



Creating opportunities for Doncaster families

Book club: Doncaster Stories 100 Reads

Use this resource to explore activities and conversation starters about Doncaster's favourite children's books

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First Stories

Age 0 - 6

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Peter Rabbit is brave when he goes in Mr McGregor's garden. Chat about times when you have felt brave.	Make some bunny ears and wear them like Peter Rabbit.	Enjoy another book by Beatrix Potter. Your local library will have some.
Peter Rabbit loves his coat from Daddy. Do you have any special items?	Download the Peter Rabbit big reading adventure .	Have a go at growing your own vegetables.
Do you think Peter Rabbit is naughty?	Try some new vegetables and see if you like them.	Find out more about rabbits – what do they eat? How do you look after them?

Alan's big scary teeth by Jarvis

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which is your favourite animal in the jungle?	Alan enjoys a big, muddy bath. Can you find some mud to go and splash in?	Try another book about jungle animals .
Is Alan scary without his teeth?	Use a peg to make your own snappy crocodile. Try sticking on some teeth.	Take part in a <i>Monster Morning</i> workshop on the Doncaster Stories Facebook page .
Alan is good at helping his friends. How do you help your friends?	Make a scary face in the mirror.	Can you find any other scary books in your library?

Supertato by Paul Linnet and Sue Hendra

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How would you stop Evil Pea?	Make your own superhero vegetables. You could even make a baddie!	Enjoy one of the other <i>Supertato</i> books. You can borrow them from your library.
Are there any vegetables you don't like? Why?	Ask a grown-up to help you make stamps out of potatoes.	Make up a story about your very own superhero and design them a mask!
Talk about your favourite park of the story.	Tell a story about the vegetables you have in the kitchen.	Ask your grown up to hide some vegetables round the house. How many can you find and rescue?

The Tiger Who Came to Tea by Judith Kerr

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What would you do if a talking tiger came to your house?	Make some food for a tiger tea party. You could use the cake recipe here .	Enjoy another book by Judith Kerr – try <i>Mog the forgetful cat</i> .
What would your grown-up say if a tiger came to tea?	Make your own tea cups for the tiger.	Find out as many tiger facts as you can with your grown-up.
Why do you think the tiger never came back?	Make your own tiger ears and pretend to be a tiger. How loud can you roar?	Go and see a real tiger. You could watch them online or visit them in the Yorkshire Wildlife park.

Rapunzel by Paul O. Zelinsky

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How would you escape from a tall tower?	Make your own tower for Rapunzel – you could use bits of cardboard.	Enjoy another fairy tale - you can borrow one from your library.
Is it okay to take things from other people? Have you ever taken anything that didn't belong to you?	Use blocks to make a really tall tower? How high can you build it? Can you build the taller one than someone else?	Have a go at plaiting your own hair, or maybe try it on someone you live with.
How does Rapunzel feel when she is all by herself in the tower?	Pretend to be the witch. Can you make a scary witch face?	There are lots of versions of <i>Rapunzel</i> – try the one by Bethan Woollvin.

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Who do you miss when they are not there?	Go into your garden when it is dark. What can you see?	Go for a walk in the woods. Can you see any owls? What other animals can you find?
Which owl do you like the most from the story?	Use cotton wool to make your own fluffy baby owl.	Enjoy another book about owls. You might like <i>Wow! said the Owl</i> by Tim Hopgood.
What are your favourite things about the night time?	Make your own owl puppet and perform your own version of the story.	Borrow a non-fiction book from your library about owls.

Dirty Bertie by David Roberts

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you do anything naughty like Bertie?	Create a character profile of <i>Dirty Bertie</i> – draw all his features and include labels.	Explore the Dirty Bertie website!
What is the naughtiest thing Bertie does?	Do you know any other messy characters like <i>Dirty Bertie</i> ?	Enjoy another book about a naughty boy. You might like <i>Horrid Henry</i> by Francesca Simon.
Would you like it if <i>Dirty Bertie</i> was in your class?	Give some toys a wash outside. Can you make them clean?	Find out more about how you can keep clean with these Little Princess activities.

Dear Zoo by Rod Campbell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which is your favourite zoo animal?	Draw or make your own animal for the zoo to send home.	Enjoy another Rod Campbell book. You might enjoy <i>Our Jungle</i> .
Can you remember what is behind each flap before you open it?	Where would you put a pet from the zoo? Would it live in your bedroom or somewhere else?	Find out more about your favourite animal. You could borrow a book from the library.
Do you have any pets? Do they ever do anything naughty?	Pretend to be an animal. Can your grown-up guess what you are?	Go to the pet shop. What pets can you see there? Which is your favourite?

