

You can write a story

It's great to read stories, to lose yourself in the plot of an exciting adventure. Sometimes the characters almost become friends and you can have a real feeling of loss when the book ends and you're not sharing that character's world anymore. Who didn't want to know what happened next to Harry, Ron and Hermione after The Deathly Hallows, or even Luna Lovegood or Neville Longbottom?

But you don't have to just read stories, you can write your own. You can make them funny, exciting or scary and put in your own characters.

If you want your writing to be good and exciting remember to show and not tell. Don't write "he was angry", show us he was angry, for example "he clenched his teeth together and moved towards me menacingly".

Get rid of adverbs. Don't write "I ran quickly" or "he spoke quietly", say "I raced" or "he whispered".

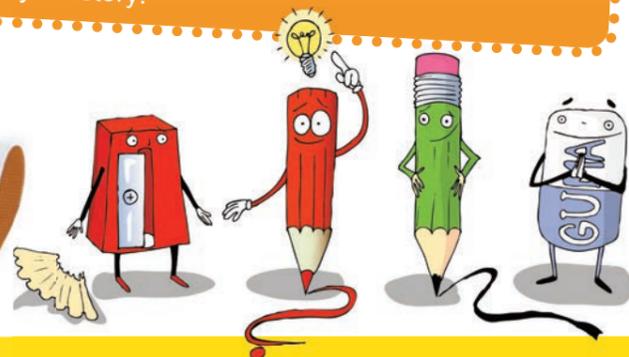
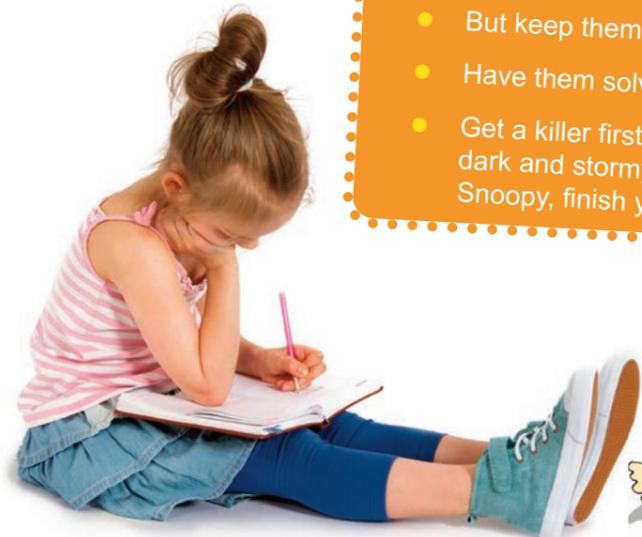
Finally, if you want a bit of fun first, check the link below. Add few words and the computer will create a fun little story for you!

<http://www.readathon.org/thestorymaker/>

Tips

Here's a few tips to help you get started. And remember, we would love to see what you write and can include it here in the next newsletter.

- Write a story that you would like to read
- Begin with a character. Think about what they like or don't like, why they do what they do
- Give him, her or it, (it could be an animal for example) an interesting problem to solve
- Have things happen!
- But keep them believable
- Have them solve the problem
- Get a killer first line. Snoopy always started with "It was a dark and stormy night, suddenly a shot rang out". Unlike Snoopy, finish your story!



Your Book Reviews

Please send us your book reviews, we all like to know what books you have been enjoying.

All book reviews should be sent to: paulc@nexusfostering.co.uk

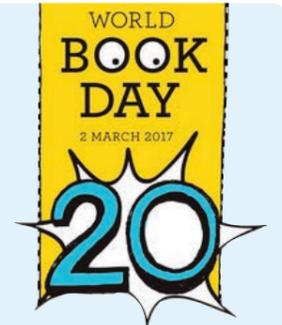
Or to: Paul Corner, Suite 1, Rippon House, 35 Station Lane, Hornchurch RM12 6JL

- Tell us:
- What the story was about
 - Who the main characters were
 - What was good about it and what could have been better
 - Give it a score out of ten

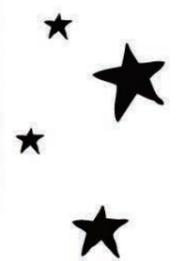
London	Robynne Butveld
Anglia	Belinda Rapley
Midlands	Ekjote Sodhi
Central	Alina Timoianu
South East	Paul Corner
South West	Catherine McCaw

book club

Celebrating World Book Day 2nd March 2017



MUST-HAVE £1 BOOKS



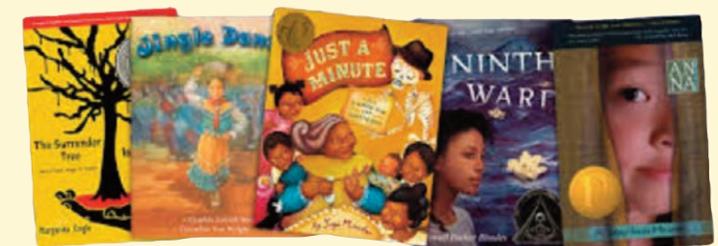
Stellar reads for everyone...

