



Voting Activities

Creative activities to help you and your pupils vote in the Bookbug Picture Book Prize.

Age: 3–7

CFE Levels Early and First

Resource created by Scottish Book Trust

scottishbooktrust.com



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About this resource

This resource is to be used alongside the three shortlisted books in The Bookbug Picture Book Prize 2023. The activities will help you vote in the prize, as well as champion pupil voice as part of The Bookbug Picture Book Prize.

Every Primary 1 child in Scotland receives the Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag, which contains the three shortlisted books. If you work with a Primary 1 class, this offers a great opportunity to take part in the prize and vote. The books are also available to read and watch in our author videos so any year group can participate.

There are three simple steps to celebrating The Bookbug Picture Book Prize:

- Read the shortlist
- Celebrate the shortlist through activities
- Vote

This resource offers support and direction for all these steps.

Register to vote

Register online to take part in the prize in your class or school. Registering now will make casting your vote at a later date much easier. You will be entered into a competition to win a free set of books for your school if you register. It only takes a few quick clicks, and your school will be registered to take part in the prize. Register for The Bookbug Picture Book Prize now!

Pre-voting activities

Activity 1: Choose what to read first

LIT 0-02a

Look at the front and back cover of each book. Talk about what you think each story might be about. What do pupils think of the covers? What might happen in the story? Write a few comments and ideas down on a large sheet of paper or on the whiteboard. Based on the covers, let pupils choose which book to read first.

Activity 2: Read together

LIT 0-07a, LIT 0-16a, ENG 0-17a

Read all three of the shortlisted books or watch videos of the books being read aloud on the Scottish Book Trust website. This year the shortlisted books are:

- [Scaredy Bat by Jonathon Meres and illustrated by Anders Frang](#)
- [Stuck Inside by Sally Anne Garland](#)
- [My First Book of Sea Creatures illustrated by Zoë Ingram](#)

After each book, ask pupils what they liked about the book and if they were surprised by what happened in the story. Encourage pupils to talk about the book, and ask questions about the events, ideas and characters in the book.

Activity 3: Voting and our rights

HWB 0-09a, SOC 1-16a, SOC 1-17a

We all have the right for our voice to be heard. One way we express our right to be heard in a democracy is through voting. You can use taking part in The Bookbug Picture Book Prize as an opportunity to talk about children's rights, and/or responsibilities in society.

- Unicef offers resources to support the [UN Convention on Children's Rights](#).
- Amnesty International offers [resources and book recommendations to support exploring Children's Rights](#). *We Are All Born Free* and *Dreams of Freedom* are great books to look at to explore rights and responsibilities.
- The Scottish Government offers [resources to support exploring the Scottish Parliament](#).

If you would like to learn more about sharing books as a way to promote children's rights as part of your professional development, watch our webinar on [promoting children's rights through book sharing](#).

Activity 4: Book discussion

LIT 0-09a, LIT 0-10a, HWB 0-10a

Everyone in class will have a different opinion on the books, and which is their favourite and why. It is important to hear everyone's different opinions and learn to respect them.

Sit pupils in a circle and pass one of the three books around the circle. Whoever is holding the book must tell the class one thing they like about the story, or one thing they do not like. Only the person holding the book can speak. Those in the circle can ask questions, but they must raise their hand and wait to be passed the book to speak. Keep passing the book around until everyone has spoken and voiced their opinion or asked a question. You can repeat this activity with all three books.

Voting activities

When you're ready to vote, you can set these activities for a class to complete together or at different stations around the room for pupils to complete at their own pace.

Activity 5: Make your own placard

EXA 0-05a

Use [the voting placard template provided on our website](#) in school with pupils. Pupils can take the placard home to put in their window and tell the wider community whom they will be voting for in the prize!

Activity 6: Make a voting rosette

EXA 0-05a

Tell everyone in school and at home who you are voting for by using [the voting badge template provided on our website](#) to make your own campaign badge.

