Bring the world into your school with Book Aid International

In this pack you’ll find activities to enrich your classroom and raise funds to send books around the world

Book Aid International needs your school’s help to send one million books to people around the world who do not have the books they need. Whether it’s around World Book Day or at any other time in the school year, your school can help to make sure that no child misses out on the opportunities - and the magic - that reading and books can bring.

Fundraising to help send books to people around the world also gives you a fantastic opportunity to raise pupils’ awareness of the wider world and encourage your school to get reading.

We hope that you will use these activities to bring stories from around the world into your classroom, enrich your lessons, help your pupils discover the joy of reading and raise funds so that we can send books around the world.
The need for books

Books are magic! They allow people from all walks of life to succeed in education, learn new skills and enrich their lives. But millions of people cannot afford to buy books for themselves. Many schools around the world have only tattered textbooks for children to share and even local libraries have only a few out of date books. Bookshops are often non-existent and even where there are books for sale, most people cannot afford them.

Without access to books, children find it more difficult to learn to read and without basic literacy and numeracy they are far less likely to escape poverty. Later in life, adults without books can't get the information they need to help them build a more prosperous future and professionals like doctors, nurses and engineers can't keep their skills up to date.

In short, the lack of books around the world leaves millions of people unable to reach their full potential.

What we do

Our vision is a world where everyone, regardless of their background, has the books they need. Every year, we send around one million brand new books to public and community libraries, schools, refugee camps, hospitals and prisons in sub-Saharan Africa and beyond. The books we send reach people who would otherwise have few, or even no books at all.

We also run a range of projects which help people make the most of the books we send. These projects often focus on young people through setting up school libraries, training teachers and librarians and creating special areas in public libraries where even very young children can discover books and begin to read.

Every year our work reaches up to 30 million people around the world.
How the funds you raise will change lives

The books we send are donated brand new from UK and US publishers, and every £2 you raise allows us to source, store, select and ship a brand new book to a community that really needs it. We work across sub-Saharan Africa and beyond, and the books you fundraise to send will be shipped to public and community libraries, schools, refugee camps, hospitals and prisons around the world. Below, you can see just a few of the people the books you help to send will reach.

“I have already read all the books in the library. I am going to be a writer, so I must keep reading.”
- Lydia, Uganda

“My favourite book is Frankie’s Magic Football. It is about a team of players who go for adventures using a magic ball.”
- Dorcas, Kenya

“Reading helps me have a better chance of passing my exams.”
- Evelyn, Malawi

“I didn’t see my grandchildren very often but since I learned how to read we are always together reading their favourite books.”
- Peranella, Rwanda

“My life without reading would be boring and empty. But with reading it is enjoyable and lively.”
- Yenama Hintach, West Bank

“Now I am one of the best readers in my class. Some of my friends can’t read so I help them.”
- Margaret, 13, Mukuyu Community School, Zambia
Where will the books you help to send go?

Here are just two examples which showcase the sorts of places your books support.

**Kakuma refugee camp, Kenya**
170,000 people who have fled war, famine and persecution live in Kakuma refugee camp in Northern Kenya. They live in informal shelters. Their homes are no more than mud bricks and some corrugated steel and they survive on rations while they wait to return home or be resettled. Most will wait years, or even generations. 100,000 children and young people live in Kakuma. For most of them, education offers their best, or only, chance to leave the camp by winning a scholarship.

Every £2 your school raises could help to send another book to a child in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

**Chilimba Primary School, Malawi**
Blantyre is a city in the south of Malawi. More than 100 children cram into a single classroom in Blantyre and few families can afford books at home. Education is a chance for a better future for Malawi’s children, but schools cannot afford books. Without books, pupils are less able to learn, succeed in school and reach their full potential.

£500 is enough to send a box of books to a school like Chilimba Primary.
Get started

On the following pages you'll find a range of ideas to bring books to life in your classroom, bring a world of stories into your school and raise funds that will send life-changing books to people around the world who need them.

We’ve given you some ideas to get you started – but don’t let us limit your creativity! If you have an idea that we’ve missed, go for it! If we can help in any way, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Bring the world into the classroom this World Book Day

Celebrating World Book Day at your school by asking pupils to dress up as their favourite character? Why not dress up for books by asking parents to use our free, easy to follow dress up templates and donate £1 (or more!) to our work?

Our costumes have been designed with the busy parent in mind and many can be assembled in just a few minutes using household items!

See our full dress-up collection on our website at www.bookaid.org/worldbookday

You can use this or any of the activities listed in this pack around World Book Day, or at any other time in the school year.
**Teacher’s Favourite Book**

We all love to read, but maybe the children in your class don’t realise you do too. So why not make a fun guessing game out of it?

Get all of the staff in your school to bring in their favourite childhood book (or just print off a copy of the cover) and a photo of their younger self to go with the cover.

