

Teacher Resource

School Libraries

Focus Questions

1. Before watching the BTN story discuss in pairs what you like about your school library.
2. Briefly summarise the BTN *School Libraries* story.
3. What is a Children's Laureate?
4. What per cent of Aussie schools think their libraries could be better?
5. How have school libraries changed over time?
6. Other than paper books what are many school libraries now offering?
7. Why does Australia's Children's Laureate think paper books are really important? Give two reasons.
8. What do you like about reading paper books?
9. What is your favourite book at the moment? Discuss with another student.
10. What do you think is the future of libraries?

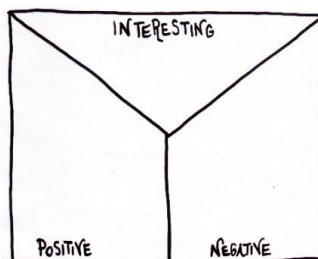
Activity

Note taking

Students will practise their note-taking while watching the BTN *School Libraries* story. After watching the story, ask students to reflect on and organise the information into three categories.

What information in the story was...?

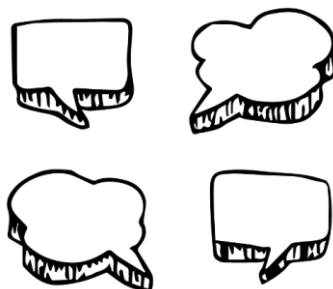
- Positive
- Negative or
- Interesting



Class Discussion

Discuss the BTN *School Libraries* story as a class, using the following questions to guide the discussion.

- What sorts of books do you read?
- Do you prefer printed books or ebooks? Why?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of paper books?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of ebooks?
- Do you think it's important to read paper books? Explain why or why not.
- What do you think is the future of paper books?
- What do you think is the future of libraries?



Key Learning

Students will develop an argument about printed books versus ebooks. They will also write a review about a book of their choice.

Curriculum

English – Year 4

Discuss how authors and illustrators make stories exciting, moving and absorbing and hold readers' interest by using various techniques, for example character development and plot tension.

Create literary texts by developing storylines, characters and settings.

English – Year 5

Create literary texts using realistic and fantasy settings and characters that draw on the worlds represented in texts students have experienced.

Create literary texts that experiment with structures, ideas and stylistic features of selected authors.

English – Year 6

Create literary texts that adapt or combine aspects of texts students have experienced in innovative ways.

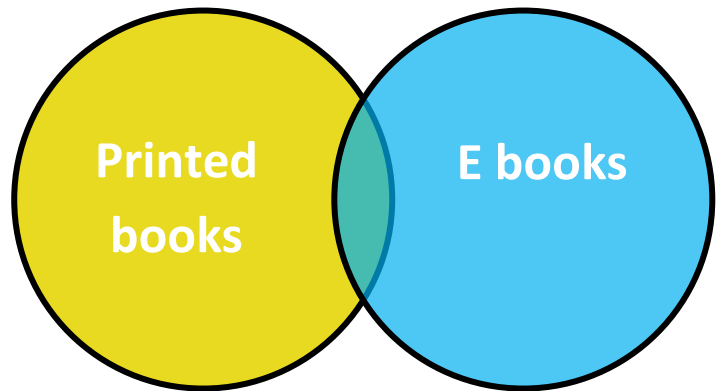
Plan, draft and publish imaginative, informative and persuasive texts, choosing and experimenting with text structures, language features, images and digital resources appropriate to purpose and audience.

Activity

Compare and contrast

Students will find similarities and differences between printed books and ebooks. Use the questions below to start a class discussion. Use a Venn diagram to help organise the information.

- What are the differences and similarities between paper books and digital books?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of reading a paper book?
- What are the advantages and disadvantages of reading an ebook?



Activity

Persuasive text

Students will develop a persuasive text for or against the following statement: *'Printed books are better than ebooks.'* Alternatively, students can develop their own statement about the topic. Students can use the information recorded during the class discussion and their own research to help develop their argument. Encourage students to use a range of sources. Provide students with the following structure to follow when completing this activity.