Activity 7: Make a ballot box

EXA 0-06a

One way to collect votes is through a ballot box. Explain to pupils the purpose of a ballot box and how they are used to collect votes in an election. Making and decorating a ballot box is a great way to get pupils excited about voting. Here are a few ideas:

- Cut a slit in the top of a shoe box (or other cardboard box) and then decorate with pictures that relate to the three books.
- Make more than one box – you could have one box for each of the shortlisted books.
- Have a go at making your own box from scratch using a large piece of paper. You could make your own template for a cube, or find one online.

Activity 8: Casting your vote

SOC 1-16a

Casting a vote is great activity and a fun way for pupils to share their opinion and exercise their rights. Here are a few different ideas to use with pupils to allow them to cast their vote for their favourite book:

- Make a ballot box and give pupils slips of paper to cast vote (you could use [our ballot paper worksheet](#) which is available to download from our website)
- Place the shortlisted books (or pictures of them) on a table and give pupils a sticker or token to put on their favourite. You could also attach images of the books to a display for pupils to attach a sticker to.
- Have each corner decorated with items from the book – ask pupils to go to the corner of their favourite book and count your pupils.

Activity 9: Make a poster

TCH 0-11a, HWB 0-13a

Design and make a poster to tell everyone in the community about the prize and who the class favourite is. You could run a competition in class, with the best posters being displayed around school and the local area.

Activity 10: Make a display

HWB 0-13a

To encourage more pupils in your school, and visitors to your school, to take part in The Bookbug Picture Book Prize, create a display telling everyone about the outcome of your class vote, with comments from pupils about why they liked each book. You could add drawings and activities from [The Bookbug Picture Book Prize learning activities](#) and include examples of your voting rosettes or placards, as well as your winning poster.

Cast your vote online

After you collect votes in class and celebrate your favourite book, it is **vital** that you submit your votes online through our website for them to count towards the national prize. Each year, thousands of children vote in The Bookbug Picture Book Prize. Remember to cast your votes online before Friday 27 January 2023 for your pupils' votes to count.

[Casting your votes](#) is a very simple process, especially if you have already registered! Voting only takes a few minutes and is done on our website.

After voting

The official winner of the Bookbug Picture Book Prize will be announced on our website and social media on Thursday 2 March 2023. Be sure to tune in with your class and share the celebration and excitement. Reread the books in the days before the announcement so the stories are fresh in pupil's minds. You could revisit your display too or any of the activities you previously completed together.

Activity 11: Make it extra special

To make the winner video extra special, why not bring in blankets or pillows and create a cosy den in the classroom to settle into to watch the video? You could make a party atmosphere by making or sharing a special snack whilst watching. Or you could run a special assembly to watch the prize announcement as a whole school or cohort.

Activity 12: Role-play reporting

EXA 0-12a

Pupils can role-play being the author or character/s from one of the shortlisted titles. Ask pupils to imagine your book has just won the prize. How do you feel? How will you celebrate? What will you spend the prize money on? Whom will you tell first? Pupils can act out this activity in pairs or small groups.

Activity 13: Real reporting

LIT 1-20a, LIT 1-26a

After you have watched the winners' announcement, ask pupils to write a short report (almost like a newspaper or TV reporter) about the winner and the prize. This can be done as a group or individually. The report can be shared with the rest of the school at the next assembly – pupils could bring some of their activities to show and to tell everyone what they have done as part of the prize.

Quick links

- [About The Bookbug Picture Book Prize](#)
- [The Bookbug Picture Book Prize learning activities](#)
- [Scaredy Bat video and resources](#)
- [Stuck Inside video and resources](#)
- [My First Book of Sea Creatures video and resources](#)

Key dates

- Wednesday 21 September 2022: shortlist announced and registration opens
- Friday 27 January 2023: voting deadline
- Thursday 2 March 2023: winner announced!