



Teacher Resource

Book Week

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. What year did Book Week begin?
2. Why was the Children's Book Council of Australia created?
3. What decade did a boom in Australian children's books being published start?
4. What percent of 8- to 18-year-olds are reading books in their spare time?
 - a. 18%
 - b. 38%
 - c. 58%
5. What is your favourite genre of book? Why?

Activity: Class Discussion

After watching the BTN Book Week story hold a class discussion, using the following questions to start the discussion:

- What makes an interesting, engaging, entertaining story? Brainstorm a list.
- What is your favourite book at the moment? Tell a classmate about the book you are reading and what you like about it.
- What book has made the biggest impact on you? Explain why.
- Peter Hellier, the author interviewed in the BTN story, said reading makes the world a bigger place. What do you think he means by this, and do you agree?
- How do you celebrate Book Week?
- If you could create your own Book Week theme, what would it be?



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KEY LEARNING

Students will create their own creative story. Students will develop storylines, characters and settings.

CURRICULUM

English – Year 4

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories engaging by the way they develop character, setting and plot tensions.

Create and edit literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings.

English – Year 5

Create and edit literary texts, experimenting with figurative language, storylines, characters and settings from texts students have experienced.

English – Year 6

Create and edit literary texts that adapt plot structure, characters, settings and/or ideas from texts students have experienced, and experiment with literary devices.

English – Year 7

Create and edit literary texts that experiment with language features and literary devices encountered in texts.

Activity: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Book Week story. Here are some words to get them started.

AUTHOR	CHARACTER	FICTION
NARRATIVE	PLOT	GENRE

Activity: How to Build Stories

Students will write their own short story. As a class, make a list of useful tips for story writing. Include tips on how to build character development, plot tension and narrative. The ABC Education's Digibook explains how to build your own stories, using tricks to create exciting characters, plots, settings, genres and language.

- [How to build Stories](#)
- [Creating Characters](#)
- [Understanding Story Plots](#)
- [Genre and setting](#)
- [Language](#)



More resources to help students write stories.

[Ways to tell stories](#) – Young writers Noa and Francis discuss choices they made when writing their published short stories.

[Thinking about story themes](#) – Noa and Francis talk about the main ideas they chose to explore in their stories.

[Writing from experiences](#) – Learn where student writers Noa and Francis found the ideas for their stories.

[Young authors' creative writing advice](#) – Watch these two students talk about the advice given to them that helps them to write better stories.

[Writing tips from author Andy Griffiths](#) – Watch this video and learn how to write funny stories with tips from author Andy Griffiths.

[Story Starters](#) – Creative Writing Prompts.

Activity: Book Review

Students will choose a book they have read this year or a [Book of the Year winner for 2025](#) and write their own book review. Students will respond to the following:

- Title of the book and author.
- What genre is the book? (mystery, fantasy, adventure)
- Write a concise description of the plot.
- Who are the main characters in the book? Choose a character to describe in more detail.
- Where and when is the story set?
- What are the themes in the book?
- What did you like or dislike about the book?
- Would you recommend the book to other kids your age? Why or why not?
- How many stars would you give it out of 5?
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your views on the book and asking any questions you have about the book.

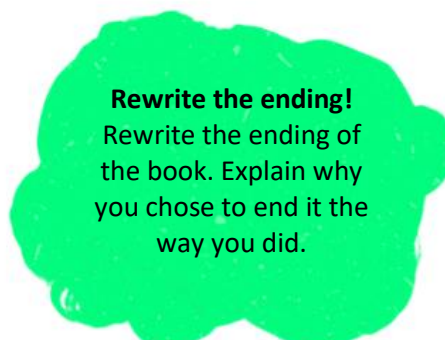
Activity: Book Club

Hold your own class book club! Students will read the same book, either individually or as a class and discuss the story in small groups. Below are some discussion starters for your class book club:

- What did you like about the book? Was there anything you didn't like? Explain why.
- Who was your favourite character in the book? What did you like about them?
- Imagine what the character looks like and draw a picture of the character. Compare with other student's drawings.

Activity: Choose a Project

Students choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their work to a partner, small group or the class.



Useful Websites

- [Children's Book Week](#) – The Children's Book Council of Australia
- [Young Author](#) – BTN
- [Pitjantjatjara Book](#) - BTN
- [History of libraries](#) - BTN