

Ten tips for sharing picture books with children

1. Picture books are to be enjoyed

Always make the enjoyment of the book a priority before using it as a learning resource.

2. Choose texts that you love

Get to know a lot of picture books so that you can select texts of a high quality that you really enjoy. Your enthusiasm for the book will be infectious. A children's librarian can help you choose great books or you can visit

www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk

3. Get to know your books

If you are going to share a book with your class, spend some time getting to know it. Prepare several days beforehand. Look closely at the pictures and practice reading it aloud.

4. Look carefully to find all the details

There are often hidden meanings in the pictures or little details in unexpected places. However hard you have looked, children will surprise you by spotting things that you haven't noticed.

5. Make sure that everyone can see

Reading pictures means looking closely. Some of the best picture books have been printed in large format or can be accessed through the interactive whiteboard.

6. Read the whole book

Explore the pictures and relish the language. Ask pupils questions about their personal responses: What did they think of the story? What did they like about the illustration? What did they like best?

7. Focus your discussion

As well as personal responses, you can focus discussion on a particular aspect of the book. You may want to explore features such as character, setting or mood.

8. Ask open-ended questions

Welcome genuine comments, even if they are unexpected. Encourage children to explain why they think something rather than suggesting a particular answer is incorrect. Never underestimate children's ability to surprise you with their comments.

9. Respond creatively

After sharing a picture book, offer children lots of opportunities for creative response: retellings, role-play (indoors and out, when appropriate), 'small world' play, art work, problem solving, music making etc.

10. Build a class library of picture books

Make sure that books are easily accessible so children can read whenever they want. Include some classic picture books such as *Not Now Bernard* by David McKee, *The Tiger who came to Tea* by Judith Kerr, *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak, *Alfie Gets in First* by Shirley Hughes, *Mr Magnolia* by Quentin Blake and *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* by Eric Carle. These books - and many more - can be read and re-read as often as you like.

Sharing and enjoying picture books:

Tips for foundation stage and key stage one teachers

"Sharing picture books with children leads to amazing conversations. In the best picture books there is a gap between the pictures and the words, a gap that is filled by the child's imagination."

Anthony Browne, Children's Laureate 2009-2011



"Picture books are brilliant for understanding and building relationships, whether that's the relationship between adult reader and child, words and images on the page, or the characters in the book itself. But most importantly, they are also enormous fun!"

Emily Gravett, Kate Greenaway Medal winning author and illustrator

"Page after page of text can look impenetrable: a wall of words. A picture becomes not just a window in the wall, but a view holding clues to the story - place, characters, humour or drama."

Michael Foreman, multi-award winning author and illustrator

"Sharing quality books with your class creates a community of readers, all wondering what will happen next, offering their ideas about the characters and enjoying the moment of reading together."

Primary school teacher

www.booktrust.org.uk

booktrust
Inspiring a love of books

Useful contacts



Booktrust

Provides resources for teachers, parents and librarians. Administers the Children's Laureate, book prizes, bookgifting schemes and other projects that encourage children and young people to enjoy reading.

www.booktrust.org.uk

Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

Classroom-based research, training and publications.

www.clpe.co.uk

National Literacy Trust

Building whole-school reading communities.

www.literacytrust.org.uk

School Library Association (SLA)

Produces guidelines and book lists for school libraries.

www.sla.org.uk

The Reading Agency

Works with public libraries to encourage reading for pleasure. Runs the Summer Reading Challenge.

www.readingagency.org.uk

UK Literacy Association (UKLA)

Promotes good practice in literacy and language teaching.

www.ukla.org

Write Away

Online children's books resources for teachers and students.

www.writeaway.org.uk

Advice and resources from Booktrust

Website

Our children's books website is home to hundreds of independently selected and recommended books, searchable by age and genre, as well as an online illustrators' gallery, interviews with authors and illustrators, and information on the Big Picture campaign, which aims to put picture books in the public eye. Visit the website for more downloadable resources and films about sharing picture books with children. www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk

Resources for schools

Find a range of teaching sequences, ideas, activities and resources to promote a love of reading in your school. www.booktrust.org.uk

Making the most of your primary school library

Tips and information about how to plan or improve your library, including recommended spending and stock levels. www.booktrust.org.uk

Children's Book Week

National celebration of reading for pleasure with free resources for teachers, including reading activities and games. www.childrensbookweek.org.uk

Booktime

Free books for children entering Reception, and resources for teachers. www.booktime.org.uk

Children's Laureate

The 2009-2011 Children's Laureate is award-winning picture book author, Anthony Browne, who believes picture books should be enjoyed by people of all ages. www.childrenslaureate.org.uk

Prizes

Booktrust's children's book prizes highlight a range of outstanding picture books every year.

