

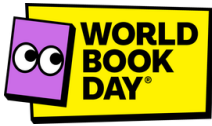
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NAVIGATE

# COLLEGE TUTORIAL RESOURCE

2025/2026





# World Book Day & World Book Night

This toolkit has been created to provide colleges and sixth forms with a flexible bank of ideas to support:

- **World Book Day - Thursday 5th March 2026**
- and/or
- **World Book Night - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2026**

Further Education settings are diverse and dynamic. Student cohorts vary widely in age, confidence, literacy levels and study pathways. As such, there is no single model for celebrating reading in FE.

This guide offers a range of scalable, adaptable activities that colleges can:

- Select from based on their context
- Deliver across a single day or over a week
- Adapt for 16–18 learners, adult students, ESOL cohorts and supported learning
- Align with curriculum, enrichment or personal development priorities

Some activities lend themselves more naturally to the celebratory tone often associated with World Book Day. Others reflect the access and inclusion focus of World Book Night. Many can support either.

Colleges are encouraged to use this toolkit as a starting point, choosing what works best for their learners, staffing capacity and strategic priorities.

## Purpose of Resource

This resource is designed to help colleges:

- Promote reading for pleasure in an age-appropriate way
- Support literacy development across the curriculum
- Encourage student engagement without embarrassment or pressure
- Strengthen enrichment and personal development offers
- Provide meaningful activities that can be reflected on via Navigate
- Demonstrate impact for quality, Ofsted and strategic reporting



# 1. Book Scavenger

An interactive activity where staff represent book characters and share a range of facts about their character or text to students.

## How it works:

- Staff wear subtle character accessories (e.g. a crown, detective hat, quote badge, themed lanyard).
- Each participating staff member has a list of facts about their book or character.
- Students collect facts throughout the day.
- Completed entries are submitted for a prize (e.g. voucher, book token).

## Why it works in FE:

Creates visible celebration without feeling childish. Encourages informal academic dialogue and cross-college interaction.



## 2. Reading Zones

A designated calm reading room within the LRC or another suitable space.

### How it works:

- Soft seating and relaxed layout
- Tea, coffee and biscuits (where possible)
- Fiction, non-fiction, audiobooks and dual-language texts available
- Optional short “drop in and read” periods

### Why it works in FE:

Supports wellbeing and reframes reading as restorative rather than assessed. Particularly impactful for GCSE resit students, anxious learners and those who may not read for pleasure.

# 3. Book Sale

A low-cost book sale run by the Learning Resource Centre.

## How it works:

- Donated or discounted books sold at accessible prices
- “Blind Date with a Book” option
- Funds reinvested into literacy resources

## Why it works in FE:

Encourages ownership and independent reading. Removes financial barriers and creates positive LRC footfall.



# 4. Book Swap

A simple “Take a Book, Leave a Book” initiative.

## How it works:

- Staff and students donate books
- Located in social spaces or the LRC
- Promoted in the run-up to World Book Day/Night

## Why it works in FE:

Low cost, community-driven and easy to maintain beyond one event. Encourages peer recommendation culture.



# 5. Author Visit

Inviting authors to deliver talks, Q&As or creative writing workshops.

## How it works:

- Author journey talk
- Writing workshop for Level 3 English or A Level students
- “How to Become an Author” masterclass

## Why it works in FE:

Links curriculum to careers and aspiration. Demonstrates real-world progression pathways into writing and publishing.

## Useful Websites:

- Authors Aloud UK – <https://authorsalouduk.co.uk>
- Speaking of Books – <https://speakingofbooks.co.uk>
- National Literacy Trust author events – <https://literacytrust.org.uk>
- Society of Authors – <https://societyofauthors.org>



# 6. Illustrator Sessions

Workshops or talks from illustrators, graphic novelists or designers.

## How it works:

- Live drawing demonstrations
- Book cover redesign projects
- Collaboration with Art & Design students

## Why it works in FE:

Connects English and creative pathways. Highlights careers in illustration, publishing and design.

## Useful Websites:

- The Association of Illustrators (AOI) – <https://theaoi.com>
- House of Illustration / Quentin Blake Centre – <https://quentinblakecentre.org>

# 7. ESOL

Celebrating reading across languages and cultures.

## How it works:

- Dual-language book displays
- “Favourite Book From My Country” board
- Staff sharing multilingual recommendations

## Why it works in FE:

Promotes inclusivity and validates multilingual learners. Positions language diversity as an asset.

# 8. SPL Supported Learning

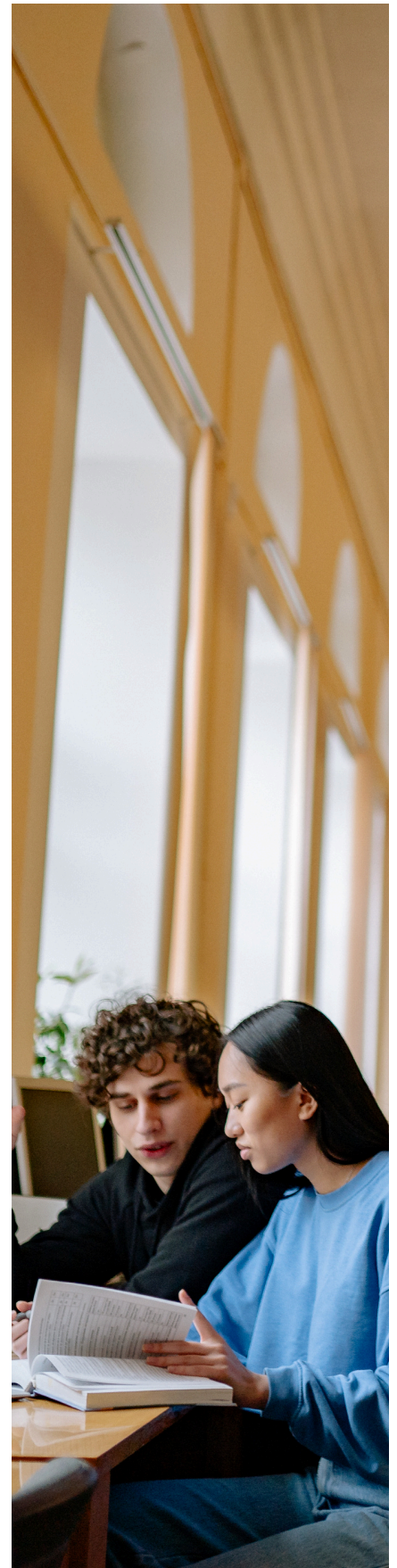
Accessible formats of activities for learners with additional needs.