Man on the Moon by Simon Bartram

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Why didn't Bob see any of the aliens?	Make your own model of the moon. Can you find lots of places to hide aliens?	Read and explore <i>Whatever Next!</i> by Jill Murphy on the Words for Life website.
The man on the moon has a lot of things to do before he gets to work. What do you do before you go out in the morning?	Look at all the moon souvenirs. Can you make your own moon souvenir?	Find out more about Bob's adventures. You can borrow more Bob books from the library.
What would you explore if you worked on the moon?	Can you find all the aliens hiding in the book?	Build a spaceship and see if you can make it fly.

You're Safe With Me by Chitra Soundar

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Have you ever seen a storm? How did it sound?	Paint or draw your own picture of a storm.	Go into the garden at night time. What can you hear? What is making the noises?
Who keeps you safe when you're feeling scared?	Use objects to make your own crashes and bangs like a storm?	Play the rain game and tell your own story.
What helps you get to sleep?	Which is your favourite bedtime story? Make a cosy den to share it in.	Find another good bedtime story. You might like <i>Mog and Bunny</i> by Judith Kerr.

A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Have you ever been on a funny adventure like Paddington?	Make your own suitcase like Paddington. What will you put in it?	Enjoy another <i>Paddington</i> adventure. There are lots to borrow in your local library.
The Browns are very kind to Paddington. Who is kind to you? How are they kind?	Make a <i>Paddington</i> finger puppet .	What do you know about London? Use the internet or library to find out more.
What would Paddington do if he came to your house?	Make your own marmalade sandwich. How does it taste?	Read another book about bears. You might enjoy We're going on a bear hunt by Michael Rosen.

Aliens Love Underpants by Claire Freedman

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which is your favourite pair of pants in the book?	Draw a pair of pants that the aliens would like.	Enjoy another book about space .
How many aliens can you find on the picture at the back of the book? Which one do you like best?	Invent your own alien – sketch them and include labels.	Who else loves underpants? There are lots of books here you might like by Claire Freedman .
Where would aliens hide if they came to your house?	Get your grown up to hide some paper aliens in your house. Can you find them all?	Listen to the Claire Freedman reading the story .

George and the Dragon by Christopher Wormell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Are you scared of anything smaller than you?	Make a mouse puppet to scare any dragons away.	Enjoy another story about dragons. You might like <i>Zog</i> by Julia Donaldson.
George gets lots of cheese as a reward for scaring away the dragon. What would you want as your reward?	How would you scare away a dragon? See if you can scare your grown up.	Make a cave for <i>George and the Dragon</i> and put some special items inside.
Did you like the dragon's cave? What would be in your cave?	Make a scary dragon. What will it look like?	Find out more about St. George's day .

Little Red Riding Hood by Susanna Davidson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Red Riding Hood helps her grandmother. Who do you like to help?	Hide behind a corner and roar like a wolf to scare a friend.	Go for a walk in the woods. You could take your own basket of food and have a picnic.
The wolf tricked Red Riding Hood. Has anyone ever tricked you?	Make your own masks to tell the story to someone else.	Find out more about wolves. You could borrow a book from your library.
The woodcutter saves everyone. Can you think of anyone else who saves people?	Use a matchbox to make a mini sized bed for the wolf.	Read and explore <i>The Three Little Pigs</i> , another traditional story featuring a wolf.

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
The caterpillar ate a lot of food. What food do you like?	Make your own caterpillar out of stones or pebbles – try painting them!	Grow your own caterpillar. Can you grow it into a butterfly?
Poor caterpillar got a tummy ache from all the food. Have you ever had a tummy ache? How did it feel?	Paint on one half of a piece of paper then fold it in half to turn it into a butterfly.	Enjoy listening to the <i>The Very Hungry Caterpillar</i> .
Can you remember all the things that the caterpillar ate?	Can you find any butterflies outside? What colours are they?	Ask in your library to borrow another book by Eric Carle.

The Day the Crayons Quit by Drew Daywalt

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which is your favourite colour?	Make your own crayon people using empty toilet rolls.	Use your favourite colour to write a postcard – you can ask your grown up to help.
Which crayon do you like most in the story?	Which colours do your friends like best? Can you find out?	Enjoy the next book in the series – <i>The Day the Crayons Came Back</i> .
What would your crayons say if they could talk?	Can you make a picture with all your colours so no crayon feels left out?	Take your crayons on their own adventure. You could take photos of them having fun outside.

We're Going on a Bear Hunt by Michael Rosen

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Read the story again and join in with the actions and noises.	Take your own cuddly bear to the woods.	Try Bear Hunt activities on the Words of Life website.
Do you think the bear wanted to play at the end of the story?	Explore all the things the family walked through such as ice, grass, sticks. What do they feel like?	Listen to Michael Rosen read the story .
Have you ever been on an adventure with your family?	Find out more about bears. What do they like to eat? Where do they live?	Read and explore Peace at Last by Jill Murphy, another book about bears.

