

# World Book Day

## The Importance of Reading

### Bare Bookshelves Across Britain

**The National Literacy Trust has reported that thousands of children around the UK do not own one book.**

A shocking amount of UK school children (around 770,000) don't own a single book.

The National Literacy Trust research found that children (aged eight to eighteen years) who own a book are 15 times more likely to

read above the level expected for their age.

Author of the popular 'How to Train Your Dragon' books and National Literacy Trust Ambassador Cressida Cowell said that owning just one book can make a huge difference.

### Why Do Books Matter?

Reading is a vital skill, which you need throughout your life. Having the ability to read allows you to achieve many things. Unfortunately, many children in the UK are missing out on the chance to reach their full potential due to the fact that they only access books at school.

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that children who read for enjoyment:

- perform better in reading tests;
- develop a wider vocabulary;
- have greater general knowledge;
- have better understanding of other cultures;
- develop greater empathy;
- learn better problem-solving skills;
- enjoy improved relationships with others;
- have improved wellbeing.

"If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books."

Roald Dahl.



In fact, reading for pleasure impacts more on children's achievement at school than their social or economic background.

### **When Should We Read?**

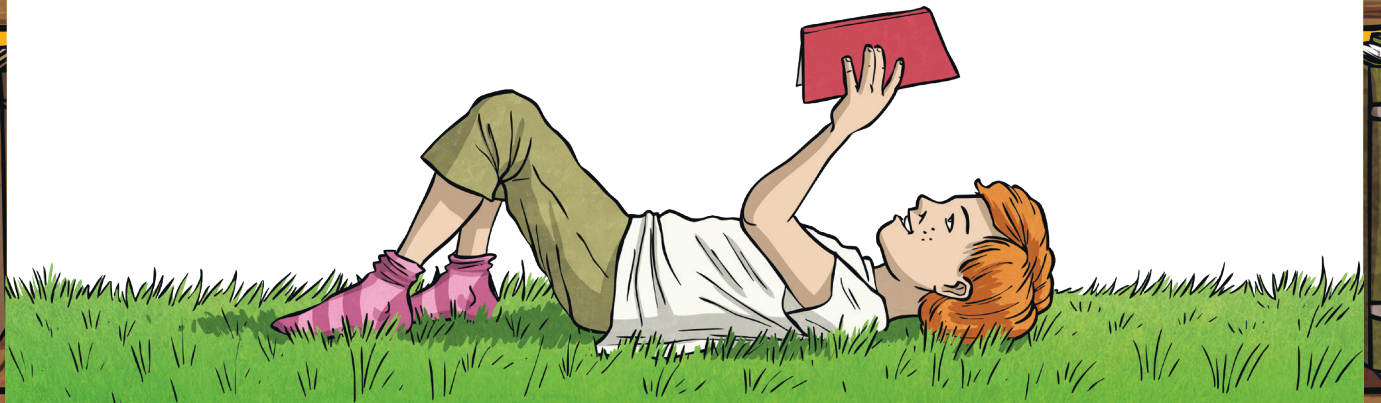
Reading should be a part of our everyday lives but the benefits are stronger when reading is undertaken through free choice rather than because we 'have to'. It should be happening at home as well as in school, which is why the number of children who do not own any books is worrying.

### **Who Should Read?**

Everybody! The positive effects of reading are there for all. If children are too young to read themselves, then it is important to read to them, talk to them and surround them with books.

### **How Can World Book Day Help?**

World Book Day, created by UNESCO in 1995 to celebrate reading, is a one-day charitable festival with a focus on books, authors and reading. Children are given an opportunity to talk about their favourite books, learn more about their favourite authors and explore new stories and authors. Each year on World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a £1 voucher to spend on special titles or put towards other books. This means that children should be able to get at least one new book each year, encouraging a love of reading and books in all.



