



## **Celebrating Book Week Scotland 2023 in your school**

A list of activities and ideas for engaging in Book Week Scotland, its events and themes

**Suitable for: primary schools, secondary schools, children  
with additional support needs**

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## About this resource

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books that takes place across the country. Book Week Scotland 2023 will take place from 13-19 November and is supported by Creative Scotland and SLIC. This year's theme is **adventure** and will contain the following strands:

- Into the wild
- Everyday adventure
- New beginnings
- Answering the call
- When we were young

To find out more, visit the [Book Week Scotland section of the Scottish Book Trust website](#).

## Activities for all schools

### Activity 1: Reading map

Add your school to the [interactive reading map](#) (please note, this link will not be live until Monday 13 November).

## Activity 2: Start your reading adventure with Bookzilla

What better way to make reading more adventurous than by giving yourself a Reading Dare! Download the [Bookzilla app](#) onto a phone or tablet, then click on Challenges to get a Reading Dare. Can you finish yours by the end of Book Week Scotland? We also have a [Using Bookzilla in your school resource](#), where you can create your own genre fortune teller!

## Activity 3: Find your next adventure

Our book lists on the website contain lots of suggestions for our favourite books featuring adventure! Why not look at:

- [Books for outdoor learning](#)
- [Polar adventures](#)
- [Space adventures](#)
- [Books for young people who want to change the world](#)
- [Brilliant books for gamers](#)

We also have Authors Live on Demand broadcasts with renowned children's authors. These are 40 minutes long and encourage interactive activities in the classroom! We have an accompanying resource on [Making the most of Authors Live](#) with advice on setting up and further learning activities. For [adventure stories](#) see:

- [Abi Elphinstone: Real-life adventures and accidental daydreams](#)
- [Cressida Cowell: Creative solutions](#)
- [Mark Bradley: Comics and wellbeing](#)
- [Patience Agabi: Time-travelling word-play](#)
- [Ross Mackenzie on \*The Otherwhere Emporium\*](#)

## Primary school activities

### Gifting the Read Write Count bags

If your class is in P2 or P3, Book Week Scotland is the perfect time to gift their [Read Write Count](#) P2 or P3 Bag. These bags contain books and resources that are theirs to take home.

We recommend holding a gifting event or party where families can come and learn about the bags and their contents and gain confidence in using them at home. Our website contains learning resources to explore all of the books and resources in the bags, as well as audio recordings of the books being read aloud. You can find those, and [more about how to gift the bags](#), on the Read Write Count section of our website. There are also sensory and inclusive activities on the [P2 bag webpage](#) and [P3 bag webpage](#).

### Activity 1: Get gaming!

LIT 1-01a/2-01a

[Our games box set collects](#) our online reading games from previous years of Book Week Scotland, including our [Write your own quest role playing game](#). You can also use our [Gaming resources](#), including a video from our tour with Jamie Russell and the National Videogame Museum! See our [Play, Read, Create article](#) for more information on getting started with writing and playing your own games and how this can support literacy.

### Activity 2: Write your own adventure

LIT 1-01a/2-01a, LIT 1-20a/2-20a

Use our [creative writing resources](#) to support pupils to write their own adventure stories. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Into the wild: imagine you had to journey into the wilds now. What would you pack? Where would you go?

- Everyday adventures: write about a time you went on an adventure. Maybe you went somewhere new with your family, or you and your friends did something exciting together!
- New beginnings: write about a new beginning. Maybe it was starting school or learning a new skill. What did you learn? How did you feel?

### Activity 3: Take a story into the wilds

LIT 1-20a/2-20a, LIT 1-09a/2-09a

Use our resources on [How to make story sticks](#) or [How to make poetry stones](#) to venture into the wilds to create your own story. To make it into a scavenger hunt, ask pupils to find the stones or hide the story sticks around the playground.

Use a book from your classroom library with our [10 things to do with any book outdoors resource](#) to create your own outdoor games, scavenger hunts or create a story soundscape or map!