Structure

Introduction

- What is the point you are trying to argue? Construct an introductory paragraph which states the issue or topic.
- Introduce the arguments that will be developed in the body of the text.

Body

- Construct arguments that support your point of view.
- Each paragraph starts with a topic sentence which introduces each point.
- The rest of the paragraph gives more reasons.
- Arguments can be ordered from strongest to weakest.

Conclusion

- Restate your position on the argument.
- Construct a concluding paragraph that provides a summary of your arguments and a call to action.

Tips

- Who is your audience? For example, are you directing your argument at kids, teachers or politicians?
- Explore how language choices can have a big impact on persuading your audience.
- Which language devices give the report credibility and authority?
- Which are designed to create an emotional response in the listener?
- Provide facts and evidence to support your argument.
- Write in the present tense.
- Check your spelling and punctuation.

Activity

Responding to Books

Students will respond to a book by either writing a book review or reflecting on their favourite book.

Book Review

Students will choose a book they have read recently and then write their own book review. Students will respond to the following:

- Write a short description of the plot.
- Who are the main characters in the book?
- 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?
- Include an illustration with your review. It could be a sketch of the front cover or one of the characters from the story.
- Write a letter to the author of the book explaining your views on the book and asking any questions you have about the book.



Favourite Book

Students will choose their favourite book and complete one of the following activities:

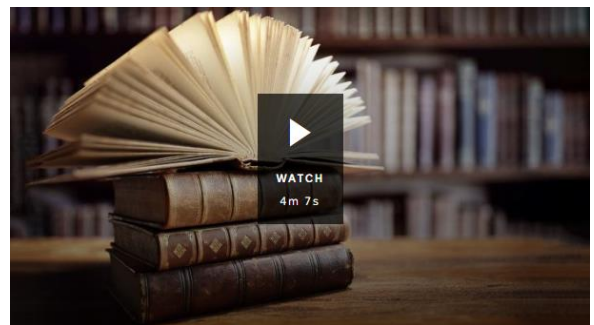
- Redesign the front cover of one of your favourite books. Explain why you chose the design.
- Create a poster that encourages people to read one of your favourite books.
- Rewrite the ending of your favourite book. Explain why you chose to end it the way you did.

Activity

BTN story and focus questions

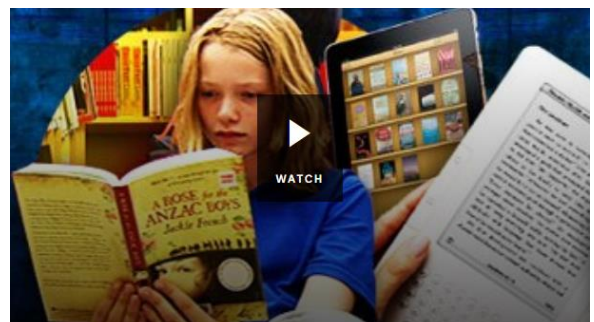
Students watch the BTN [History of Libraries](#) story then respond to the following questions:

1. What is your favourite book at the moment?
Discuss with another student.
2. How long have we had libraries?
3. What were the books in the Library of Ashurbanipal made from?
4. Where was the Library of Alexandria built? Find using Google Maps.
5. What year was Australia's first public library built?
6. How have libraries changed over time?



Students watch the BTN [Ebooks](#) story then respond to the following questions:

1. What is an ebook?
2. What sorts of devices can ebooks be read on?
3. What is an ebook reader and what features do they have?
4. What concerns do book publishers have about ebooks?
5. How are ebooks being used in libraries?
6. Would you rather read an ebook or a paper book?
7. What do you think the future of paper books is?



Useful Websites

History of Libraries – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/book-week-2019/11414458>

Ebooks – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/ebooks/10536938>

School libraries hit by the loss of a dying breed as teacher librarians enter `survival mode' – ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-09-15/research-reveals-alarming-loss-in-teacher-librarians-in-schools/11494022>