Then get the children to match each teacher to their favourite book. It’s such a great way of introducing kids to new books and helping them understand you were just like them once too!

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**Mystery Book**

With so many amazing books, how do you choose just one to read? You can’t always judge a book by its cover! Mystery Books is a great way to get children to read something a little different.

Pick out a selection of books from the library, wrap them in brown paper and write a few keywords on the paper about the book.

Suggest clues such as where the book takes place, the language spoken in that location, or an animal associated with it. For older children, clues could link to events they’re learning about in history or places in geography.

Then just ask the children to pick a book they like the sound of from the keywords. It could be their new favourite!

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**Book Lucky Dip**

It’s great to talk about our favourite books and why we love them. This activity gives your kids the chance to do just that!

Ask them to bring their favourite book in and place it into a box. Then, at the end of each day (or week), pick out a book and ask the child to talk about why they brought that particular book in.
Magic Potions Class

Crazy concoctions and powerful potions are a big part of stories. From love potions to invisibility drinks, they sound like great fun to make. Get your class involved by concocting your own.

For any ingredients you are providing, why not rename them things like “frog juice” and “unicorn saliva” and put them in fancy looking bottles or jars for that added bit of magic?

Here are a few enchanting recipes to enjoy:

Hubble Bubble

Things are going to get a bit messy with the Hubble Bubble potion!

What you’ll need:
- Vinegar
- Washing up liquid
- Bowls
- Bicarbonate of soda
- Food colouring

Instructions
1. Mix two spoons of bicarbonate of soda with one spoon of washing up liquid and a few drops of food colouring.
2. Stir it all together and watch the colour change.
3. When you’re ready, add in a few teaspoons of vinegar to the mixture and watch the magic!

Unicorn’s Essence

Capture the spirit of the unicorns with this glittry potion.

What you’ll need:
- A jar or bottle
- Clear glue
- Glitter
- Warm water
- Food colouring (optional)

Instructions
1. Fill the bottle 1/3 of the way with warm water.
2. Add the glue and stir to combine.
3. If you want to add food colouring, add 3 drops now and stir. Don’t put too much in, however, as it could make it hard to see the glitter.
4. Next, pour in the glitter, stir again, then top up with the rest of the warm water. Leave a little space at the top for the liquid to move.
5. Finally screw the lid on tightly and shake!

The Great Outdoors

Get the class to head outdoors in search of all the ingredients for this nature-fuelled potion.

First, each pupil needs to find:
- 4 straight twigs
- 10 leaves
- 3 small stones
- 2 handfuls of grass
- Bowls

Instructions
1. Once all the ingredients have been gathered, mix it all together with some cold water in a bowl, putting each ingredient in one at a time, and say the magic words (you can make these up).
Write to a Child In Africa

No matter where in the world you live, we all love a great story. Books give us a chance to escape to another planet, transport ourselves to the past or just laugh along to silly tales.

At Book Aid International, we want everyone to experience the joy of books. We send books to libraries and schools across Africa and beyond.

Why not get the children to write about their favourite books, a place around the world they’ve been learning about, or even a story about what life is like in the UK? We’ll send your letters on to the children we work with, so they too can see that books have an amazing effect all across the world. Who knows, maybe the pupils overseas love the same books as your pupils.

Short Story Bunting

This activity offers a fun new way to display your pupils’ creativity and get them involved in making something together.

Use the template on the next page and trace or photocopy as many as you need for your class. The children can then decorate their bunting however they like. Older children can even write a little short story in each triangle, while younger children can draw pictures and nursery classrooms can get a bit messy by printing hand prints onto the bunting with paint.

Now you just need to cut the triangles out, place twine along the dotted line and glue the flap closed around it.

Hang them wherever you like to show off your pupils’ Short Story Bunting!
Template for Short Story Bunting
Hold a Booky Bake Sale

Baking is fun, relaxing and hugely satisfying, just like books! Enjoy the pleasure of baking delicious treats whilst raising money so more people can enjoy the pleasure of reading.

From the simplest chocolate crispy cakes to elaborate creations worthy of the Great British Bake Off, selling cakes is a sure-fire way to raise money. You can sell your cakes throughout the school day of course, but you could consider combining your cake sale with upcoming plays, concerts, fetes or parents’ evenings when people might feel like a sweet treat.

Big Book Sale

Sometimes the simplest ideas are the best! If your school has old books, sell them for a suggested donation. You could also ask parents to provide old books that their children no longer use to offer up for sale.
Story Swap

See all the interesting and fun ways your class can take a story with Story Swap.

Split your class into groups of four and give each group a topic or theme. They then have to work together to write a story about that theme. Once finished, each group swaps their story with another group, who then reads it out to the class.

You could also collect all the stories and create a school story book, which parents could buy for a suggested donation of £2.

To get you started...