### Activity 4: Answering the call

LIT 1-04a/2-04a, SOC 1-15a/2-15a, SOC 2-16b, SOC 2-16c, HWB 1-05a/2-05a

Our [Read Woke resources](#) focus on specific children's titles where pupils answer a call and face injustice, whether it be racism, ableism or sexism. For primary, you could look at the following books and resources:

- *The Proudest Blue* – examining Islamophobia and bullying
- *I Am the Subway* – examining global citizenship and empathy
- *The Invisible* – examining the experience of being unhoused

On the Scottish Book Trust website, you can also access our graphic novel [John Muir, Planet - Universe](#). There are also [accompanying resources](#) that support you to use the book to learn about protecting the environment and advocating for wild spaces.

## Activity 5: Celebrating our programmed writers

LIT 1-01a/2-01a, LIT 1-20a/2-20a

To celebrate and extend the work of some of the authors involved with this year's Book Week Scotland, we've pulled together some resources.

[Zara Slattery](#) and [James Spooner](#) have created unique comic creations for Book Week Scotland this year. Why not use our [How to write a comic book scene resource](#) from comic duo Metaphorg to help pupils come up with their own comic, or write a comic book adaptation of a book you're reading in class.

Nooruddean Choudry, author of *Inshallah United*, is one of this year's [Pitch It!](#) writers. If you have pupils who love sport, or football, our [Sports and literacy resource](#) suggests reading and writing activities including creating your own sport and writing a sports news broadcast. Also on our website you can find our sporty book lists: [Books for your P.E. classroom](#), [Middle grade sports books](#) and [Fab football books!](#)

## **Secondary school activities**

### Authors Live with Alan Bissett

On Monday 13 November, we'll be releasing an Authors Live broadcast with Alan Bissett. He'll be talking with journalist Nick Sheridan about his new book *Lads: A Guide to Respect and Consent*, discussing sexism and how teenage boys can call out bad behaviour and be their best selves. Alongside the broadcast, we've created a resource of further activities and ideas you can use to understand and challenge misogyny in your class and school.

You can watch the broadcast live via the [BBC Authors Live homepage](#). For more information on using Authors Live in your classroom, see our resource [Making the most of Authors Live](#).

## Activity 1: Get gaming!

LIT 3-01a/4-01a

[Our games boxset collects](#) our online reading games from previous years of Book Week Scotland, including our [Write your own quest role playing game](#), The Book Shop role playing game, and [Rabbie Burns Saves the World: an 8 bit game](#). See our [Play, Read, Create article](#) for more information on getting started with writing and playing your own games and how this can support literacy.

## Activity 2: Write your own adventure

LIT 3-01a/4-01a, LIT 3-20a/4-20a

Use our [creative writing resources](#) to support pupils to write their own adventure stories. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Into the wild: can you write a spooky horror story about being lost in the wilderness or an adventure gone wrong? See [our article from author Kirsty Logan](#) for top tips!
- Everyday adventure: use our [advice from Candice Purwin](#) to do some journalling or doodling to write about your everyday adventures.
- Answering the call: use our [Guide to personal writing resource](#) to write about a time you felt moved to answer a call, no matter how big or small!

## Activity 3: Past adventures

LIT 3-09a/4-09a, LIT 3-10a/4-10a, HWB 3-12a/4-12a

Use our [Intergenerational writing project resource](#) to help pupils gather stories from their family members, or members of the community about a time they went on an adventure. You could have a conversation about how adventures are different from now – for example, they might not have had easy access to a phone or had to buy a map to figure out where they were going!

Think about how to share these stories. You could:

- Use our [Digital Storytelling tools](#) to create short films which you screen at the school, inviting the community to come and watch them.
- Publish the stories as a blog, email newsletter or PDF that people can read online.
- Record the stories and put QR Codes around your local area that people can scan to listen to them.
- Print the stories out and leave them in local community spaces like hairdressers, shops or doctors' waiting rooms.

#### Activity 4: Answering the call

LIT 3-04a/4-04a, SOC 3-15a/4-15a, SOC 3-16a/4-16b, HWB 3-05a/4-05a

Our [Read Woke resources](#) focus on specific children's titles where children answer a call and face injustice, whether it be racism, ableism or sexism. For secondary, you could look at the following books and resources:

- *Fight Back* – examining Islamophobia, protest and bullying
- *Race to the Frozen North* – examining historical racism and colonialism
- *Me, My Dad and the End of the Rainbow* – examining homophobia

On the Scottish Book Trust website, you can also access our graphic novel [John Muir, Planet - Universe](#). There are also [accompanying resources](#) that support you to use the book to learn about protecting the environment and advocating for wild spaces.

