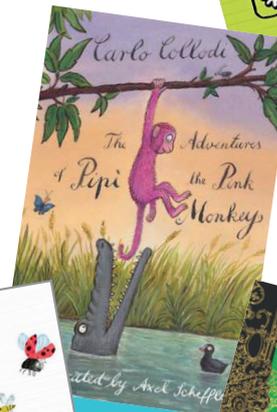
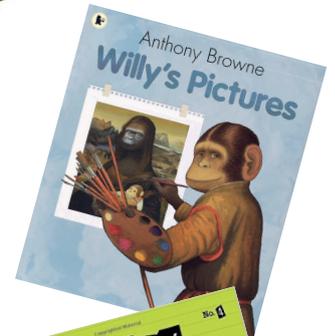


CELEBRATE Chatter BOOKS WEEK

1-8
October
2016



A World of Stories

Chatterbooks Activity Pack

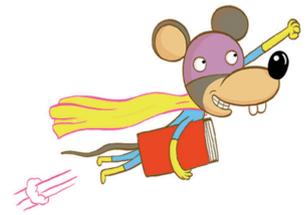


Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

**CHATTER
BOOKS**

**THE
READING
AGENCY**

What is Chatterbooks Week?



At Explore York Library we had a drop in session. Over 20 children came and it was brilliant; some brought their most favourite poems and in the session they wrote their own collaboratively and there was a lot of humour! All the regular Chatterbooks group attended and new children too.

Rachel Benn, Explore York

Chatterbooks Week is a celebration of children's reading clubs. Libraries and schools can use Chatterbooks Week to launch new reading clubs for the school year. You can run 'taster' sessions or special events to showcase the fun activities that happen in Chatterbooks.

It's a great time to encourage children to build on their summer reading with The Big Friendly Read by joining a Chatterbooks club. To find out more about setting up a club:

- [View our video](#) showing children enjoying Chatterbooks at Pakeman Primary School
- Download our [quick guide to running a book club](#)
- Celebrate a world of stories with our easy-to-use Chatterbooks session ideas

[It's free to join the network](#)

[Monthly newsletter and downloadable activity pack](#)

[Competitions and offers](#)

Chatterbooks.org.uk



Chatterbooks

Impact on children's reading



There has been a massive increase in engagement with books, with confidence around speaking about books and their narrative, and a great increase in comprehension.

Susan Davies, Head of Literacy,
Pakeman Primary School

After taking part in our Chatterbooks programme in 2016, children read more frequently, had more positive attitudes towards reading, and used libraries more. The report into *The Impact of Chatterbooks on Children's Reading Enjoyment, Behaviours and Attitudes*¹ found:

- There was a 22% increase in the number of children reading daily after taking part in Chatterbooks: from 36% to 44%
- Children's perceptions of their reading ability improved as well, with 49% feeling that they are very good readers after taking part compared with 41% before
- 9 in 10 club leaders believe that as a result of the project, children enjoy reading more and have become more enthusiastic about reading.



A very disengaged boy attended Chatterbooks. He has discovered that he likes to read series of books. It has been lovely to watch him become a confident reader and enjoy reading. He couldn't wait for the next box of books to come out and loved talking about the funny stories to the group. From January to March he made five months' progress. Fantastic!

Teacher at primary school running Chatterbooks

¹ *The Impact of Chatterbooks on Children's Reading Enjoyment, Behaviours and Attitudes* by Clémence Pabion and Christina Clark (National Literacy Trust) available at: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/1624/>

About this pack

In this pack you'll find lots of ideas for your group's activities and discussion, and linked to the pack is a special **Illustrations themed book list** with reading ideas from our publisher partners plus more activity ideas inspired by the books.

For new groups there are tips, ideas and resources for that exciting first session.

Have a great Chatterbooks Week!

About Chatterbooks

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and their publisher partnership **Children's Reading Partners**

Chatterbooks is a reading group programme for children aged 4 to 14 years. It is coordinated by The Reading Agency and its patron is author Dame Jacqueline Wilson. Chatterbooks groups run in libraries and schools, supporting and inspiring children's literacy development by encouraging them to have a really good time reading and talking about books.

The Reading Agency is an independent charity working to inspire more people to read more through programmes for adults, young people and Children – including the Summer Reading Challenge, and Chatterbooks. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Children's Reading Partners is a national partnership of children's publishers and libraries working together to bring reading promotions and author events to as many children and young people as possible.