Why not use some of the following topics:

- Lost in space
- Exploring Kenya
- Imagine a classroom in Zimbabwe
- Going for gold at the Olympics

Become the Illustrator

Vividly written stories can craft incredible scenes in your head just from words on a page. This activity is a great chance to see what your children are imagining when they read.

Simply choose an excerpt from a famous children's book (or a less famous book that fits your curriculum!) and ask the children to have a go at drawing the scene that is happening.

You could even turn their drawings into a gallery and let parents take them home for a suggested £2 donation to Book Aid International. Every drawing a parent takes home will allow Book Aid International to support another child who doesn't have the books they need.
The Re-imagined Book

Is someone in your class the next Quentin Blake or Axel Scheffler? This activity gives your pupils the opportunity to recreate the cover of their favourite book, or even let their imagination run wild and come up with a brand new cover!

Why not make a pop-up gallery of all the covers? You could even suggest parents make a donation of £2 to Book Aid International to take one home.

Crazy Class Story

This is a fun technique for writing a story that gets children working together. Wild imaginations make the stories even more exciting and unusual, so let their imaginations go!

First, decide in class what the topic of the story should be, as well as the names of the main characters. Think about having an international theme that fits into what you’re teaching and brings the world into your classroom.

Then split the class into three groups. Each group is tasked with writing a section of the story. One group writes the beginning, the other the middle, the final group the ending. Together, they must write their sections then, when the time is up, gather together the three parts and read the stories aloud.

The end result will probably be a crazy story that makes no sense, so prepare for lots of laughing!

You could also collect all the stories and create a Crazy Story Book, which parents could buy for a suggested donation of £2.
Make your own corner bookmarks

It’s easy to get lost in a good book that you never want to put down - but sometimes, we need to save a bit for later. These Monster Corner Bookmarks are a colourful way to find your place again.

First, photocopy the templates provided on the next few pages and gather the crayons, glue and scissors you’ll need for this activity. Next, simply pass the sheets overleaf throughout your class and tell them to follow the instructions. Then they can either stick on the suggested decorations or design their bookmarks completely from scratch.
Corner page bookmark template

Cut around the dotted line and follow the instructions on the template.
Decorate your bookmark!

Colour and cut out the character features you want.

Wizard

Cat

Rabbit
Decorate your bookmark!

Colour and cut out the character features you want.

Monster
16 more school fundraising ideas

None of those ideas caught your fancy? We’ve got even more fab fundraising ideas.

**Our School’s Got Talent**
Host a show to discover who has the best talent at your school – who will it be?

**Silly sports day**
From a tug-of-war in wellies to the egg ‘n’ spoon in blindfolds, get sporty and get silly.

**DJ in the dark**
Turn off the lights and set up the decks – can you guess who is DJ-ing from the set they’re spinning?

**Get sponsored**
Sign up for a colour run, readathon, sponsored silence, cycle or a fancy dress fun run (which favourite book character will you dress up as?)

**Digital detox**
Surgically attached to your phone or tablet? See how long you can look up, not down and get sponsored at the same time.

**Food detox**
Give up your favourite snack or drink for a day, a week or a month – can you quit cake or lay off the crisps?

**D.E.A.R.**
**D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead for a whole day. Sounds good to us!

**Rap or rhyme battle**
Write and perform your own rap or poem inspired by a character or scene from your favourite book and challenge your classmates.

**Be inspired by Alice in Wonderland**
Throw a Mad Hatter’s Tea Party for your class.

**Dress down**
Go casual for the day (£1 a go!)

**D.E.A.R.**
**D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead for a whole day. Sounds good to us!

**Invent your own fun online challenge and share it socially**
What will you ask your friends and family to do?

**Get the staff dressing up too**
Imagine seeing the head teacher as Miss Trunchbull or the school librarian as Dumbledore! Sponsored of course.

**Host a quiz**
Books, music or general knowledge – pit your wits against your school’s best minds.

**Got to dance?**
Step up for a dancefloor challenge and show off your best moves, from ballet to ballroom to breakdance.

**Reading café**
Run your own themed Reading Café in the school hall or canteen for the day (and donate the proceeds!)

**Auction your art!**
Set up a gallery for all the talented artists and illustrators in your school – with the chance to bid for the piece you want to see hanging on your wall.

We would love to support your fundraising activities. If we can help, please don’t hesitate to contact us.
How to pay in the money you’ve raised

There are lots of ways to pay in your donations.

By cheque
Please make cheques payable to Book Aid International and send to:
39 – 41 Coldharbour Lane
Camberwell
London
SE5 9NR

Please include a note with your school’s name and address so we know who to thank.

Transfer through your bank
Please call us on 020 7733 3577 or email us on info@bookaid.org for our bank account details to complete your paying in slip.

Pay in online
Visit www.bookaid.org/donate

Any questions?
We would be happy to help! Get in touch for a chat any time on:

+44 (0)20 7733 3577
info@bookaid.org

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Reading donated books in Chesengoch Primary School, Kenya