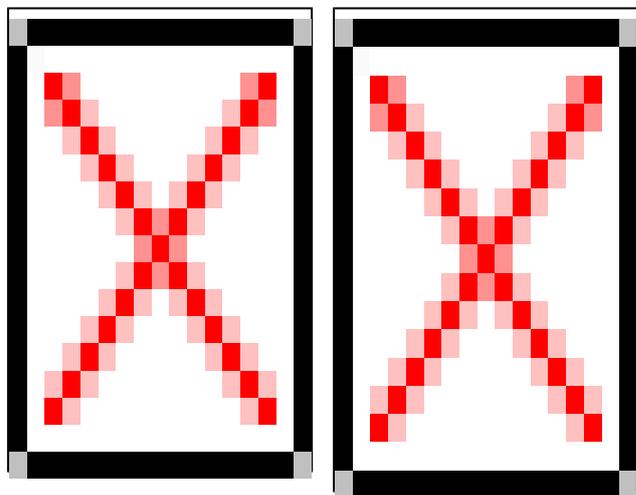




?SHARE A STORY? AT THE HEART OF WORLD BOOK DAY 2019



A focus on the benefits of reading at an early age and the importance of sharing stories will form the key message for **World Book Day 2019**, it was announced today 15th October 2018. Parents and carers will be urged to Share a Story with children in their care by reading together for ten minutes on **World Book Day** and every day. Research by the **National Literacy Trust** in 2017 revealed that 47.5% of Key Stage 2 children don't read with anyone at home, and **World Book Day** will also launch an events programme targeting **National Literacy Trust** hubs nationwide, communities where low levels of literacy have been identified as entrenched, intergenerational and seriously impacting on people's lives.

What's more, 20,000 free £1 books will be distributed to HM prisons in England and Wales for prisoners to share with visiting families.

This year there are 13 £1 books for children to choose from by authors including Malorie Blackman, Lauren Child, Frank Cottrell Boyce, Abi Elphinstone and Patrice Lawrence plus a new **Wimpy Kid** story and **Percy Jackson** story. The 2018 list attracted criticism for featuring too many books by celebrity authors, and for its lack of diversity.

Stephen Lotinga, Vice Chair of **World Book Day** and CEO of the **Publishers Association**, said: 'This year's expanded list of titles will make World Book Day 2019 bigger and better than ever. Publishers are passionate advocates of reading for pleasure and they demonstrate this every year by coming together with authors, illustrators, booksellers and librarians to share stories for the biggest nationwide celebration of reading.'

Rob Biddulph is **World Book Day's** official illustrator for 2019 and 2020.

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