# Questions

1. 'Reading is a vital skill, which you need throughout your life.' What does **vital** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ unimportant
- ☐ essential
- ☐ unusual
- ☐ learning

2. Match the question to the correct answer.

How many children in the UK do not own their own book?

1995

If children own books, how many more times likely are they to read above the expected level for their age?

15

In which year did UNESCO create World Book Day?

770,000

3. Give two benefits of reading for pleasure.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why do you think the author included a Roald Dahl quote?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find and copy a word from the newspaper report which shows that it is **surprising** that so many children do not own books.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Why do you think reading is more beneficial if undertaken through free will? Explain your answer.

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7. Why do you think that Cressida Cowell said that just one book can make a huge difference?

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8. Do you think that World Book Day has a positive impact on reading? Explain your answer.

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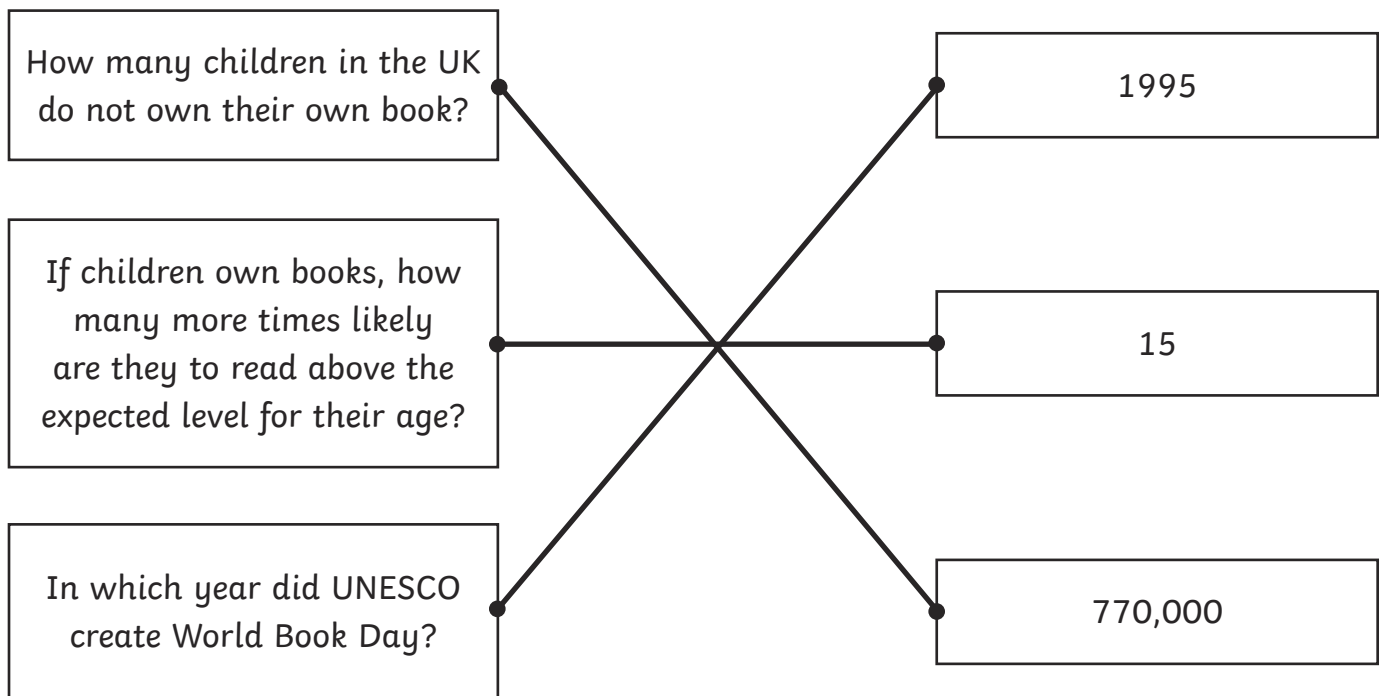
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# Answers

1. 'Reading is a vital skill, which you need throughout your life.' What does **vital** mean? Tick one.