The Three Little Pigs by Nicola Baxter

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
The wolf is really good at blowing things down. What would you want to huff and puff and blow down?	Can you make a strong house for a little pig.	Ask in your library for a different fairy tale.
What materials would you use to build your house?	Try these <i>Three Little Pig</i> activities on the Words for Life website.	Go and visit a farm to see if you can see real pigs.
What would you tell the wolf if he wanted to come in your house?	Make some puppets so you can tell the story to someone else.	Find out what you can move just by blowing it. Can you move a rock? Can you move a feather?

Winnie the Witch by Valerie Thomas

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other stories about witches?	Make your own magic wand and see if you can put and spell on someone.	Enjoy another story about witches. You might enjoy <i>Meg and Mog</i> by Helen Nicoll.
Winnie finds her spells tricky to get right. What do you find tricky to get right?	Download the Winnie the Witch activities from the Words for Life website.	Find some sticks and twigs outside so you can make a broom for Winnie
Which pet would you like to have to help you if you were a witch?	Ask a grown-up to help you make your own potion. What are its magic powers?	Enjoy another <i>Winnie the Witch</i> book. Ask in your library to borrow one.

The Book with No Pictures by B. J. Novak

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Say some of the silly words in the story. Can you say them in a funny voice?	Make your own book with no pictures. Ask a grown-up to write your words for you if you need help.	Find more books like this. Ask your library to find out what they have.
Did you like this book as much as books with pictures in?	Draw some pictures that could go alongside this book.	Enjoy another B. J Novak book. You might like <i>The alphabet book with no pictures</i> .
What did you find funny about this book?	Invent your own silly words and definitions.	Tell someone else what you thought about this book and see if they enjoy it.

There's a Dragon in Your Book by Tom Fletcher

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Join in with all the actions to help the baby dragon.	Make your own model egg and think of something to come out of it.	Ask your library for more books like this by Tom Fletcher.
What would you do if you found a dragon egg?	Pretend the dragon is about to sneeze. Can you run and hide from the flames.	Enjoy another book about a dragon. You might like <i>Zog</i> by Julia Donaldson.
Can you think of anything else that might help the dragon?	Play <i>Simon says</i> ... Listen carefully to the directions to do the right action.	Make your own baby dragon.

Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How would you escape from the monster in the story?	Make puppets of the characters in the story so you can retell it.	Enjoy the <i>Room on the Broom</i> trail in Wakefield. Can you find all your favourite characters?
Have you ever lost something when you were out? Did you ever find it again?	Draw your own broom. Can you make a space for everyone on it?	Play in the mud and make your own mud monster.
What was the scariest thing about the monster?	Can you find any rhyming words in the book?	Find out more about the illustrations in <i>Room on the Broom</i> by Julia Donaldson.

The Cat in the Hat by Dr. Seuss

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Can you make up your own silly rhymes?	Make your own cat puppet. What silly things will he get up to?	Enjoy another book by Dr. Seuss. There are lots to choose from. Ask in your local library.
What would you do if the cat came to your house?	Can you make your own hat? You could draw lots of rhyming things on it.	Enjoy another rhyming book. You might enjoy <i>Giraffe's can't dance</i> by Giles Andreae.
How would you catch Thing 1 and Thing 2 if they came to your house?	Make a picture to show the funniest part of the story.	Share some nursery rhymes . Can you learn one you don't already know?



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Young Readers

Age 7 +

The Lost Puppy by Holly Webb

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Ruby loves getting Toby for her birthday. What is the best gift you have ever been given?	Create a missing pet poster for Toby. Include a drawing and important information about Toby.	Explore the Holly Webb site and decide what else you would like to read.
Toby is lost and alone in the woods. How do you think Ruby feels?	Find out more about caring for a puppy on the RSPCA website .	Write a book review of <i>The Lost Puppy</i> to share with other people.
Have you ever got lost? How did you feel?	Find out more about Daschunds . Can you make a leaflet to share the information?	Enjoy another animal story. You might like <i>The Pug who wanted to be a Unicorn</i> by Bella Swift.

Flat Stanley by Jeff Brown

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about the advantages of being totally flat. What would you do?	Make your own <i>Flat Stanley</i> . Test out where he would be able to fit.	Take a <i>Flat Stanley</i> on a tour and make a photo book of him at different places.
What would your family say if you were flattened? How would they help?	Share your <i>Flat Stanley</i> picture on the Jeff Brown website .	Find out more about Jeff Brown. What other books has he written?
What would be difficult for you if you were flat? Are there any ways to get round it?	Make your own <i>Flat Stanley</i> kite. You could try testing different materials.	Write your own <i>Flat Stanley</i> adventure.

The Iron Woman by Ted Hughes

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Lucy helps <i>the Iron Woman</i> by cleaning her. How do your friends help you?	Make a poster or leaflet to warn people about the dangers of pollution.	Find out more about pollution and how it is affecting animals.
Was <i>the Iron Woman</i> right to turn all the men in the waste disposal plant into swamp creatures?	Make your own <i>Iron Woman</i> from bits of recycling.	Research Ted Hughes and find out about his links to Mexborough.
How did this book make you think about the environment?	Find out about <i>The Iron Man</i> . How is he different to <i>The Iron Woman</i> ?	Try some of these environmental activities .