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| 2 Warm-up activities | 6 And you might also like to... |
| 3 Things to talk about | 7 Answer sheet |
| 4 Longer activities | |
-

Simple session outline

Here's a [simple session outline](#), especially for the first few meetings as everyone gets to know each other.

- [Welcome](#) (5 mins) – get to know everyone's names – maybe have name labels for the first sessions.
- [Warm up](#) activity (5 mins) – see ideas for these below.
- [How your group will work](#) (10 mins) – talk together about what people are looking forward to in the group and agree simple rules around talking and listening to each other.
- [Themes for your sessions](#) (5 mins) – talk about what people like reading and favourite books. Agree some future themes – e.g. funny stories; books about animals.
- [Main activity for your first session](#) – start by reading aloud (10 mins) and then have a short activity (see below), encouraging children's own creative work (15 mins).
- Opportunity to [choose books](#) (10 mins), to take home and read.
- Give children a [reminder about the next session](#): when, where, theme.



Warm up activities



Author Anagrams:

Can you work out who these authors are?

When you've done the puzzles talk about all the answers!

1 I NOBLY TEND

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: This author writes about Five adventurers

2 MEN PICK KIN

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: He writes stories about a dog called Kipper

3 LAD HAROLD

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: He's a Big Friendly Giant!

4 WILD LAVA MAIDS

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: One of his books may cause a Stink!

5 ILL QUEEN COINS JAW

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: Tracy B is one of this author's heroines – and the star of a TV series

6 AN OLD JAIL SOUND

— — — — — / — — — — —

Clue: A mouse took a stroll – to meet this author's famous gruff character!

Warm up activities

Chatterbooks wordsearch

Here are some words which are all about being in a Chatterbooks reading club! Look for them in the squares – they go across, backwards, down and up.

LIBRARY
READ
STORIES
PICTURES
ENJOY
TALK

BOOK CLUB
FRIENDS
SHARE
IMAGINE
ACTIVITY
DISCOVER

Z	X	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D	Q
B	O	O	K	C	L	U	B	M	J	P
S	F	W	L	X	Z	Q	F	A	K	I
E	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	G	J	C
I	Z	X	T	E	Q	W	J	I	F	T
R	W	S	H	A	R	E	Z	N	X	U
O	Q	J	F	D	Z	X	V	E	W	R
T	Z	X	J	Q	W	Y	O	J	N	E
S	D	N	E	I	R	F	X	Z	Q	S
W	J	A	C	T	I	V	I	T	Y	X



Things to talk about

Favourite books

What are people's favourite picture books and story books? Tell each other about them and get more ideas for what to read next! What do people think is the best thing about books? And the worst thing about books?

Exploring picture books - visual literacy

Get together a collection of picture books – include some of your group's favourites, and see too the book lists in our **Illustrations themed book list and activities**.

Here are some suggested questions to get everyone looking at and 'reading' the illustrations in the books:

- What do you notice first?
- What does the picture tell you?
- How does it make you feel? Happy? Sad? Excited?.....
- Are there things in the picture which make you laugh?
- How does the picture fit with the words/story?
- Does the picture add to the story and tell you more things?
- Is there anything which surprises or puzzles you?
- What do you get to know about the characters from the pictures?
- ...and about the place?
- ...and about sounds and smells?!
- Look at the use of colours, shapes, patterns, textures
- Look at the way the pages are designed



Make a list of your group's **favourite picture books** – have two columns – one for the books and one for why people like them.

Compare and talk about the **different styles of illustrations** in different picture books – which do people like best? What especially appeals to them about their favourite illustrations?

Longer activities

Finding books you want to read!

Give children the run of the library to look for different kinds of books! Get them looking for a funny book, an animal book, or maybe a scary story. Before they go searching the shelves talk about the clues to look out for – e.g. words in the title, particular authors, cover illustrations.

When everyone's found a book, sit down together and talk about your choices – what attracted people to the book they picked? Do they think they'd like to read it now? Encourage them to give it a go!

Read out loud

People love being read to – and reading a story or an extract is a great way of introducing children to new books and genres.

Before reading aloud, introduce the book, set the story in context, and encourage responses as you read. Ask questions to help with understanding the text. Encourage discussion and building on each other's ideas.

You might want a drink or a snack while children are listening, if you didn't offer one at the beginning of the session.

Here are two books which you might use. They're featured in this month's **Illustrations themed book list**. Here are excerpts from each book to give you a taste of what they are like.