Booktrust Early Years Awards

This prize is divided into three categories: Best Book for babies under one year old, Best Picture Book for pre-school children up to five years of age and Best Emerging Illustrator of a book for pre-school children. Past winners include Emily Gravett and Polly Dunbar.

Roald Dahl Funny Prize

Founded by Michael Rosen as part of his work as Children's Laureate 2007-2009, the Roald Dahl Funny Prize is the first prize of its kind – founded to honour those picture books that simply make us laugh. A variety of picture books are shortlisted in the six years and under category each year.

The Blue Peter Book Awards

The Most Fun Story with Pictures category has celebrated the most creative illustrators and the greatest reads for children since 2000.

Read reviews of the books shortlisted for our prizes and much more at www.booktrust.org.uk

Booktrust is an independent charity dedicated to encouraging people of all ages and cultures to engage with books. The written word underpins all our activity and enables us to fulfil our vision of inspiring a lifelong love of books for all.

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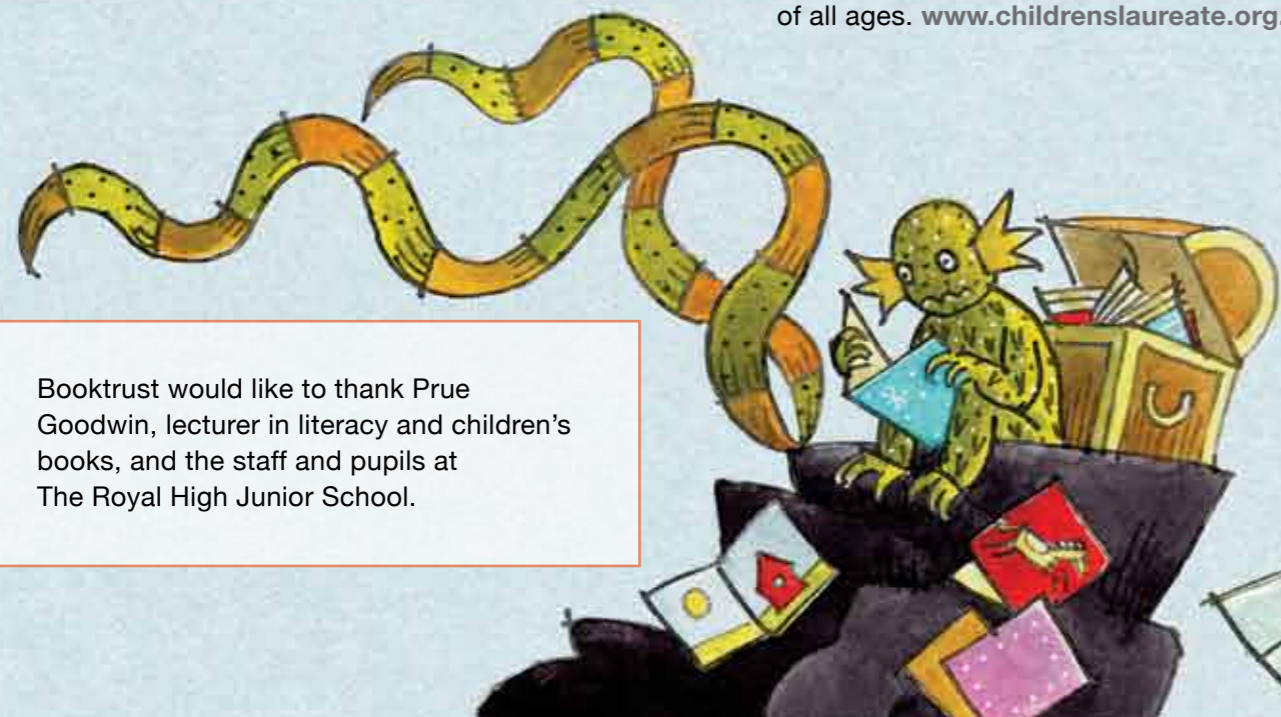
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"Being practiced at reading images gives very young children a huge advantage when they are learning to read texts. But even very sophisticated readers need never grow out of pictures. The creations of our best contemporary illustrators are both aesthetically and intellectually stimulating: they are works of art."

Nicolette Jones, Children's Books Editor,
The Sunday Times