#### Activity 5: Celebrating our programmed writers

LIT 3-01a/4-01a, LIT 3-20a/4-20a

To celebrate and extend the work of some of the authors involved with this year's Book Week Scotland, we've pulled together some resources.

[Kiran Millwood Hargrave](#) is one of this year's [Pitch It!](#) writers. Her newest novel *In the Shadow of the Wolf Queen* (for ages 9-13) focuses on the fantasy of nature and



the environment. To further explore conservation with your class, see our resource on [Exploring climate change and colonialism](#), our [John Muir, Earth – Planet Universe graphic novel and accompanying resources](#) or our [Authors Live with Patience Agbabi](#). For further reads, see our book list on [Climate fiction for future world changers!](#)

Nadine Aisha Jassat and Nasim Rebecca Asl are both reading their poetry as part of an event with Being Mixed. To get started exploring poetry in your class, we have resources on [How to make poetry stones](#) as well as [Performance poetry learning activities](#). We also have an article from poet William Letford with tips on [How to get started writing poetry in Scots](#). If you're looking for book recommendations to get started reading poetry, see our book list of [Poetry for teens and young adults!](#)

## **Sensory and inclusive activities**

### **Gifting the Read Write Count bags**

You can also explore this year's [Read Write Count](#) books with sensory and inclusive activities. Ideas for the P2 books can be found on the [P2 bag webpage](#) and ideas for the P3 books can be found on the [P3 bag webpage](#).

To run an inclusive and sensory gifting event, invite the families to the school to receive the bags. You can introduce each book and resource to the adults and children and explore them together. This helps parents or families feel more confident using the books and resources with the children and adapting them for their children's needs. You can also share our [Turning a book into a sensory story resource](#) with them so they can think about using sound, touch or texture to engage with the books.

### **Activity 1: Choose your own sensory adventure**

Create a sensory choose-your-own adventure! Hide props in different bags. During key moments in your story, let the children feel two different options and choose which they'd like, either verbally or through whichever one holds their attention.

This could include:

- Plastic animals or stuffed toys – each one represents someone you meet on your journey
- A leaf and a stone – does the main character walk through the woods or the hills?

### Activity 2: Story scavenger hunt

Read our [Getting started with sensory stories resource](#) to plan a sensory story you can tell with the children you work with. For mobile children, go on a scavenger hunt to find some resources you can use to explore sensory storytelling together, for example: dry leaves, stones, feathers.

If children aren't able to find or gather materials themselves, you could collect some materials and bring them into the setting for a story. You could also explore recording sounds to create a soundscape for your story.

### Activity 3: Outdoor stories

Explore telling stories outside. You could:

- Take photos of a toy outside and show them to the class each day. Maybe the toy is going on an adventure. Where is it going?
- Have an outdoor storytelling session – tell stories around a campfire or build a cosy reading den.
- Bringing in a sensory storyteller – look at [Live Literature](#) to see if you can bring someone into your setting.

### Activity 4: When we were young

You could explore memories together by looking at old pictures or toys or objects the children used to love. Think about their senses – is there an old song they can listen

to? A toy or object they can touch? See [Starcatchers Wee Inspirations “The Story of You”](#) for inspiration.

### Activity 5: Songs, rhymes and stories

You can use the Bookbug Song and Rhyme Library or Story Library to listen to, or watch stories that link into this year’s themes:

- Into the wild – [Mac, Pip and the Mountain](#) (includes BSL)
- Everyday adventures – [A Big Red Bus](#), [All the Little Ducks Go Upside Down](#), [Off to the Beach](#)
- New beginnings – [Penguin by Polly Dunbar](#)

### **Further resources**

- Learn more about [Book Week Scotland via our website](#)
- Explore stories submitted from people all over Scotland on the [Book Week Scotland: Your Stories webpage](#)
- Find out about [Scottish Book Trust’s Schools Programmes](#) which you can use to support reading and a love of stories in your class or school throughout the year
- Find more resources for your school in the [Scottish Book Trust Learning resources section of our website](#)
- For more about gifting the bags, visit the [Read Write Count section of our website](#)