From ***Swashbuckle Lil***
(by Elli Woollard, Macmillan).

This is a fun and pacy rhyming story about a feisty young girl.

*When Lil sat at school doing spellings and sums,
Nobody, nobody guessed
That she wasn't at all like an ordinary girl,
And that under her jumper and vest...
Lil was a pirate, a swashbuckling pirate,
Whose home was a ship with great sails
Who had travelled the seas in the blistery breeze
And had ridden the waves with huge whales.
At weekends Lil never sat watching TV,
Or played on the swings in the park,
But instead she might fight with a monster all night
In waters that shimmered with sharks.
No, nobody guessed at Lil's pirating life,
Though the children all thought it quite odd
That instead of school dinners Lil went to the pond...
And tried to catch haddock and cod...*



Longer activities



From *Harry Miller's Run*
(by David Almond, Walker Books)

This is a story about the Great North Run and how Harry and his mates ran and ran and ran from Newcastle to South Shields through the blazing sunlight all the way to the sea. It's also about old and young people sharing their stories and feelings.

I don't want to go to Harry Miller's. It's Saturday morning. My entry for the Junior Great North Run's just come through the post. I'm already wearing the T-shirt. I'm already imagining belting round the quayside and over the bridges in two weeks' time. I'm imagining all the running kids, the cheering crowds. I'm dreaming of sprinting to the finish line.

*I phone Jacksie and we end up laughing and yelling at each other. His stiff's come as well. He's number 2594. I'm 2593. We can't believe it. But we say it's fate. We've been best mates for ever. We say we'll meet up straight away and get some training done in Jesmond Dene...
...Harry's ancient. We've known him for ever. He lives at the end of our street and he was fit as a lop till the heart attack got him. It looked like the end but he was soon fighting back...
He started tottering around his little front garden on his Zimmer frame, tottering past our window to the Elmfield Social Club. He stood gasping at street corners, grinning at the neighbours, waving at the kids. When he saw me out training, he'd yell, 'Gan on, young'n! Keep them pins moving!' And I'd wave and laugh and put a sprint on. 'That's reet, lad! Run! There's a wolf at your tail! Run for your life!'*

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From HARRY MILLER'S RUN by David Almond & Illustrated by Salvatore Rubbino
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More activities and discussion ideas



National Poetry Day

October 6th 2016 is National Poetry Day – so we are also celebrating poetry in Chatterbooks Week!

Here are some poetry-based activity ideas.

Create a poem shaped as a picture

(This works well as a group activity.)

Decide on a theme for your poem – e.g. a poem about a cat.

On a flip chart sheet collect lots of words about cats: what they look like, what they do, how they make you feel – e.g. *soft fur; purring; green eyes; staring; sleepy; hissing; graceful; flexible; washing*

Put your words together into possible lines and phrases for your poem.

On a fresh sheet draw a large outline shape of a cat and decide together how to shape your phrases to make a poem that fits into your cat shape. You could repeat words and lines, and make your lines curved or go up and down to fit into the shape.

For more inspiration have a look at the book ***A Child of Books*** (by Oliver Jeffers & Sam Winston) and also our [Child of Books Chatterbooks activity pack](#).



