may begin to use these words themselves in their own speech and writing.**
  
8. Why do you think that libraries are involved in celebrating World Book Day?  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that libraries are involved in celebrating World Book Day because libraries provide easy access to a range of books which helps to promote reading for pleasure.**

9. The charity Book Aid International believes that 'books have the power to change lives'. Explain what is meant by 'books have the power to change lives'.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think 'books have the power to change lives' because books help people to learn and a good education can make a huge difference to people's lives. It can help people to get jobs and earn an income.**

10. Summarise what you have learnt about World Book Day using 25 words or fewer.

**World Book Day is an annual event which began in 1995. The event fundraises for charity and encourages people (especially children) to read for pleasure.**