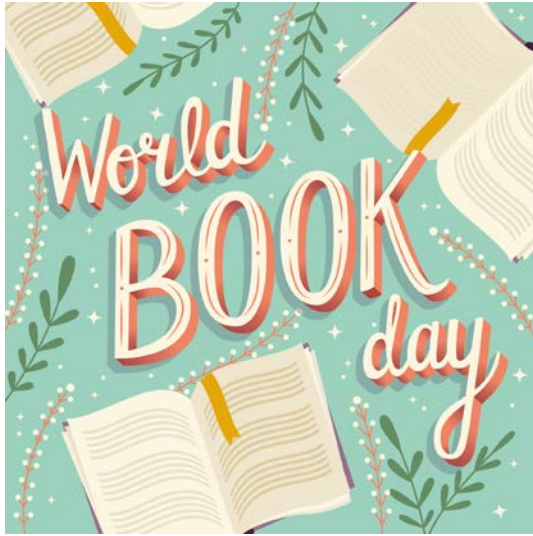


Did you know?

World Book and Copyright Day



Read, so you never feel alone – from Austen to Dickens, from Angelou to Wilde there is always someone to keep you company, while expanding your horizons. And you can let your reading be part of something worldwide: *World Book and Copyright Day.*

World Book and Copyright Day was founded by UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation) to promote the enjoyment of books and reading. Every year on 23 April, there is a global celebration putting all kinds of

books in the spotlight to bring connections between the past and the future, between cultures and between generations. All aspects of reading are encouraged from supporting literacy, reading to and with children, to opening access to scientific knowledge and educational resources. Besides readers themselves, the book industry is also involved: publishers, booksellers and libraries.

The date chosen, 23 April, already has particular significance in the literary world, as it was the day when the world-famous writers William Shakespeare, Miguel de Cervantes and Inca Garcilaso de la Vega all died.

In the three weeks leading up to 23 April, UNESCO shares quotes, poems and messages on social media to symbolize the power of books and encourage reading as much as possible. By creating a sense of community through the shared readings and the shared knowledge, readers around the world can connect and mutually help curb loneliness. Something that is so essential during these difficult times we are living through.

In the UK however, World Book Day is celebrated on the first Thursday of March and is an important event within schools to encourage reading for pleasure. Teachers and children dressing up as favourite characters is a particularly important feature – lots of Harry Potters, Peter Rabbits and Alices! However, the more serious side of the event is recognizing that reading can have a significant impact on children's wellbeing.

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Did you know?

Reading has the dual purpose of educating and entertaining the reader. Whether we are reading to learn or to be transported to other worlds, it takes us somewhere outside of ourselves while allowing us to discover what lies within us. Remember those magical moments curled up on the sofa at home lost in your favourite novel? Or under the duvet at night, when your parents had said goodnight and you desperately want to finish the chapter?

With so many parents having to home school their children during the current crisis, one way to support and improve their literacy is to turn on the subtitles when children are watching television programmes – a subtle, but apparently successful way to improve their reading. (And that can be done every day, not just on World Book and Copyright Day!)

If you would like to find out more about UNESCO's World Book and Copyright Day, then please click here:

<https://en.unesco.org/commemorations/worldbookday>

If you would like to use World Book Day in your class, then we have provided you with two activities at A2 level **Opening Lines** and **A Tale of Two Cities – Now**

Teacher's notes

Opening lines (A2 15+ minutes)

- Make a copy of **Opening Lines**, one for each student.
- Ask students if they have read any good books recently. Do they remember the first lines of the book?
- On the board write: *Marley was dead, to begin with*. Tell students these are the first lines of a famous book – which one? (*A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens.)
- Tell students they are going to work in pairs to match the first lines of books with their title and author.
- Hand out copies of **Opening Lines**, one to each student and ask them to work with a partner to do the matching activity. Help with any unknown language.
- Check answers together in class.
- Key: 1c, 2h, 3k, 4a, 5i, 6b, 7d, 8e, 9f, 10j. You do not need g: *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell.
- Ask students if they have read these books.
- Ask students to talk about a book they could recommend to other students.