- ☐ unimportant
- ☒ **essential**
- ☐ unusual
- ☐ learning

2. Matching (drawing lines).



3. Give two benefits of reading for pleasure.

**Accept any of the following**

**Children who read for enjoyment:**

- **perform better in reading tests;**
- **develop a wider vocabulary;**
- **have greater general knowledge;**
- **have better understanding of other cultures;**
- **develop greater empathy;**
- **learn better problem-solving skills;**
- **enjoy improved relationships with others;**
- **have improved wellbeing.**

4. Why do you think the author included a Roald Dahl quote?

**Children's own responses, such as: I think a Roald Dahl quote was used as children are familiar with this author.**

5. Find and copy a word from the newspaper report which shows that it is surprising that so many children do not own books.

**Accept 'shocking' only.**

6. Why do you think reading is more beneficial if undertaken through free will? Explain your answer.

**Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Children will enjoy the reading more so will be more likely to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure.**

7. Why do you think that Cressida Cowell said that just one book can make a huge difference?

**Accept any reasonable explanation linked to text, such as: Children who own a book are 15 times more likely to read above the level expected for their age.**

8. Do you think that World Book Day has a positive impact on reading? Explain your answer.

**Child's own response, such as: I think that having a fun day devoted to reading has a positive effect because it reminds children that they can read for pleasure rather than just because they have to at school.**



# World Book Day

## The Importance of Reading

### Bare Bookshelves Across Britain

**The National Literacy Trust (an independent charity working with schools and communities to give disadvantaged children the literacy skills to succeed in life) has reported that thousands of children around the UK do not own one book.**

Shockingly, a large amount of UK school children (around 770,000) don't own a single book. Despite having access to books at school, this figure is worrying due to the impact a lack of books at home can have on literacy levels in later life.

The National Literacy Trust research found that children (aged

eight to eighteen years) who own a book are 15 times more likely to read above the level expected for their age.

Jonathan Douglas, director of the trust, said: "Books have the power to transform children's lives, which is why it is so alarming to discover that more than three-quarters of a million children in the UK don't have a single book to call their own."

Author of the popular 'How to Train Your Dragon' books and National Literacy Trust Ambassador Cressida Cowell said that just one book can make a huge difference.

The newspaper report above highlights a serious problem for many children around the UK. Reading is a vital skill, which you need throughout your life; without it, you could miss out on achieving many things, such as education and, in the future, jobs. Unfortunately, through no fault of their own, many children in the UK are missing out on the chance to reach their full potential due to the fact that they only access books at school.

There is plenty of evidence to suggest that children who read for enjoyment not only perform better in reading tests but also develop a wider vocabulary and have greater general knowledge and understanding of other cultures. Reading for pleasure also enables young people to develop better problem-solving skills

and greater empathy, giving them improved relationships with others. All of these things come together to give children improved feelings of happiness and wellbeing. In fact, reading for pleasure impacts more on children's achievement at school than their social or economic background.

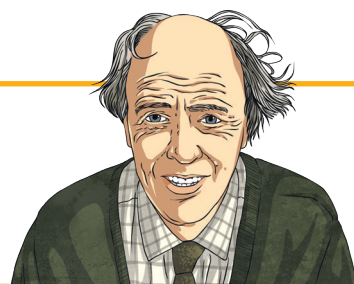
The positive effects of reading are there for all. If children are too young to read themselves, then it is important to read to them, talk to them and surround them with books. Reading should be a part of our everyday lives but the benefits are stronger when reading is undertaken through free choice rather than because we 'have to'. It should be happening at home as well as in school, which is why the numbers of children who do not own any books is worrying.