The Pug who Wanted to be a Unicorn by Bella Swift

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Peggy tries to turn herself into something she isn't. Have you ever tried to change yourself?	See if you can create creatures made up of two animals such as a dog and unicorn – a doggycorn!	Find out about the RSPCA and how they rehome dogs.
Should you change yourself for someone else?	Make a poster to advertise for a new home for Peggy. What does Peggy need from her new home?	Write a letter to your local MP to encourage them to do more to help pets without homes.
Does Peggy remind you of any other characters from other stories you have read?	Are there any more books by Bella Swift you might enjoy? Click on the link to explore her books.	Write a review of this book to persuade other people to read it.

Judy Moody: Around the World in 8 ½ days

by Megan McDonald

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Have you ever fallen out with your friends at school. How did you sort it out?	Can you make up some more rhyming characters like <i>Judy Moody</i> ? Give them rhyming names and personalities.	Find a map of the world and think about where you would like to go.
Have you ever forgotten to do something important? What happened?	Look at some more books in the <i>Judy Moody</i> series. Which one will you read next?	Choose a country you don't know and find out some more about it. What food do they eat? What do they wear?
Have you ever had someone new join your class? How did you make them feel welcome?	Make a poster to encourage children to look after new people to school.	Make a travel journal to show all the places Judy Moody went. Where should she go next? What might happen there?

The Hodgeheg by Dick King-Smith

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What did you think when Max tried to cross the road?	Make a hedgehog home to help them hibernate.	Research Hedgehog crossings. Are there any near you?
Can you make links to other stories where someone needs to cross a road or bridge?	Make a road safety poster to help children cross the road safely.	Go to your local park and see if you can find any evidence of hedgehogs.
Have you ever managed to do something that was really tricky to begin with?	Can you draw a picture of <i>The Hodgeheg</i> using the descriptions from the book?	Find out how to help hedgehogs if they get poorly.

The Faraway Tree by Enid Blyton

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Are there any words/phrases that you haven't heard before?	Draw your own world for the top of <i>The Faraway Tree</i> . Write a paragraph to describe why it's special.	Find out more about Enid Blyton. What other stories has she written?
Discuss all the characters in the book. Which is your favourite and why?	Go and visit a local forest or woods. Can you find any trees which could be big enough to be a magical tree?	Research amazing tree houses using the internet. Which one would you most like to live in?
Which far away land did you like the most? Why?	Can you think of a new character to live in <i>The Faraway Tree</i> ?	Research forest creatures. What other creatures might live in the enchanted wood? What would their home look like?

Atticus Claw by Jennifer Gray

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What is a cat burglar? What skills do they need to have?	All the <i>Atticus Claw</i> books rhyme. Can you think of another rhyming title for the next <i>Atticus Claw</i> book?	Find out about famous detectives. Who would be a good partner for Atticus Claw?
Do you have a pet? Is any of their behaviour similar to Atticus?	Find out about places on the English coast. Which of them looks like the one from the book?	Listen to the podcasts about the characters in <i>Atticus Claw lends a paw</i> .
Did Atticus Claw remind you of any other characters you have read about?	Make your own wanted poster for Atticus.	Find out more about Jennifer Gray using her website.

Captain Underpants by Dav Pilkey

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about all the superheroes you know. What do they have in common?	Design your own superhero. What super powers do they have? What weaknesses do they have?	Research superheroes you haven't heard of before.
Do you know any other characters who are like Mr Krupp?	Can you draw a character from the book. Use Dav Pilkey's website to help.	Create your own comic book. Use this generator to get your comic book name .
What would you do if you could hypnotise your head teacher?	Design your own supervillain. What powers do they have? What is their wicked plan?	Try a graphic novel and use these tips to help you choose. You could read them online with your library card.

The Little Mermaid by Hans Christian Anderson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Write a list of everything you know about mermaids.	Enjoy different versions of the Little Mermaid. How do the endings differ? Which do you prefer and why?	Research oceans and find out how they are affected by global warming.
Would you prefer to be a human or a mermaid? Why?	Ask a grown-up to help you make a potion like the Sea Witch used.	Read and enjoy other books about the ocean .
The mermaid is very brave to leave the sea. What is the bravest thing you've ever done?	Build a model of your own sea world using any materials you can find at home.	The Ancient Greeks referred to mermaids as sirens – how are they different <i>to The Little Mermaid</i> ?

The Worst Witch by Jill Murphy

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Is Mildred like other witches you have read about?	Draw and name a pet for Mildred. Consider what their looks and personality.	Create your own <i>Worst Witch</i> adventure. What will Mildred do? Which of her friends and teachers will be in the story?
Are any of your teachers like the teachers in the book?	Write your own spell. What does it do?	Read another book about a famous witch or wizard. Ask your teacher for their suggestion.
Which character is the most like you? Why?	Create your own teacher for Mildred's school. What will they teach? What are they like?	Find out more about Jill Murphy .

