

Book chat – ideas for talking about reading with Key Stage 2

The alphabet test

Can your class name an author or illustrator they have read for each letter of the alphabet? Which letters are missing?

Who are you?

Some 'authors' aren't a single person. Daisy Meadows and Adam Blade are both groups of authors who write series under a pseudonym. What name would your class choose if they were going to write a series together and why?

Let's talk about books

Spend some time as a class having an informal chat about what you like to read. There are no right or wrong answers. Adults should join in too!

What do you read?

Favourite authors, series, subject matter, genres

Where do you read?

School? Home? In bed? In the bath? (have you ever dropped a book in the bath?) On journeys? (if you suffer from travel sickness, try an audio book)

Why do you read?

Pleasure, information, recommendations?

How do you read?

Quickly? Slowly? Start at the beginning and read every word? Skim through? Read the last page first?

Judging a book by its cover

It's helpful to have a range of books of different styles and sizes beside you for this discussion

As a group, talk about

What makes you pick up a book? And, equally importantly, what stops you from picking up a book?

Some things to consider –

- Jacket image – what makes a good book cover?
- Author – are there some authors you always/never read?
- Blurb – what makes a good blurb?
- Size/shape of book – do you prefer hardback or paperback? Why?
- Thickness of book – does a thick book attract you or make you switch off?
- First paragraph – does it need to grab your attention?
- Illustrations – do you prefer text-based novels or graphic novels? Why?
- Subject – non-fiction is exciting too!
- Recommendations – whose recommendations matter most to you?
- Familiarity – do you like to stick with authors and series you know?
- Film/tv tie-ins – would you want to read the book **and** watch the film?

