

Story SPACE



Book Aid
International



Fundraising pack

Thank you so much for signing up to
Story Space for Book Aid International
– you're amazing!



WELCOME TO Story SPACE



Taking part in Story Space means creating a magical space for pupils to read for a day. You know the importance of reading – and so do we.

At Book Aid International we provide over one million new books every year in the places where they will make the biggest difference. In 2024 we supplied books to 771 public and community libraries, and 2,065 schools. But we can only do this with your support.

That's why this autumn you, along with many other schools across the UK, you will be doing something amazing – asking your pupils to wear their comfiest clothes and helping them to create a magical reading space in their school so that together we can share the joy of reading across the world.

Every £2 donation from your pupils could help Book Aid International deliver a brand-new

book that will mean everything to a child like Rachel.

Rachel is six and lives in Malawi. In her community most families struggle to make a living from small-scale farming. Even if her rural community wasn't many miles from the nearest bookshop, buying books would be impossible for her family – they simply couldn't afford it. But thanks to donations from schools like yours, the children in Rachel's community now have access to a vibrant school library. This is their story space where they get to experience the magic of reading.

The funds you raise will help more children like Rachel and her friend Grace to find their own Story Space.

Three great reasons to get involved



1

Taking part in Story Space gives schools, nurseries, libraries and clubs a great way to **encourage children to read for pleasure** whilst at the same time learning more about the world around them.

2

Story Space is **easy and fun to organise**. All the children need to do is come along in their comfy clothes, bring a good book and a small donation. Every £2 donation from your pupils could help Book Aid International deliver a brand-new book.

3

Around the world, there are millions of schoolchildren who have never seen or held a new book. Their only experience of reading is often a textbook that they must share with classmates. By getting involved, you can **raise vital funds** to help make sure that more children have the opportunity to read and to learn.



How your Story Space can help provide books around the world...



The books you send will start their journey on a truck like this...



...going to one of the 35 countries where we've supported readers over recent years...





...helping to fill a Story Space like this library made out of shipping containers.



Wait... how do you make a library out of a shipping container?

- 1 We work with one of our partners worldwide to place a shipping container in a community where few people have the chance to read.
- 2 It gets painted and fitted out with everything from shelving to windows to turn it into a magical Story Space
- 3 The shelves are filled with more than 5,000 brand-new books.

And from that point on, the possibilities are endless - children can discover books they remember forever, students can prepare for their exams and adults can learn how to build a business.

Thousands of people can start imagining a more hopeful future.



How to take part in Story Space



1 Choose the date that works best for your school.

Many schools will be taking part on the Wednesday before autumn half term. This is when Book Aid International will be sharing lots of stories of schools taking part across our website and social media. But don't worry if there's a different date that works better for your school. Taking part is what matters most!



2 Decide how you will make a magical space for reading.

We want you to run the day doing whatever works best for your school and your pupils.

We're suggesting schools create a cosy reading space – maybe asking the children to bring in a blanket, cushion or pillow to help make a cosy den or decorate an existing reading corner together.

Reading activities in your magical space could be 15 minutes or could last the whole day – it's really up to you and how the day best fits in with your plans.



3 Fundraise for us and help share the magic of reading with children across the world.

It's important you choose an amount that is accessible and works for your school and pupils. Every donation will help us to reach children who have little, or no, access to books and reading.

Every £2 your school raises will mean another book sent to a child like Dalitso.

“ I have a friend who I read with. At his home there is a tree where we go to read together.

Dalitso, 13, Tembetembe Village, Malawi

“ My favourite book is *Little Monkey* because it is wonderful. The monkey is in the jungle!”

Praise, Malawi



4 Make a Space for Stories!

Once again, feel free to run Story Space your way. On your chosen day, we're suggesting that you ask everyone to wear comfy clothes or warm pyjamas, bring a cushion or pillow and a blanket and make a space for stories. Don't forget to share your fantastic spaces on social media and feel free to tag us in your photos. We'll be sharing our favourites from the UK and from our partners across the world throughout the week.

Share your stories with us at:

f @bookaid @bookaidinternational
X @Book_Aid @bookaidint.bsky.social



5 Turn your donations into books.

After the day is all wrapped up don't forget the most important part – send any money raised back to us at Book Aid International.

You can use the enclosed paying in slip and Freepost envelope to send us a cheque, or use your card details. Or you can pay in online at www.bookaid.org/ss-payin

If you can't take cash payments from students you can link your school up to our Story Space JustGiving campaign and track the amount you raise there – www.justgiving.com/campaign/storyspace

Don't worry – we'll send you an email with all the information on how to do this nearer the time too.