The 117-Storey Treehouse

by Andy Griffiths and Terry Denton

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
If you were only allowed two storeys in your tree house, what would be on them?	Invent your own tree house! Draw a picture of it and add lots of labels – be as detailed as possible.	Build your own tree house or den in your garden – you can even use things like blankets and chairs.
What would you expect on the other side of a door of doom?	Create a new character for the story. What are they like? Are they a villain or a goodie?	Draw a comic strip for very own treehouse story.
Which stories would you report to the story police?	Build a model of the tree using bits of recycling.	Enjoy another book from the same series. Ask in your local library for suggestions.

The Wild Robot by Peter Brown

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What did you think of the character Roz?	Design a robot. What can it do?	Find out about robots . What are robots able to do?
What did you think of the RECOs. Were they right to try and reclaim Roz?	What animal would you like to be able to talk to? What would you talk about?	Find out about the different animals in the story. What do their shelters look like?
How did Roz work with her friends? Compare this to how you work with your friends.	Find out more about otters. What else are they able to build?	Make your own robot. You can use scrap, Lego, wood or other items.

The Boy Who Grew Dragons by Andy Shepherd

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How does Tomas look after Flicker?	Watch Andy Shepherd talk about <i>The Boy Who Sang with Dragons</i> .	Explore the Andy Shepherd activities on the Words for Life website.
Tomas and his Grandad are very close. Which adult are you close to. Why?	What does Flicker look like? Can you draw a picture of her?	Read another book about dragons. You might enjoy this one by Michelle Robinson .
Flicker causes lots of trouble in the house. Have you ever had a pet that has caused trouble?	Create your own dragon. You could draw it or make it from other materials.	Are dragons real? Watch this report on Newsround .

How to Train Your Dragon by Cressida Cowell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you have any hidden skills or talents?	Create an advert for a dragon rider. What skills do they need to have?	Read another dragon book. There's some on the Doncaster 100 Reads list.
Talk about a time when you were brave.	Make your own book of dragons. What dragons can you create? What will they do?	Find out more about Cressida Cowell . Are there anymore books she has written that you might enjoy?
Why do you think Toothless trusts Hiccup?	Draw a map of the island of Berk and label some landmarks.	Find out more about the Vikings. Are they similar to the characters in the book?

The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Hogarth and Iron Man are friends. How do they help each other?	Create your own Iron Man drawing.	See if you can find out more about Ted Hughes – what are his links to Doncaster?
What is this book trying to teach us?	The Iron Man likes to eat farm equipment. What else should he eat? Draw a plate with a meal for him.	The Iron man wants people to look after the planet. Find out what you can do to look after the planet.
Which was your favourite part of the book and why?	Create your own Iron Man sculpture from scrap materials or bits of recycling.	Read <i>The Iron Woman</i> by Ted Hughes.

Dogman by Dav Pilkey

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What do you think of George and Harold?	Draw your own hero that is part-animal and part-human. What powers do they have?	Read <i>Captain Underpants</i> by Dav Pilkey – it's another book on the Doncaster 100 Reads list.
Dogman is formed because of an accident. Can you think of any other heroes that have been created by accident?	Create your own comic for <i>Dogman</i> . Share it with your friends and see what they think.	Are there any other graphic novels you might enjoy? Ask in your local library.
Which character can you relate to the most?	Try making a <i>Dogman</i> animation – you could use Lego, drawings, or playdough.	Write a review of <i>Dogman</i> so other people can see if they want to read it.

The Brilliant World of Tom Gates by Liz Pichon

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you have any brothers or sisters? Do ever play tricks on them like Tom Gates or are you more kind?	Draw a comic in the style of <i>Tom Gates</i> .	See if you enjoy <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> by Jeff Kinney.
What would your teacher do if they were in this story?	How many excuses can you come up with for not handing in your homework on time?	Explore the Tom Gates activities and audio book extracts in the Virtual School Library.
Tom is desperate to see the band <i>Dude3</i> . What music do you like and why?	Draw some illustrations for the book. Where would they go?	Find out more about Liz Pichon and all the books she has written.

Horrid Henry by Francesca Simon

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you have a brother or sister? Do you ever fall out with them?	Write a page for Henry's journal describing what he has been up to.	Find out more about the author, Francesca Simon .
Who do you think you are most similar to - Horrid Henry or Perfect Peter?	Make a list of Horrid Henry names for your friends e.g. Silly Sarah, Glamorous Gracie.	Create your own <i>Horrid Henry</i> story. What does he get up to?
Can you think of any other books about naughty children?	Horrid Henry loves his dungeon drinks kit. Design another toy that Horrid Henry would like.	Ask you teacher to recommend another book like <i>Horrid Henry</i> .

