

Celebrating Book Week Scotland 2024 in your school

Activities, resources and advice for celebrating Book Week Scotland in primary, secondary and additional support need schools

Age: 5–18

Suitable for: Schools, Libraries and Additional Support Need settings

Resource created by Scottish Book Trust

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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 2024 will take place from 18 – 24 November and is supported by Creative Scotland and SLIC.

This year's theme is **hope** and will contain the following strands:

- **New Dawns** – the excitement of starting fresh and trying something new
- **Guiding Lights** – a celebration of those who give us strength, guidance and keep us going
- **Hope for the World** – how hope can cause us to act and advocate for a fairer, juster future
- **Pockets of Joy** – the small and everyday comforts that give us joy
- **The Best it Yet to Come** – our dreams, hopes and aspirations and how they shape our lives

This resource includes:

- Events and online resources you can engage with this Book Week Scotland including authors and illustrators [Axel Scheffer](#), [Johanna Basford](#) and [Jackie Kay](#)

- Further activities for exploring Book Week Scotland's themes in [primary](#), [secondary](#) and/or with children with [additional support needs \(ASN\)](#)
- Ideas for using our [Authors Live on Demand](#) catalogue

Books are for life, not just Book Week Scotland! Explore our [Scottish Book Trust schools guide](#) to find out how you can embed reading for pleasure in your school all year round.

If you're taking part in Reading Schools, you can use this resource to support delivery of the following key areas:

- [1.3.2 – School environment](#)
- [1.3.3 – National events and celebrations](#)
- [2.2.1 – Regular opportunities to read for pleasure](#)
- [2.2.2 – Interdisciplinary book projects](#)
- [2.3.5 – Access to authors](#)

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 18 November).

Activity 2: Drop everything and read

The best way to celebrate Book Week Scotland is to read! Set aside time during the week where everyone (not just pupils!) can drop everything they're doing and read. You can sound a bell or alarm that signifies when you're ready to start. Make sure you join in too! This way you not only show that reading is worth spending your time on, but you're also role modelling reading.

Reading for pleasure is key here – whether pupils want to read alone, together, listen to audiobooks or read magazines and comics or pick up an old favourite – all reading is good reading!

Why not create your own pockets of joy? Whether you clear a classroom to make space for comfy beanbags, or just provide hot chocolate and snacks, there's lots of ways to make reading more comfortable and exciting.

Activity 3: Watch Authors Live

Authors Live is a series of world class children's author and illustrator events brought directly to your classroom, library or home for free, live on the web. Each broadcast is roughly 40 minutes and comes with a quick tie-in activity to help extend pupils' learning. Here are our top picks on the theme of hope!

Primary

- [Joseph Coelho](#)
- [Fiona Lumbers](#)
- [Rachel Bright and Jim Field](#)

Secondary

- [Sarah Crossan](#)
- [Brian Conaghan](#)
- [Kwame Alexander](#)

Primary school activities

Gifting the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and Read Write Count bags

If your class is in P1, P2 or P3, Book Week Scotland is the perfect time to gift their [Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bags](#) or [Read Write Count with the First Minister 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 recordings of the books being read aloud. You can find those, and more about [how to gift the bags](#), on the [Bookbug](#) or [Read Write Count](#) section of our website. There are also [symbolised resources](#) for the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and sensory and inclusive activities for Read Write Count on the [P2 bag webpage](#) and [P3 bag webpage](#).

Authors Live with Axel Scheffer

On Tuesday 19 November at 11am you can watch [a live Authors Live broadcast with Axel Scheffer](#), who'll be talking about how he has created some of children's literature's best-loved characters and doing a special drawalong for *The Gruffalo*! Make sure you [register your interest via our website](#) to make sure you're sent a link to tune in.

To find out more about how to make the most of an Authors Live broadcast, see our [Making the most of Authors Live resource](#). After watching, why not try creating your own characters? You could [use our learning resource to create your own class picture book](#) or ask pupils to [create their own mini books using our video and printable activity sheets](#)!