Once your amazing fundraising total is received, we'll get to work packing and sending the books that children worldwide need.

And of course, your school will receive an all-important certificate to celebrate how many books you've helped to send to children like Dalitso.





Make space for stories

For a day in October, create a magical space in your school and join us to celebrate the joy of reading.



If you have a short break:

- Take a break for reading together. Use cushions and blankets to create a cosy reading space for a story with your pupils. Whether it's a page, a chapter or a whole story – everyone takes time to unwind together and get lost in the magic of a good book.
- Ask pupils to just get comfy and read their favourite books.



If you have a lesson or two:

- Take a longer amount of time to create a magical reading space - ask the children to design their own spaces.
- Get your pupils to recommend a favourite book from the school library and create a display. Each pupil can choose a new book from the recommendations to read as part of their Story Space activities.

Some other ideas for the day:

- Everyone comes to school in their comfiest and snuggly clothes.
- Ask pupils to bring a cushion or pillow and blanket so they can get cosy in the school hall or gym. Or maybe bring in a teddy or cuddly toy.
- Push desks together to make reading dens in the classrooms.



- Invite everyone to the library or hall to read together. If the weather is nice enough you could even take your books outside.
- Ask an author or local storyteller to come to the school to share stories aloud in your magical reading space.

Create a Story Space reading den without breaking the bank

1

Choose a Location

- Select a quiet, low-traffic area of the classroom or school library
- Ensure it's away from emergency exits and doesn't block walkways

2

Create the Frame

Option A: Cardboard Den

- Use large appliance boxes, or stick lots of smaller boxes together
- Cut out windows and a door flap for ventilation and access
- Tape boxes together to form a small "room"

Option B: Blanket Fort

- Drape sheets or blankets over desks, tables or chairs
- Secure fabric with clips, clothes pegs, or Velcro

3

Add a cosy interior

- Lay down soft mats, rugs, or yoga mats
- Arrange cushions or beanbags for seating
- Add small baskets of age-appropriate books
- Use battery-powered fairy lights or lanterns for a warm glow

4

Decorate

- Hang up a "Reading Den" sign outside
- Decorate with student-made art or themed posters (e.g., forest, space, fairy tale)

5

Enjoy your Story Space

- In small groups share the magic of reading



Extra special fundraising ideas

As well as asking each pupil to make a donation, here are some more ideas to help boost your fundraising total for Book Aid International:

- Sell treats such as hot chocolate or fun snacks to truly make the day special
- Host a book sale. Ask everyone to donate their pre-loved books and during lunch, or after school, make them available to buy
- Put on a show where pupils can give a reading or recreate a scene from their favourite books or stories. Tickets could be sold to friends and family
- Let us know how you will be raising money and your ideas could be featured to inspire other schools



How your fundraising makes a difference

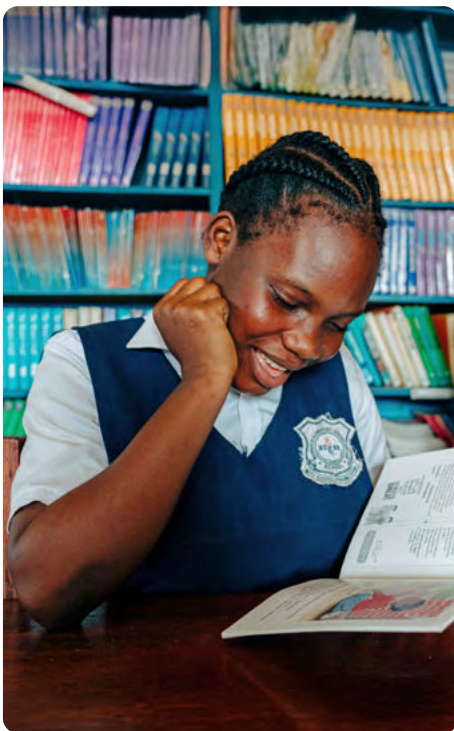
At Book Aid International, our vision is a future where everyone has the opportunity to read.

Working with our partners worldwide we deliver carefully selected brand-new books to schools, libraries and refugee camps.

Together we get books to the children who need them most – opening solar libraries where power is unreliable, creating reading spaces from shipping containers and even delivering books on the backs of camels.



Here are just a few stories that show how children across the world have made space for reading – and how your fundraising makes a difference.



Veronica, from Monrovia, Liberia

Favourite place to read: In the principal's office, in class and at home.