The Dragonsitter by Josh Lacey

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Have you ever helped look after someone's pet? What did you have to do?	What else might go wrong if you are looking after a dragon? Can you make your own dragon story?	Explore the Josh Lacey website and listen to him reading some of the story.
Why do you think Uncle Morton doesn't reply very often to the messages from Eddie?	Write your own, better, response from Uncle Morton. What should he have told Eddie?	Write a review of <i>The Dragonsitter</i> so others can decide if they want to read it too.
Who do you ask for help when things get tricky? How do they help you?	Draw your own picture to illustrate your favourite part of the story.	Enjoy some more books about dragons – there's plenty more on the Doncaster 100 Reads list.

The Twits by Roald Dahl

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Is it okay to play unkind tricks on people? How would you help someone who was being tricked?	Describe a trick that the Twits could play on each other – you could write it down or say it out loud.	Explore the Roald Dahl website.
Mr Twit was cunning when he tricked Mrs Twit into thinking she had shrunk. Can you think of any other cunning fictional characters?	There are lots of amazing names in the story. Create your own character for <i>The Twits</i> . What are they called? What do they do?	Read another book by Roald Dahl on the Doncaster 100 Reads list.
The Twits do not like each other. Have you read any other stories where the characters are mean?	Check out this short animated video – do you think it's a good representation of the story?	Download the Doncaster Stories Roald Dahl at home trail.

Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Have you read about any other characters like Greg?	Create your own cartoon character in the same style as the author. Give them a name and personality.	Try another book in the same series – which one do you prefer?
Greg tries to use Rowley's popularity to help him. Have you ever used a friend to help you?	Create your own journal . What are you going to record in it?	Explore the Wimpy Kid website.
Does Greg like being at school? How do you feel about school?	Design your own <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> story.	Write your own book review of Wimpy Kid so someone else can see if they want to read it.

The BFG by Roald Dahl

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How do you think Sophie felt when the BFG first took her? Have you even been in a scary situation?	Make a DIY dream catcher out of a paper plate.	Download the Doncaster Stories Roald Dahl at home trail .
How are the giants in <i>The BFG</i> compare to other giants that you have read about?	Make your own dream jar with along with a dream diary entry.	The BFG and Sophie visit the Queen - find out more about the Royal Family and Buckingham Palace .
Sophie and the BFG are good friends even though they are very different. Have you read any other books about friends who are different?	Design a home for Sophie in a giant's cave. What will it look like? What will she need?	Listen to the first chapter of <i>The BFG</i> for free on the Roald Dahl app.

Barry Loser by Jim Smith

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Barry's hero is Future Ratboy. Who is your hero? Why?	Make your own <i>Barry Loser</i> comic strip. What will happen next to Barry?	Find out more about the author and explore the Barry Loser website .
Has anyone new ever come to your school and made things different? How?	Ratboy is created when Colin's DNA fuses with a rat. What animal would you have if you became a superhero?	Try reading <i>The Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i> and Jeff Kinney.
Barry enters the competition to prove he is not a loser. Have you ever been in a competition?	Try drawing your own character in the style of Jim Smith.	Write a review of Barry Loser so other people can decide if they want to read it.

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Who is the worst child to visit the chocolate factory?	Invent a new tasty treat with super powers and make a poster about it.	Try this writing challenge inspired by the book
What would your chocolate factory be like?	Download these <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> activity sheets.	Borrow <i>Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator</i> from the library.
Do you think Willy Wonka treated the children properly?	Try this chocolatey recipe on the Words for Life website.	Watch one of <i>The Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> films – how does it compare to the book?

Matilda by Roald Dahl

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Can you think of any other stories where a character overcomes a bully?	Design a character profile for the perfect teacher at Crunchem Hall.	Download the Doncaster Stories Roald Dahl at Home trail.
Matilda worked hard to teach herself to read. What have you worked hard to be good at?	If you could have a superpower what would it be?	Read another book by Roald Dahl on the Doncaster Stories 100 Reads list.
Have any teachers really helped you with something (big or small)?	Make a list of your top 5 favourite books and recommend them to a friend.	Matilda loves libraries. Visit your local library and see what amazing books you can discover.



Creating opportunities for Doncaster families

Confident Readers

Age 10 - 11

A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Each of the children have got their own special talent. What special talent do you have?	Design the next disguise for Count Olaf. How will he try and trick the orphans next?	Write another episode for the book. Plan what the unfortunate event will be and how the children will escape from it.
Does Count Olaf remind you of any characters you have read in other books?	Do you know any other books about orphans? Create a list to show similarities and differences between them	Explore the Lemony Snicket website and find out more about the books.
What do you think of the other adults in the book?	Make a character profile about your favourite person in the story.	Design an invention Violet would like. What does it do? What would you need to make it?

The Longest Whale Song by Jacqueline Wilson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Ella doesn't like Jack at first. Have you ever changed your mind about liking someone? Why?	What would help you wake from a coma? Create your list of favourite songs, stories or poems that would help wake you up.	Find out more about whales .
What did you think of Ella? Is she someone you would be friend with?	Listen to some whale music. What do you think of it?	Enjoy The Book of Hopes by Katherine Rundell. Your school will have a copy and Jaqueline Wilson contributed to it!
Talk about the qualities that you think makes someone a good friend.	Write a prediction of what you think the world will look like in 10 years time.	Enjoy another book by Jacqueline Wilson . Ask your teacher to suggest one.