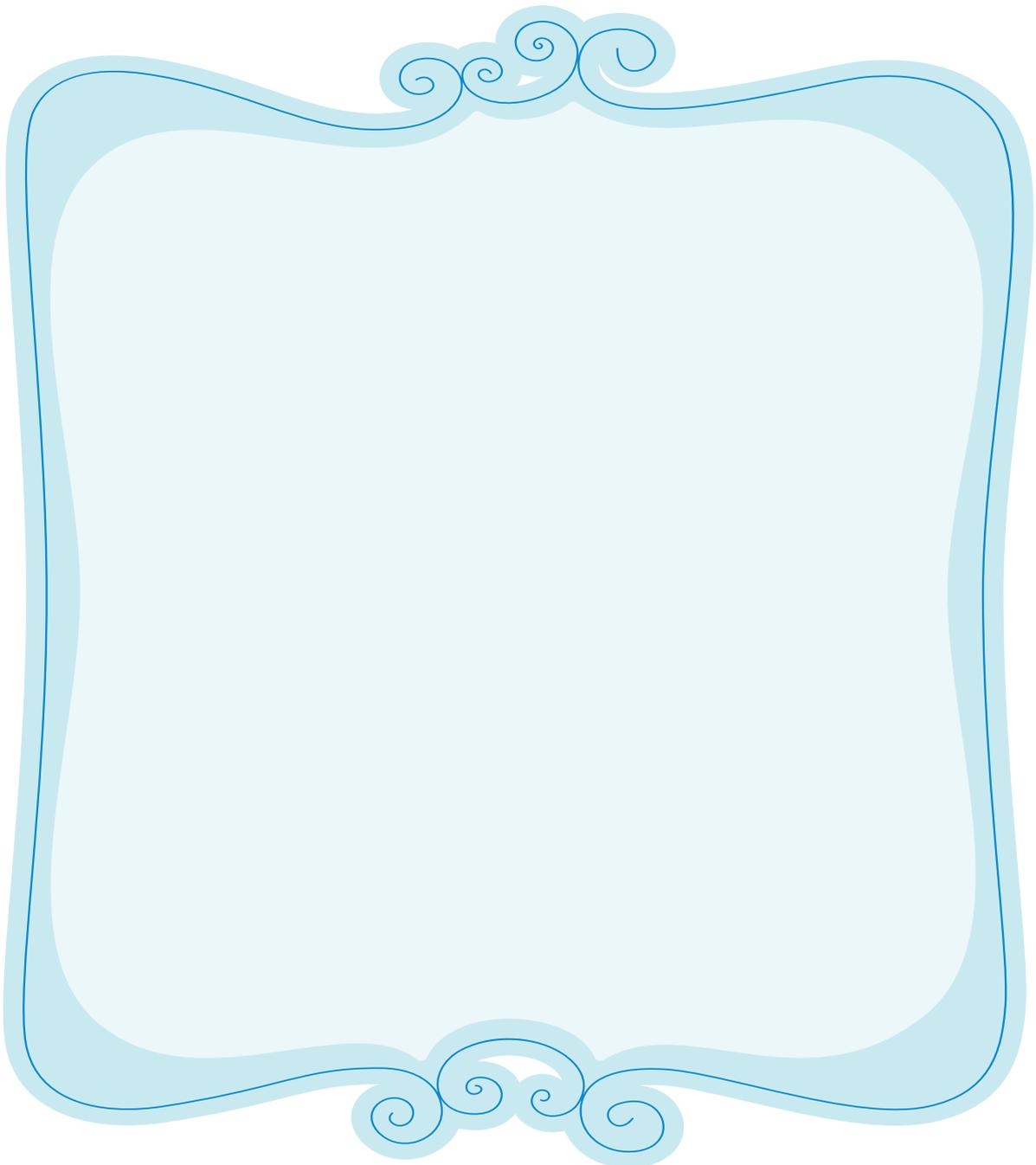
More activities and discussion ideas



Write a poem celebrating the world of stories

The title of your poem is *The World of Stories*. To help you write your poem, think of all the things you like about stories – fun, excitement, going to different worlds in your imagination, meeting all sorts of characters, learning things, having all sorts of experiences. You could also imagine what the world would be like without stories and without all those wonderful things! You could make your poem rhyme or have free verse.

Here's a frame for your finished poem.



And you might also like to...



- Talk about your perfect reading spot
- Have a book swapping session
- Reach out to your favourite author via their website or social media
- Visit the Summer Reading Challenge website for author videos, competitions and games

For more ideas!

Linked with this Chatterbooks Week Pack is a special **Illustrations themed book list** – great reading ideas from our publisher partners plus lots of activities inspired by the featured books.

And have a look at all these **Chatterbooks resources**:

New! [Chatterbooks *Child of Books* activity pack](#)

[Chatterbooks *Inspiring Art* activity pack](#)

[Chatterbooks Poetry Pack](#)



Answer sheet

Author Anagrams answers

1. Enid Blyton
2. Mick Inkpen
3. Roald Dahl
4. David Walliams
5. Jacqueline Wilson
6. Julia Donaldson

Chatterbooks wordsearch answer

Z	X	R	E	V	O	C	S	I	D	Q
B	O	O	K	C	L	U	B	M	J	P
S	F	W	L	X	Z	Q	F	A	K	I
E	Y	R	A	R	B	I	L	G	J	C
I	Z	X	T	E	Q	W	J	I	F	T
R	W	S	H	A	R	E	Z	N	X	U
O	Q	J	F	D	Z	X	V	E	W	R
T	Z	X	J	Q	W	Y	O	J	N	E
S	D	N	E	I	R	F	X	Z	Q	S
W	J	A	C	T	I	V	I	T	Y	X

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