Activity 1: Set yourself a reading dare

LIT 0-01b/0-11b/1-11a/2-11a

Whether you're a bookworm or wanting to get back into reading – Book Week

Scotland is the perfect time to challenge yourself to do something different! Download the [Bookzilla app](#) onto a phone or tablet and find your next read! If you click on Challenges, you can set yourself a Reading Dare. Or you can come up with your own. 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! If you're taking part in Reading Schools, you can also use our [Discovering my reading identity resources](#) to set yourself a Reading Resolution or Reading Dare.

Activity 2: Write a poem for hope

LIT 0-01a/0-11a/0-20a/1-20a/2-20a, LIT 0-09b/0-31a/ENG 1-31a/2-31a,
LIT 1-28a/1-29a/ENG 2-27a/2-28a/2-29a, ENG 1-30a/2-30a

A poem is a perfect place to write about the tiny things that give you hope, whether it's how you feel when playing video games with friends, your favourite meal to eat or an animal you know loads of facts about!

Or – you could go bigger. What are your hopes and dreams? What's your dream vision of our world? Think of something that brings you joy, then use our [Introducing and exploring poetry resource](#) to get start writing your own. We'd love to read your poems; you can share them on X and tag us at [@scottishbktrust!](#)

Activity 3: Share a story

ENG 0-03a/1-03a/2-03a, LIT 0-10a/1-10a/2-10a

Use our [paired reading toolkit](#) to connect pupils across your school. You could:

- Ask older pupils (P5-P7s) to read the [Bookbug P1 Family Bag books](#) or [Read Write Count with the First Minister books](#) to the P1-P3s
- Ask pupils to gather stories from you class, school, or local library that they think fit these years themes of hope (see [About this resource](#)) to share with a partner or group
- Ask pupils to create class displays or book boxes of hopeful stories

Activity 4: Hope for a new world

LIT 0-04a/1-04a/2-04a, HWB 0-02a/1-02a/2-02a, HWB 0-05a/1-05a/2-05a

To further explore themes of hope, see our [Read Woke learning resources](#) which share cross-curricular learning activities to help develop pupil's understanding of prejudice, stereotyping and injustice, and help to advocate for a more just and fair society. Titles for primary schools include:

- *I Am the Subway* by Kim Hyo-eun
- *I Talk Like a River* by Jordan Scott and Sydney Smith
- *The Proudest Blue* by Ibtihaj Muhammed, S. K. Ali and Hatem Aly
- *The Invisible* by Tom Percival

and more!

Activity 5: Colouring swap shop

EXA 0-02a/1-02a/2-02a, EXA 1-03a/2-03a

Johanna Basford is one of this year's [Pitch It!](#) writers. To celebrate illustration and the joy of colouring in – why not having a colouring swap shop? Design your own illustrations, photocopy them, then swap them with others to colour in! Why not create your own class, or school, colouring in book?

If you need inspiration for your artwork, use our [10 expressive arts activities for any book resource](#). Or watch one of our [Authors Live broadcasts](#) with world class illustrators: [Fiona Lumbers](#), [Mark Bradley](#), [Tom Percival](#), [Sav Akyüz](#), [Catherine Rayner](#), [Benji Davies](#) and more!

Secondary school activities

Activity 1: Revisit your class books

LIT 3-08a/2-08a, LIT 3-16a/4-16a, LIT 3-18a/4-18a

Book Week Scotland is a great opportunity to visit your local library or bookshop, but you can also revisit the books in your classroom or school. Here are some activities you can do with your books:

Book tasting

Pull out all the books from the shelves and lay them on a table. Give pupils time to look through all the books and talk with each other about what they'd like to read.

Give your library a spring clean

Use our [Library audit tool](#) to go through the books in your classroom or school to decide what you need to keep, replace or donate. Putting pupils in charge is a great way to give the pupils ownership over the books in your school and help them discover, or rediscover, something that they might like to read.