The Jungle Book by Rudyard Kipling

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How do the animals help Mowgli survive in the jungle?	Look at a map and find places that look similar to where Mowgli lived.	Choose a jungle or rainforest to find out more about – each one has different wildlife.
Did Mowgli make the right choice to go back to the man village?	Who is your favourite character? Create a character profile for them.	Find out about the negative impact that people have had on rainforests.
Kaa tries to hurt Mowgli but he is saved by his friends. How do your friends protect you?	Find out about different kind of animals that live in the jungle and create an information page about your favourite.	Enjoy another books set in the jungle. You might like <i>The Explorers</i> by Katherine Rundell.

Varjak Paw by S. F. Said

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Varjak doesn't feel part of his family because he is different. Have you ever felt you weren't part of a group?	Create a set of instructions to teach someone The Way.	Research Mesopotamian Blue cats. Can you create a fact file about them?
Varjak find friends on the street. How do these friends help him? What do you do to help your friends?	Draw a picture of Cludge (see if you can find out what breed he is!).	Find out about the differences between wild cats and domestic cats.
Elder Paw helps Varjak escape from the black cats by sacrificing himself. What other stories have you read where a character helps another in such a big way?	Draw a picture of Varjak from your favourite scene in the story and write about why you like that particular part.	Enjoy another book by S. F. Said – you might enjoy <i>The Outlaw Varjak Paw</i> .

The Silver Sword by Ian Serrailier

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Jan keeps all his treasures in a wooden box. What treasures would you put in the wooden box?	The silver sword is a symbol of hope for Jan. Draw your symbol of hope and write a descriptive paragraph.	Find a map of Europe and see if you can track the journey of Jan and his friends.
Joseph loses his wife and children when they are taken to a prison camp. Have you ever lost someone important to you?	Create a timeline for the story to show how the three children are separated and then reunited.	Create a research topic all about World War 2 – you could include information about rationing and the evacuees.
Ruth, Bronia and Eden are all very brave. Which do you think was the bravest and why?	Write a diary entry as your favourite character.	Enjoy another book about the war such as <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i> by John Boyne.

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about the Queen of Hearts. Have you read any other books with characters who behave like her?	Learn some card games and play with a friend.	Plan your own dream tea party with fictional characters. Create a menu, invite list, and dress code.
Why does Alice follow the white rabbit?	Illustrate a section of the book and read the text carefully to decide what your picture will look like.	Research your favourite kind of animal in the book. What can you learn about where they live and how to find them?
Have you ever taken any risks like Alice does in the story?	The characters at the tea party were talking to Alice in riddles. Can you make up your own riddles?	The dodo is now extinct . Read about the different ways that animals become extinct.

Gangsta Granny by David Walliams

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How does Gangsta Granny compare with your Grandparents?	Write a postcard of kindness to send to an older person.	Find out more about Kings and Queens on the Words for Life website.
Have your Grandparents ever told you any of their secrets?	Talk about what treasures you would keep in your own biscuit tin?	Imagine Granny's crimes had been discovered. Write a newspaper report about it.
Does Granny want the rest of the family to spend time with her?	Write a fact file from Granny recording all the treasures she has stolen.	Take part in the My Dear New Friend initiative by writing letters to someone in a care home.

The Wizards of Once by Cressida Cowell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Talk about the things that make you feel angry. What can you do you manage those emotions?	Write a paragraph explaining what your magic power would be.	Enjoy more of Cressida Cowell's books. You might like to read <i>How to train your dragon</i> .
How do Xar and Wish change through the story?	What character traits do Xar and Wish have that you would also like to have?	Explore the Wizards of Once website . You can learn how to draw a wizard.
The Wizards and Warriors both think they are right. Who do you agree with and why?	Draw a map of the British Isles as described in the book. Read the text carefully.	Write a book review so other people can decide if they want to read it.

Mary Poppins by P. L. Travers

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other stories where there is a governess or nanny in? How is Mary Poppins different?	Find London on the map. Look at a street map and how much is there.	Find out what a chimney sweep is and think about how it might feel to go up a chimney.
How did meeting the bird woman change the children? Have you ever met someone who changed the way you thought?	What else is there in the magical carpet bag? Draw what you would have in yours.	Explore other times in history . Which is your favourite?
How does Mary change the children?	Find out more about children in the 1930s. What would school look like for them? How would they dress?	Enjoy watching the film of Mary Poppins. How was it different to the book?