Favourite book: "I have more than one! They are *This Little River*, *School is Good*, *Health Habits for Everyone* and *Why Spider has 18 Legs*."

"I love the teachers at school. The teachers use books to teach us. I love reading, it is my favourite subject. I have books in my school. I read when I am in class and at home. I read books other than my lesson books because I want to read. When I grow up, I want to be a journalist. Learning how to read, it will help me become a journalist. I know it will help me.

When Book Aid International sends the next box of books I would like them to send books that have animals and fine stories, that's what I would pick. Those are the books I want them to send.

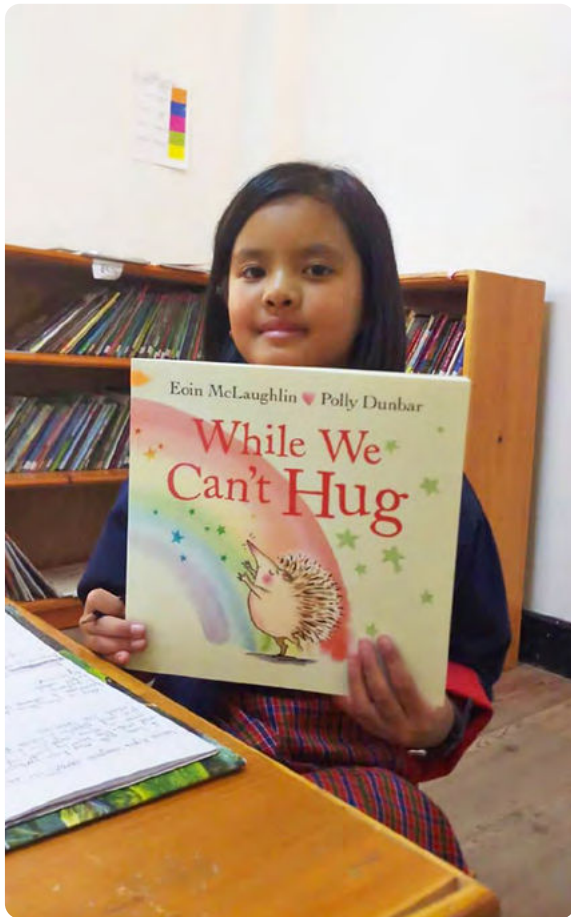
I would say to somebody who says books are not important, don't fool yourself. Books are very important, reading helps me to understand, to learn not only to understand my lessons but to understand some things that I don't know. That's why I love reading. I know readers are leaders. If you can read, you can lead."

“

When I grow up, I want to be a journalist. Learning how to read, it will help me become a journalist. I know it will help me.

Veronica





Tenzin, from Changjiji, Bhutan

Favourite place to read: In her local library that she's been visiting for four years

Favourite book: *While We Can't Hug* by Eoin McLaughlin

"I loved this book so much I even asked my friends to borrow it and read it.

I like this book because even though the tortoise is not able to hug his best friend, the hedgehog, there are so many things they still do together like writing letters, singing and painting to show each other their love. These are also some of the things that my best friends and I do that makes us happy."

“

I loved this book so much I even asked my friends to borrow it and read it.

Tenzin

Ahmad, from Beirut, Lebanon

Favourite place to read: In the school library

Favourite book: "I like stories that teach me something."

"I live not too far from the school. It takes me about 20 to 30 minutes to get to school. I like school. I like the teachers the most. They're nice and teach us well.

I really like to read stories. I like stories that teach me something, that have something to learn at the end of it.

I love it when we come to the library to read stories. In the library I think I would like to see more stories with a moral in it, I like those."

“

I love it when we come to the library to read stories.

Ahmad



Story SPACE

Be inspired by Forest Hill School

These fantastic fundraisers ran a “Who read what?” competition and a second-hand book sale. In 2024 they raised £100.

“

Our school has fundraised for Book Aid International for years as I know it is a good cause. I taught for a year in Turkana, Kenya and the school library there was two boxes of very dusty, old books. Promoting our annual book sale provides a good opportunity to remind our pupils how fortunate they are to have the resources we do.

Mrs Karen Hans MA FCLIP, Librarian



More resources

Download additional resources to make your Story Space extra special including:

- More printable posters to advertise your Story Space fundraising events
- A PowerPoint presentation to share with your students
- A video showing the difference your school can make
- Activity ideas for your class

And don't forget you can order more FREE stickers for your pupils too so they can all proudly celebrate that they made space for reading.

Get all your resources at www.bookaid.org/ss-resources