

Celebrating a Book Week

Creating a Book Event

- A great way to promote the pleasures of reading is to come together as a school or a class for a book event. Here we provide a few examples that you may use or adapt to fit with your own theme or focus.

Our Favourite Books

- In assembly the week prior to book week, ask the teachers to bring in their favourite children's book. Play 'Guess Who' in assembly. Can the children match the books to the teachers? Explain that next week's theme for Book Week is favourite books and that they must bring their favourite book to school on Monday.
- Plan a selection of activities for each class for the following week based around their favourite books, such as:
 - Draw the front cover of their favourite book. Sort the class's favourite books into genres to find out what type of books are the most popular in your class.
 - Write a sequel to their favourite story.
 - Draw a character map for their favourite book identifying the relationships between the characters.
 - 'Read on the Ring' – children keep their favourite books with them at all times and every time the bell rings the whole class (including the teacher) should stop and read for 5 minutes.
 - Spend a whole day planning and making a story sack to accompany their favourite book. Begin the

day by looking first-hand at a range of story sacks plus the things they might include, such as props, puppets, games, quizzes, non-fiction books. The children should then plan their story sack on a design sheet and spend the day making the sack and its contents.

- Hold a favourite book fun day. Ask the children to come to school dressed up as a character from their favourite book and plan a day in which each class is involved in fun-filled activities related to favourite books.

Comic Strips

- In the opening assembly at the beginning of book week, introduce the children to the genre of comic strips. Identify the features of a comic strip and explain the history of the comic strip as a genre.
- Create a quiz that will test the children's knowledge of comic strips. On laminated book shapes, spell out the word 'comic strip' and on the back of each letter put a number that represents points to be won. Prepare a set of questions related to comic strips and place in a bag or box. Each team takes it in turn to pick a question. If they answer correctly, they choose a letter from the words *comic strip* and turn it over to reveal how many points they have won for their team.
- Collect a range of comic or annuals so that the children may have first-hand experience of comic strips.
- Compare old comics to new comics and look at the similarities and differences.

- Invite the children to plan and draw their own comic strip using familiar characters.
- Practise using speech and thought bubbles. Laminate some large comic strip pictures and ask the children to add their own speech and thought bubbles to the pictures.
- On a particular day in Book Week, invite the children to dress up as their favourite comic strip character. During the day the children could take part in activities relating to comics. This day could begin with a 'crazy' assembly in which a teacher in role as 'Walter the Softie' attempts to lead a sensible assembly based around comic strips when he is interrupted by another teacher in role as 'Dennis the Menace' who comes in and creates havoc!

Fairy Tales

- In the opening assembly at the beginning of Book Week, introduce the children to the theme of fairy tales and explain that during this week each class will study a different fairy tale. To begin the week, gather a selection of objects from different fairy tales and ask the children if they can match the objects to the correct fairy tale.
- Gather together a selection of different versions of the same fairy tale for each class or year group. These should include traditional, humorous, nonsense, etc.
- Focus on the traditional version of your fairy tale first. Discuss plot, characters, etc.
- Ask the children to write riddles or haiku poems relating to different fairy tales.
- Give the children a choice of how to represent the story, such as story map, zigzag book, cartoon strip, poem.

- Ask the children to write a fairy tale from a different character's point of view.
- Ask the children to write a modern version of a fairy tale.
- Hold a whole-school fairy tale fun day to finish off Book Week. The children should spend the day taking part in lots of activities relating to fairy tales.

For example:

- **Food technology** – bake gingerbread men.
- **Drama** – put the children into groups of five, and according to the characters they are dressed up as, they invent a new fairy tale to perform.
- **Music** – using the song 'There was a Princess Long Ago', invite the children to compose their own version based around a fairy tale of their choice.
- **Outdoor Adventure Activity** – hide objects related to fairy tales as clues around the school. With each clue hide a letter. The children must collect all the letters and unscramble them to make words, such as *fairy tale*, *Cinderella*.
- **D&T** – provide a range of construction kits and materials for the children to use. Make a set of challenge cards for the children, such as make a castle for the giant, make a broomstick for the witch, make a carriage for Cinderella.