Come up with categories

Putting your pupils in charge of how your books are organised will make them more likely to pick one up! Books don't have to be organised in any set way – they could explore genres, or themes like “superheroes”, “magical stories”, etc.

You can also put them in charge of pop up displays – for Book Week Scotland they could create a display of their favourite stories of hope, but you could also explore other key dates throughout the year and see what books or texts might tie in!

Activity 2: Hope is...

LIT 3-04a/4-04a, LIT 3-07a/4-07a, LIT 3-08a/4-08a, LIT 3-16a/4-16a,
ENG 3-17a/4-17a

You may have heard of Emily Dickinson's poem [““Hope” is the thing with feathers”](#)

which compares the idea of hope to a bird which doesn't leave someone, despite the storms. Hope can be compared to lots of things – our Book Week Scotland posters show hope as different kind of lights (torches, lamps, lighthouses), but what else could hope be?

Pick some of the Scotland Stories from below and read them, either in groups or on your own. Discuss:

- What language does the author use to describe hope?
- How do they depict hope in their pieces? Are there any similarities between the pieces?
- What metaphors do they use?

Scotland's Stories

- ["Blue"](#) by Claire Urquhart (poem)
- ["Hope 1 and 2"](#) by Pippa Little (poem)
- ["How Will You Live Now?"](#) by Alycia Pirmohamed (poem)
- ["Winter Washing"](#) by Zoë Stevenson (poem)
- ["BA1472"](#) by Vanessa Winghei Yeung (prose)
- ["Hope is a Second Fudge Doughnut"](#) by Greg McMillan (prose)
- ["A Wee Pocket of Joy"](#) by Rosemary Henderson (prose)
- ["A Walk In Winter"](#) by Lesley Crawford (prose)

To extend this activity, you can use our [Creative writing resources](#) to ask your pupils to write their own metaphor about hope.

Activity 3: Hope for a new world

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

As writer Rebecca Solnit says: *'Hope is not a lottery ticket you can sit on the sofa*

and clutch, feeling lucky. It is an axe you break down doors with in an emergency.'

In other words, our hope for a better world is also something that should cause us to act! Our book lists [Climate fiction for future world changers](#) and [Books for young people who want to change the world](#) collect titles that look at the importance of community action and advocating for a just and fairer world.

You can also explore our learning resources which connect reading and stories to activism and change, for example: our [Read Woke learning resources](#) focus on specific texts to help students learn about social activism, our [Understanding and challenging racism resource](#) from [Show Racism the Red Card](#), our [Understanding and challenging sexism resource](#) and our [LGBTQ+ school resources](#) all focus on improving pupils understanding of prejudice and celebrating diversity.

You could extend this by looking at any historical figures you may be studying. What did they hope for? How did their hope cause them to act for a different world? Ask pupils how they think hope, belief and action are connected.

Activity 4: Interview a reader

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

Find out about the books and stories in your community with these interview questions or, ask your pupils to write their own! You could use these questions by:

- Asking staff (not just teachers!)
- Any school visitors
- Asking pupils to interview each other
- Sending the questions home with pupils to ask them to interview someone in their family

You can then share the responses by:

- Holding assemblies

- Creating displays
- Writing recommendation bookmarks or cards for any specific books mentioned in the interviews
- Asking the pupils to design a school newspaper/newsletter or magazine of all of the interviews
- Asking pupils to create a short film by interviewing each other (see [our resource on filmmaking in class](#))

Interview questions

1. What are your early memories of reading?
2. Do you have a favourite book or genre?
3. Do you have a favourite fictional character?
4. What's a book you've really enjoyed recently?
5. What's the hardest book you've ever read?
6. What's a book or genre you really didn't/don't enjoy?
7. Where's your favourite place to read?
8. What do you think is the best snack to eat whilst reading?
9. If you could recommend one book that everyone should read, what would it be?
10. Has reading a book ever helped you better understand someone, or something?
11. Would you rather read about something familiar or go for total escapism?
12. How does reading make you feel?