Did you know?

A Tale of Two Cities – Now (A2 15+ minutes)

A Tale of Two Cities (1859) is a historical novel by Charles Dickens, set in London and Paris before and during the French Revolution.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Tale_of_Two_Cities

- Make a copy of **A Tale of Two Cities – Now**, one for each student.
- On the board write: *A Tale of Two Cities* and ask students if they know this book (see information above).
- Tell students they are going to read the first few lines of this novel.
- Hand out copies of **A Tale of Two Cities – Now**, one to each student and ask them to read through the text in the box. Help with any unknown language.
- German Translation:

Es war die beste aller Zeiten, es war die schlimmste aller Zeiten, es war das Zeitalter der Weisheit, es war das Zeitalter der Dummheit, es war die Epoche des Glaubens, es war die Epoche des Unglaubens, es war die Saison des Lichts, es war die Saison der Dunkelheit, es war der Frühling der Hoffnung, es war der Winter der Verzweiflung, wir hatten alles vor uns, wir hatten nichts vor uns.

- Read the English text aloud, stressing the words in **bold** so the students can better understand it. Ask the students to repeat the text after you.
- Tell students to work with a partner and answer the questions in Number 2 underneath.

Opening lines

1 These are the opening lines of ten famous books. Can you match the author with the opening lines? (There is one title and author you do not need.)

Opening lines

- 1 Marley was dead, to begin with.
- 2 The sun did not shine, it was too wet to play, so we sat in the house all that cold, cold wet day.
- 3 The pretty little Swiss town of Mayenfield lies at the foot of a mountain range, whose grim rigged peaks tower high above the valley below.
- 4 It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen.
- 5 Mr and Mrs Dursley, of number four Privet Drive, were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much.
- 6 Here is Edward Bear, coming down the stairs now, bump bump bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin.
- 7 Mr. Sherlock Holmes, who was usually very late in the mornings, save upon those not infrequent occasions when he was up all night, was seated at the breakfast table.
- 8 James Bond, with two double bourbons inside him, sat in the final departure lounge of Miami Airport and thought about life and death.
- 9 When Mr Bilbo Baggins of Bag End announced that he would shortly be celebrating his eleventy-first birthday with a party of special magnificence, there was much talk and excitement in Hobbiton.
- 10 It was five o'clock on a winter's morning in Syria.

Title and author

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| a | <i>1984</i> by George Orwell | g | <i>Black Beauty</i> by Anna Sewell |
| b | <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> by A A Milne | h | <i>The Cat in the Hat</i> by Dr Seuss |
| c | <i>A Christmas Carol</i> by Charles Dickens | i | <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> by JK Rowling |
| d | <i>The Hounds of the Baskervilles</i> by Arthur Conan Doyle | j | <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> by Agatha Christie |
| e | <i>Goldfinger</i> by Ian Fleming | k | <i>Heidi</i> by Johanne Spyri |
| f | <i>The Fellowship of the Ring</i> by J R R Tolkien | | |

2 Have you read any of these books? Did you enjoy it? Why/not? What is your favourite book? Tell a partner.

A tale of two cities - Now

1 Read the first lines of *A tale of two cities* (1859) by Charles Dickens (1812-1870).

It was the **best** of times, it was the **worst** of times, it was the age of **wisdom**, it was the age of **foolishness**, it was the epoch of **belief**, it was the epoch of **incredulity**, it was the season of **Light**, it was the season of **Darkness**, it was the **spring of hope**, it was the **winter of despair**, we had **everything** before us, we had **nothing** before us...

2 Now, think about our life today and answer these questions with a partner.

- 1 a Are we living in the **best of times**?
b Or are we living in the **worst of times**?
- 2 a Are we in the age of **wisdom**?
b Or are we in the age of **foolishness**?
- 3 a Are we in the epoch of **belief**?
b Or are we in the epoch of **incredulity**?
- 4 a Are we in the season of **Light**?
b Are we in the season of **Darkness**?
- 5 a Are we in the **spring of hope**?
b Are we in the **winter of despair**?
- 6 a Do we have **everything before us**?
b Do we have **nothing before us**?