### How Can World Book Day Help?

World Book Day, created by UNESCO (an organisation responsible for ensuring that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn) in 1995 to celebrate reading, is a one-day charitable festival with a focus on books, authors, illustrators and reading. During World Book Day, children are given an opportunity to talk about their favourite books, learn more about their favourite authors and explore new stories and authors. They are encouraged to take part in various fun activities such as, dressing up and designing new postage stamps. Each year on World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a £1 voucher to spend on special titles (each year, there are ten books aimed at all ages) or put towards other books. This means that children should be able to get at least one new book each year, encouraging a love of reading and books in all.

"If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books."

Roald Dahl.





# Questions

1. Which one of these does Cressida Cowell do as her main job? Tick one.

- ☐ reporter
- ☐ author
- ☐ researcher
- ☐ teacher

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.

Reading is a vital skill,

a part of our everyday lives.

Reading should be

which you need throughout  
your life.

Reading for pleasure also  
enables young people to

develop better problem-  
solving skills.

3. What is the name of the organisation that started World Book Day?

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4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Reading should be a part of our \_\_\_\_\_ but the benefits are stronger when  
reading is undertaken through \_\_\_\_\_, rather than because we \_\_\_\_\_.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that children without books have not made this choice themselves.

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6. "If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books." What do you think Roald Dahl meant when he said this?

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7. Why do you think World Book Day is popular with children?

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8. How are the three organisations mentioned similar to each other?

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9. Do you think that World Book Day can help? Explain your answer.

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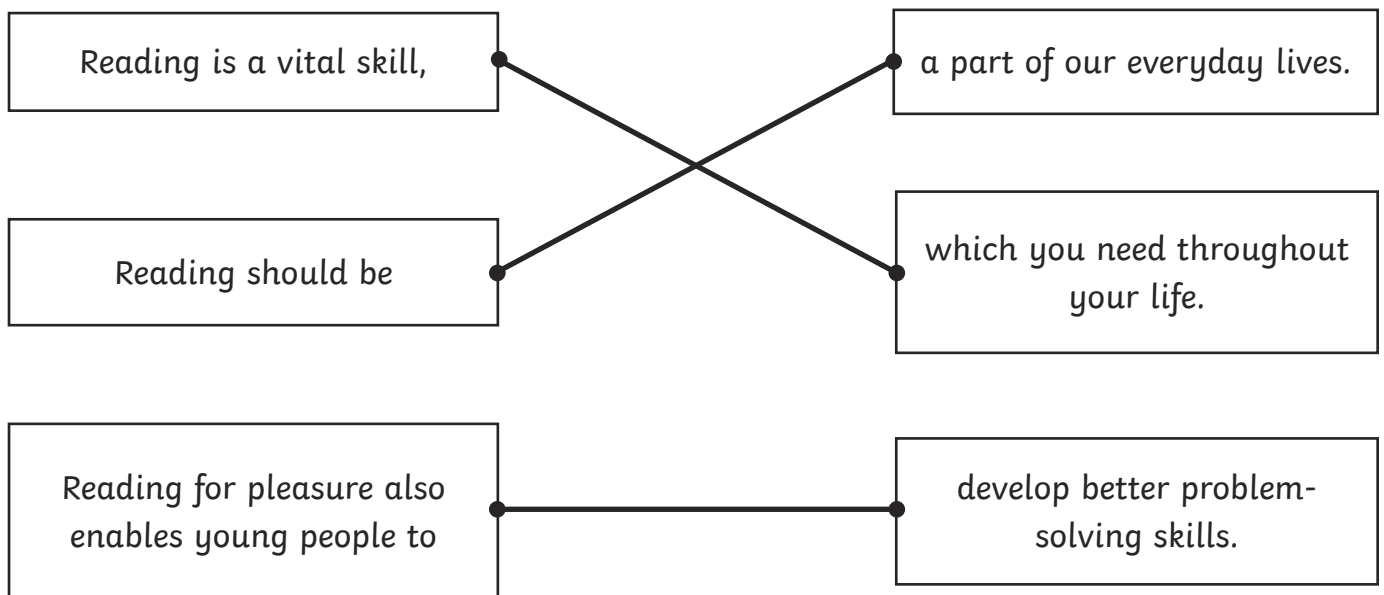
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# Answers