To further explore this idea, see our [My Life as a Reader resource on the Reading Schools website](#).

Activity 5: Dive into Jackie Kay

LIT 3-04a/4-04a, LIT 3-16a/4-16a

Jackie Kay is one of this year's [Pitch It!](#) writers. For S1s and S2s, use [BBC Teach](#) to listen to some of Jackie Kay's poems. Which one is their favourite? You can use our [Performance poetry learning activities](#) to encourage pupils to write, and read aloud, their own poem, or they could [create a stop-motion animation](#) of their favourite poem.

For older learners, use the [BBC Bitesize guide](#) to explore Jackie Kay's poems in depth. You could use ["Old Tongue"](#) to explore Scots, and use our [Writing poetry in Scots](#) or [Using Scots in the classroom resources](#) to encourage pupils to further explore Scots language, or write their own poem. You could also run a cross curricular project using [Amnesty International's Human rights through poetry resource](#) to explore her poems "Push the Week" and "Glasgow Snow" with a human rights context.

Sensory and inclusive ideas

Gifting the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and Read Write Count bags

You can also explore this year's [Read Write Count](#) books with sensory and inclusive activities. There are also [symbolised resources](#) for the Bookbug P1 Family Bag and sensory and inclusive activities for Read Write Count on the [P2 bag webpage](#) and [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: Create your own sensory story of joy

Use our [Getting started with sensory stories](#) or [Make your own sensory story resources](#) to plan out your own storytelling session with your pupils including picking your own characters, planning resources and sensory elements, and tracking engagement.

Activity 2: Sensory pockets of joy!

Try and create your own sensory pocket of joy. What sensory experiences feel really relaxing? Think about smells, tastes, textures or sounds. You might like listening to the sound of rain, a big cup of tea or a nice cosy blanket. What do your pupils like? You could use these to create a sensory story den or a nice relaxing space to read or listen to stories. For more ideas, see [Starcatchers' Sensory Wow! resource](#).

Activity 3: Reading my way

Our articles on [Reading and being autistic](#), [Reading with dyslexia](#) and [Reading and ADHD](#) could inspire you to have conversations about reading with the children you work with.

- Look through the articles and share some top tips – you could create a display, or a book of tips you can put in your class, school or local library
- Ask pupils to share their own tips for other pupils – you could create a class book or display
- Ask pupils about *how* they like to read – are there some changes you can make to your school environment? (e.g. more cosy reading spaces, more comfy chairs?)
- Reading preferences – do they find graphic novels, magazines or comics more exciting and engaging? Do they prefer to listen to audiobooks?

Activity 4: Songs and rhymes

You can use the [Bookbug Song and Rhyme Library](#) to listen to songs that link into this year's theme:

- ["If You're Happy and You Know It"](#), also available in [Makaton](#)
- ["See How I'm Bouncing"](#)
- ["Five Little Ducks"](#)
- ["Star Light, Star Bright"](#)
- ["The Hello Song"](#)

Each link will take you to the [Bookbug Song and Rhyme Library](#) which has ideas for how to engage with each song and rhyme. Some children might like to learn the songs or come up with their own actions.

Activity 5: Hope for a better world

Explore stories that celebrate their disabled and neurodiverse characters. Our [LOUD! sensory storytelling resource](#) uses the book *LOUD!* by Rose Robbins to run a sensory storytelling session, celebrating characters like Abigail who like to make a little bit of noise.

For older learners, our [learning resource on *A Kind of Spark* by Elle McNicoll](#) explores standing up for what is right. The book follows Addie, an autistic 11-year-old who campaigns for a memorial in her town in remembrance of the women killed during the Scottish witch trials. You can use this resource to explore what your pupils think is important, and what they would like to take a stand for.

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, [Bookbug Primary 1 Family Bag webpage](#) or [Read Write Count section of our website](#)