World Book Day Ltd is a small charity that sends £1 book tokens to every child, in every school in the country.

A number of publishers produce special books on the day that cost only £1 allowing all children to choose one from the selection above that is then free with their token.

Nexus Fostering FREE Book Day

On 2nd of March if you can get into your local Nexus Fostering office you can have another free book from us! If you can't make it, ask your carer if they can go for you.



Celebrity Book Spot



Top 10 books in my childhood

Jane Vallender

St Clare's series

by Enid Blyton

I loved following the twins, Pat and Isabel O'Sullivan at boarding school and all their mischievous adventures - read the whole series very quickly!

Malory towers series

by Enid Blyton

Again loved the idea of boarding school and a bunch of girls getting up to pranks and having midnight feasts, the books kept me glued and I have been an avid reader ever since.

Five on a Treasure Island

by Enid Blyton

Julian, Dick, Anne, George and of course, Timmy the dog. They had secret passwords and were a secret society with brains. Where is the treasure? They are on a trail and looking for clues but they are not alone!!

Charlie and the chocolate factory

by Roald Dahl

It's about chocolate so say no more!! Loved the characters such as Violet Beauregarde, golden tickets and lovely Charlie, just a great story.

Secret diary of Adrian Mole 13 and ¾

by Sue Townsend

This was hilariously funny looking at an adolescent's life through painfully honest written diary. I could relate to this as was about 12 or 13 at the time. She went on to write more but I had moved on by then.

Heidi

by Johanna Spyri

This is about a girl who is about 9 or 10 living in Switzerland with an Aunt and she attaches to certain people along the way when life is not that simple for her, beautiful story.

The Diary of Anne Frank

by Anne Frank

This is a sad book about a family fleeing occupation and how they live in very close quarters. It started me thinking about other issues in the world as I was maturing.

Pippi Longstocking

by Astrid Lindgren

I read this because of the TV programme and was about 10 at the time. I felt she lived in her 'own bubble' and had the perfect life no-one telling her what to do. She was 'unique'.

Jane Eyre

by Charlotte Bronte

I was in my teenage years so matured in my choices somewhat. A lady with spirit, sharp wit and great courage. A love story with twists and turns.

Little Women

by Louisa May Alcott

A story about four sisters Meg, Jo, Amy and Beth who were all very different characters, just a great story for a teenager to read.

Your Book Reviews

Nexus Fostering children and young people review two books for the older generation - It's always good to see children and young people start to read books for older people.



The girl on the train

by Paula Hawkins

Rachel is an alcoholic who suffers from blackouts, irrationality and drunk-dialling. Rachel is coping with many problems induced by the separation from her ex-husband Tom. He is now married to Anna with their own child - a child that

Rachel was incapable of having.

Commuting every day on the train ride to London, Rachel looks out for one house in particular. Rachel becomes obsessed with the couple living in this house, she names them Jess and Jason and fantasises about their perfect lives.

One day, she sees Jess (actually called Megan) with another man. Rachel feels deep anger towards Megan as she is throwing away her 'perfect' marriage. Rachel then hears that Megan is missing. To uncover the mystery of her disappearance she must plunge into the dark, twisted, reality of Megan and Scott's (the real name of Jason) lives. What Rachel discovers opens her eyes to the years of horrific lies her ex-husband fed her, as well as the beast he truly is.

The book dragged on a lot more than it needed to, the story was simple and could have easily been shortened. It was a good storyline though and I enjoyed the plot twist at the end. There was good character development of Anna as we see her turn from a weak housewife and mother to a strong and independent woman who stands up to her husband.

Eleanor F



Of Mice and Men

by John Steinbeck

The book is about a man called George and his childlike, kind-hearted friend Lennie. They find work in a ranch after being on the run from their old job because Lennie got them in deep trouble, and he may get in trouble again.

The book is great because Steinbeck shows how children are, in some cases, better people than adults in that they do not judge people. The story shows other characters' feelings about the situations they are in and how Steinbeck feels about racism and sexism. The book is not long and does not drag so you stay interested.

The book is great because it covers big themes such as racism, sexism and the Great Depression. I hope this review encourages you to read it because it is a truly great book and I would give it 4.5 out of 5.

Morgan B

Featured Author

Gareth P Jones



Gareth began his career working on TV Shows such as 'The Big Breakfast' and 'The Richard and Judy Show'. However in 2006, at the age of 33, he got his 1st book published. The Dragon Detective Agency: The Case of the Missing Cats. Only last week Gareth had his 30th book published in only ten years.

Gareth writes for children and young people of all ages, and so far has produced:

- 2 picture books for younger children
- 4 books about the Dragon Detective Agency
- 4 books about the Steampunk Pirates
- 10 books about the Ninja Meerkats
- 9 books for middle/older children (plus some adults)

The book published last week was the 1st in a new series about The Pet Defenders and is called Attack of the Alien Dung!

Whether it is one of his slightly scary books for older children such as 'Constable and Toop' in which young Sam Toop has to save the ghosts from going missing, or one of his adventure stories for young children such as The Steampunk Pirates series, you can guarantee there will always be humour.