1. Which one of these does Cressida Cowell do as her main job? Tick one.

- ☐ reporter  
☒ **author**  
☐ researcher  
☐ teacher

2. Draw a line to complete the sentences.



3. What is the name of the organisation that started World Book Day?

**Accept UNESCO only.**

4. Fill in the missing words from this sentence:

Reading should be a part of our **everyday lives** but the benefits are stronger when reading is undertaken through **free choice**, rather than because we **'have to'**.

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that children without books have not made this choice themselves.

**Accept 'through no fault of their own' only.**

6. "If you are going to get anywhere in life, you have to read a lot of books." What do you think Roald Dahl meant when he said this?

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Reading is a vital skill which enables people to get a good education and good jobs when they are adults.**

7. Why do you think World Book Day is popular with children?

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Children enjoy the fun aspects of World Book Day, such as dressing up and they appreciate being given a voucher to buy a new book.**

8. How are the three organisations mentioned similar to each other?

**Accept any relevant answer including: The three organisations are all working to give everyone the chance to read and learn.**

9. Do you think that World Book Day can help? Explain your answer.

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Yes, World Book Day can help because it inspires children to read for pleasure by organising fun and exciting activities and giving them the chance to buy new books so they will have their own books at home.**

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The National Literacy Trust research found that children (aged eight to eighteen years) who own a book are 15 times more likely to read above the level expected for their age.

Jonathan Douglas, director of the

trust, said: "Books have the power to transform children's lives, which is why it is so alarming to discover that more than three-quarters of a million children in the UK don't have a single book to call their own."

Author of the popular 'How to Train Your Dragon' books and National Literacy Trust Ambassador, Cressida Cowell, said, "Not only do books enable children to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past, but they also have the power to transform lives. By sparking imaginations, stimulating critical thinking, and helping develop empathy, reading gives children the very literacy skills they need to succeed at school, at work and in life. Just one book can make a huge difference."

The newspaper report above highlights a severe problem for many children around the UK. Reading is a vital skill, which you need throughout your life; without it, you could miss out on achieving many things, such as education and, in the future, jobs. Unfortunately, through no fault of their own, many children in the UK are missing out on the chance to reach their full potential due to the fact that they only access books at school.

There is a plethora of evidence, as detailed by The Reading Agency (a charity whose mission is to inspire more people to read more), to suggest that children who read for enjoyment not only perform better in reading tests, but also develop a wider vocabulary. These children usually have greater general knowledge and understanding of other cultures. This will not only help them in their childhood, but will help to produce a more tolerant world for future generations. Reading for pleasure also enables young people to develop better problem-solving skills and greater empathy, giving them improved relationships with others. With all of these positive outcomes, children are certain to enjoy improved feelings of happiness and wellbeing.

In fact, reading for pleasure impacts more on children's achievement at school than their social or economic background. The beneficial effects of reading are there for all ages. Younger children who are unable to read themselves can still reap the benefits of books; it is important to read to them, talk to them and surround them with books. It is also important for adults to continue to read, not only because they are good role models to their children and other youngsters, but because reading can lower levels of stress and also seems to reduce the risk of dementia in later life.

Although reading should be a part of our everyday lives, the benefits are stronger when reading is undertaken through free choice rather than because we 'have to'. It should be occurring at home as well as in school, which is why the numbers of children who do not own any books is causing concern to a number of organisations within the UK.

