

BOOK FAIR

ASSEMBLY BOOSTER!

In the run-up to your Book Fair, you can use assembly time to focus children's minds on the Book Fair and get the whole school excited about it! This leaflet contains some ideas you can use in assembly just before the Book Fair, to help set the scene for a successful event.

You can mix and match these ideas – use as many or as few of them as you like! If you choose an idea from each of the sections inside (Assembly Starters, Reading Ideas, Involving the Children, Don't Forget and Prayers) you can put a whole assembly together on the theme of books and reading. Alternatively, you can just add one or two ideas into your normal assembly to make sure children don't forget about the Book Fair!



Assembly Starters

Magic Carpet

- You need a rug, and a pile of 5 or 6 books appropriate for the age of the children.
- Sit on the rug while the children enter the hall. When they are settled, explain to the children that this is your magic carpet. It can take you anywhere! You can go to beautiful places, scary places and fascinating places. Take some suggestions for places you might visit on your carpet.
- Ask the children if they'd like to ride on your magic carpet. Choose a volunteer. When they try to step on to the carpet, say 'Before you can come on my magic carpet, you need one of these!' Hand the child a book and let them sit down. Do the same with 5 or 6 more volunteers.
- Talk about how books can be like a magic carpet. What sorts of places do the children think books can take us to? Share with the children part of one of your favourite books (from the Book Fair) that can take you on a magical journey in your imagination. Point out that the Book Fair will give children the chance to find their own 'magic carpets' to take them on an exciting journey ...

Book Quiz

- You need some simple questions, prepared in advance, about one or more books which you know lots of the children have read.
- You could provide three possible answers for each question, written on a flipchart.
- Start by explaining that because you know what good readers the children are, you're going to give them a little quiz.
- Ask your questions. You could either show children the three answers on the flipchart and let them decide which is correct by a show of hands, or ask for individual volunteers to answer.
- Give the children a round of applause for getting the answers right.
- Talk about reading. Why is it important? What couldn't we do, if we couldn't read? Share children's suggestions for their favourite books.
- Remind children about the Book Fair and encourage them to be sure to take home their invites.

Reading Ideas

You could use the Book Talk Notes in assembly to give children a taster of some of the great books on offer at the Book Fair. The Book Talk Notes suggest a passage from each book which you could read to whet children's appetite, and also give discussion and follow-up ideas, many of which would work well in assembly.

Point out to the children that the book you have focused on is just one of the many books they'll be able to choose from at the Fair.

Involving the Children

If you have the opportunity to involve the children in preparing for the assembly, you could use one or more of the following ideas.

- Ask each class to vote for their favourite book (either from the Book Fair selection or from their wider reading). At assembly, a group from each class can do a short talk on their favourite book to persuade others to read it.
- Ask a group of children to do a short drama presentation based on one of the Book Fair books. Harry and the Dinosaurs Make a Splash or Tiddler would be good for this – the children could act out the story as it is read aloud.
- To link with work on persuasive writing (e.g. in Years 4 or 5) children could make a poster persuading everyone to come to the Book Fair, and present their posters at assembly.

Don't Forget ...

Whether you are doing a whole assembly on the Book Fair or not, don't forget to remind children about the following important things!

- Remind everyone to take their invites home and make sure their parents know about the Book Fair.
- If you are running a competition in conjunction with the Book Fair (e.g. a colouring competition, or a Readathon-type event, or a celebration of work done by reading partners) don't forget to remind children of this and make sure that parents know about it too!
- You may want to remind children about how much you raised in free books for the school at your last Book Fair, and challenge them to try and beat the record this time around!



Prayers

Dear God,
Thank you for the fun and excitement we can
get from books.

Thank you for the way that books let us
experience new places and new things,
through the power of our imaginations.

Help us to share the fun of reading with other
people, and to remember that all good things
come from you.

Amen

Dear God,
Thank you for writers and illustrators who work
hard to create books for us to enjoy.
Help us to try our very best when we are
writing and illustrating our own work, too.

Amen