## How it works:

- Visual scavenger sheets
- Short read-aloud sessions
- Sensory-friendly quiet reading times

## Why it works in FE:

Ensures participation is meaningful and inclusive rather than tokenistic.





## 9. Literary Talks

Industry professionals discussing roles in publishing, editing, marketing or literary representation.

### How it works:

- Guest speaker session
- Careers Q&A panel
- Linked to Gatsby Benchmarks

### Why it works in FE:

Strengthens employer engagement and careers education. Demonstrates that literacy leads to tangible progression routes.

### Useful Websites:

- The Publishers Association - <https://www.publishers.org.uk/>
- Creative Access (diversity in publishing) – <https://creativeaccess.org.uk>
- Prospects – Publishing Careers – <https://prospects.ac.uk>



# 10. Book Club

A student-led reading group that meets informally to discuss a chosen book, genre or theme.

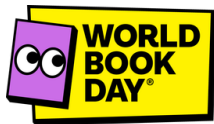
## How it works:

- Launch or promote during World Book Day or World Book Night
- Keep sessions short (30–45 minutes) and relaxed
- Allow students to vote on the book or theme
- Run at lunchtime or as enrichment
- Log participation on Navigate for reflection
- Optional variations could include short reads, graphic novels, audiobooks or themed discussions (e.g. crime, wellbeing, identity).

## Why it works in FE:

A book club provides sustained impact beyond a single event. It:

- Encourages reading for pleasure
- Builds confidence in discussion
- Supports wellbeing in a low-pressure environment
- Increases LRC engagement
- Creates enrichment opportunities with clear evidence of participation



# Strategic Value for Colleges

Celebrating World Book Day and/or World Book Night in FE is not simply about a themed event. It contributes to wider institutional priorities:

## **Literacy & Academic Development**

- Encourages reading for pleasure alongside academic reading
- Supports GCSE English resit confidence
- Develops vocabulary and comprehension
- Strengthens independent study habits

## **Personal Development & Wellbeing**

- Reading as a calming, restorative activity
- Builds confidence and identity as a reader
- Encourages reflective discussion

## **Careers & Employer Engagement**

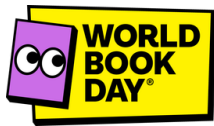
- Links to publishing, editing, journalism and creative industries
- Supports Gatsby Benchmarks
- Provides opportunities for employer talks and masterclasses

## **Enrichment & Student Reflection**

- Activities can be logged as enrichment
- Students can upload reflections to Navigate
- Supports tutorial discussions and personal development records

## **Inclusion & Widening Participation**

- Multilingual engagement
- Accessible formats for supported learning
- Encourages adult learner participation
- Promotes reading as something for everyone



# Practical Implementation

## Note for Colleges

This toolkit provides a bank of adaptable ideas, it is not a pre-packaged event.

Colleges will need to identify ownership and coordinate delivery. This may involve:

- Appointing a lead department (e.g. English, LRC, Personal Development or Enrichment)
- Engaging curriculum teams where activities link to subject areas
- Coordinating with enrichment teams to timetable activities
- Liaising with marketing teams to promote and capture impact
- Ensuring activities are inclusive and accessible across provision

Colleges may choose to deliver one activity or several, depending on capacity, staffing and space.

### **Promotion & Student Voice**

Marketing and communications teams can play an important role in:

- Promoting activities in advance
- Capturing photographs and short testimonials
- Recording student book recommendations
- Sharing staff reading picks
- Posting short “Why I Recommend This Book” clips

This helps to:

- Raise the profile of reading across campus
- Create a visible reading culture
- Provide evidence for personal development and enrichment
- Share good practice internally and externally

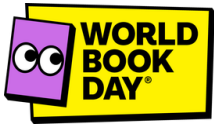
Digital engagement can be light-touch, for example:

- A simple staff book recommendation post
- A short student video clip
- A themed hashtag across the week

### **Enrichment & Reflection**

Activities can be:

- Added to enrichment calendars
- Logged as enrichment / employer engagement sessions and uploaded to Navigate



# Practical Implementation

## Note for Colleges (Continued)

### **Students can then reflect on:**

- What they engaged with
- Whether they discovered a new genre or author
- How reading supports their studies or wellbeing

This supports tutorial conversations, personal development records and quality reporting.

### **Cross-College Collaboration**

Successful delivery may involve:

- English and Creative teams
- LRC staff
- Supported Learning and ESOL teams
- Careers and employer engagement leads
- Marketing and communications

World Book Day and World Book Night activities work best when embedded into existing structures rather than sitting separately from them.