### **How Can World Book Day Help?**

World Book Day, created by UNESCO (an organisation responsible for ensuring that everyone in the world gets a chance to learn) in 1995 to celebrate reading, is a one-day charitable festival with a focus on books, authors, illustrators and reading. During World Book Day, children are given an opportunity to talk about their favourite books, learn more about their favourite authors and explore new stories and authors. By encouraging children to partake in fun and exciting activities, such as dressing-up as characters from their favourite books or designing new postage stamps inspired by their favourite illustrator, it is hoped that their love of books and reading will grow.

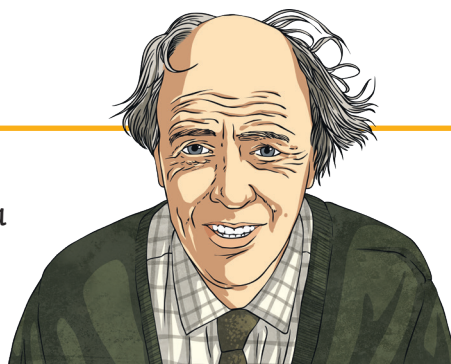




Each year, on World Book Day, schoolchildren in the UK are given a £1 voucher to spend on special titles (each year there are ten books aimed at all ages) or put towards other books of their choice. This should enable all children to get at least one new book each year, inspiring a passion for reading and books in all.

“Books shouldn’t be daunting; they should be funny, exciting and wonderful. Learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage.”

Roald Dahl.



# Questions

1. Around how many school children in the UK do not own a single book?  
☐ 77,000  
☐ 770,000  
☐ 777,000  
☐ 700,000
2. When is reading important? Tick one.  
☐ as a young child  
☐ as a teenager  
☐ as an adult  
☐ at all ages
3. 'The newspaper report above highlights a severe problem for many children around the UK.' Why has the word **severe** been used?  

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4. Find and copy the names of the three organisations mentioned in the text.  
  1. 

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  2. 

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  3. 

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5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that reading can change people's lives.  

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6. "Books shouldn't be daunting; they should be funny, exciting and wonderful. Learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."  
  
What do you think Roald Dahl meant when he said this?  

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7. Summarise what you have read in the newspaper report in one sentence.  

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8. Why might some children have no books at home?

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9. Explain why famous authors get involved with projects like World Book Day.

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10. Do you think that reading is important? Give evidence to support your answer.

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# Answers

1. Around how many school children in the UK do not own a single book?

- ☐ 77,000
- ☒ 770,000
- ☐ 777,000
- ☐ 700,000

2. When is reading important? Tick one.

- ☐ as a young child
- ☐ as a teenager
- ☐ as an adult
- ☒ **at all ages**

3. 'The newspaper report above highlights a severe problem for many children around the UK.' Why has the word **severe** been used?

**Accept any relevant response that explains the word severe telling us it is a serious problem.**

4. Find and copy the names of the three organisations mentioned in the text.

- **The National Literacy Trust**
- **The Reading Agency**
- **UNESCO**

5. Find and copy a phrase from the text which shows that reading can change people's lives.

**Accept: 'Books have the power to transform children's lives' or 'they also have the power to transform lives'**

6. "Books shouldn't be daunting; they should be funny, exciting and wonderful. Learning to be a reader gives a terrific advantage."

What do you think Roald Dahl meant when he said this?

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Roald Dahl meant that books should be enjoyable because being able to read has a positive impact on people.**

7. Summarise what you have read in the newspaper report in one sentence.

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: There are thousands of children in the UK who do not own books at home, which is worrying because reading is an important skill that helps people succeed throughout their lives.**

8. Why might some children have no books at home?

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Maybe some children would rather spend their pocket money on toys and games rather than books.**

9. Explain why famous authors get involved with projects like World Book Day.

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Famous authors write books for people to enjoy so they would like to inspire more young people to read for pleasure.**

10. Do you think that reading is important? Give evidence to support your answer.

**Accept any relevant answer, such as: Reading is important because it helps you to develop lifelong skills such as empathy and problems solving; it is also good fun to be transported into other worlds!**