Journey to River Sea by Eva Ibbotson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Would you want to travel a long way like Maia did? Where would you like to go?	Finn's father collected lots of rare and unusual plants and creatures. What unusual plants and creatures can you find out about?	Find out more about the rainforest . You could even write a newspaper report on it.
What is the friendship between Maia and Miss Minton like? How does it help Maia?	Write postcards from Maia which share all her adventures with a friend back home.	Enjoy another book about the rainforest. You might enjoy <i>The Explorer</i> by Katherine Rundell.
Mr Carter has a collection of eyeballs. Have you ever had a strange collection of anything?	There are lots of stories where people swap places for some reason. Can you think of other books with that theme?	Use a map to show the journey Maia makes to get to South America.

Wolf Brother by Michelle Paver

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Torak is really brave in this book. What other books have you read where the character is brave?	There are different clans in this book. What clan would you want to be part of?	How does the forest help the clans survive? Research plants and animals that live in forests.
How does Torak build a friendship with the wolf?	Create your own book review of this book so other people could decide if they want to read it.	Find out more about wolves. You could borrow a book from your local library.
Have you read any other books where the main characters are a human and an animal?	Explore your <u>local forest</u> . What wildlife can you spot there?	Find out how <u>wolves communicate</u> with each other. What other animals can communicate with each other?

The Polar Bear Explorer's Club by Alex Bell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Is Stella Starflake Pearl what you thought she would be like? How does she prove herself to everyone?	Find out more about the Polar regions with these 10 top facts .	Find out more about Polar Bears .
Have you ever done something that has surprised people? What was it?	Explore the mysterious creatures in the book. What other creatures could Stella find on her adventures?	Write a review of this book so other people could decide if they want to read it.
This book has lots of funny bits. Which bits were funniest for you?	Can you find out more about any other explorers who have been to the Polar regions.	Find out about global warming. What impact is it having on the Polar regions?

Sleepovers by Jacqueline Wilson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Chloe is really unkind to Daisy in the book. Have you ever had someone be unkind to you in school? What have you done about it?	How you can help people who are being bullied? Chat about ways to help with your friends.	Explore what international disability day is.
Daisy's sister has autism. Have you ever met or read about someone with autism?	Find out more about bullying on the childline site .	Write a review of the book so other people can see if they'd enjoy reading it.
Do any of the characters remind you of your friends at school?	Find out more about what it might feel like to be Autistic by watching this youtube clip .	Enjoy another book about Autism. Try <i>Can you see me?</i> by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott.

Sky Song by Abi Elphinstone

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
<p>Can you make any links to other stories?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evil ice queens - Stealing someone's voice 	<p>Flint has some great inventions. Can you invent something and draw your plans for it.</p>	<p>Find out about the <u>coldest parts of the planet</u>.</p>
<p>What do you think of Eska? What would it be like to lose all your memories?</p>	<p>Make a memory box to keep your most precious memories safe.</p>	<p>Find out more about arctic foxes. Borrow a book from school or your local library to help.</p>
<p>Balapan has magical powers which he uses to help Eska. What magical powers would you like? How would you use them?</p>	<p>Create your own music for a music box. What will your music do?</p>	<p>Write a review of the book so other people can see if they'd enjoy reading it.</p>

Tin by Padraig Kenny

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Did you agree with what Mr Absalom did or was he taking advantage of parents who had lost their children?	Use junk modelling to make your own Mechanical.	Use your library or the internet to find out more about robotics.
Did you realise which characters were robots in the story and which were human? How did the writer confuse you?	Are robots better than humans? Make a list of good and bad things about robots.	Use a simple coding programme such as scratch to create your own code.
How would you feel if you suddenly discovered you weren't who you thought you were?	What are robots able to do? Explore this article about teacher robots .	Explore other books by Padraig Kenny. You might enjoy Pog .

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What is the relationship between Joe and Black Beauty like? Can you make links to any other books you've read?	Do a timeline to map all the events in Black Beauty's life.	Find out more about caring for horses. How are they kept happy and healthy?
What happened to Ginger in the story? What did you think about her?	Do you understand all the words used to talk about horses? Make a list of and find out any you are not sure of.	Share a review of this book to encourage other children to read it.
Have you read any other stories where the main character was an animal? How do they compare?	Design and draw a horse drawn vehicle.	How are horses used to help around the world? What can you find out?

Krindlekrax by Philip Ridley

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other characters like Ruskin Splinter?	What do you think the Krindlekrax looks like? Draw a picture or make a model of it.	Find out more about Philip Ridley. Has he written any more books you'd like to read?
Ruskin is really upset when his friend Corky dies. Have you ever lost someone or something that was really important to you?	The people on Lizard street are responsible for letting the monster into the sewer. Design a poster that would warn them of the dangers.	Find out about other mythical monsters. Which is the most deadly?
How does Ruskin change during the story. Do any other characters change?	Write a newspaper report about the missing people.	Write a book review of the book so other people could see if they want to read it.

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about how you include friends in the playground. What do you do if someone is alone?	Write your own letter to the Queen to ask her to support refugees.	Look at a map to find out how far Ahmet's family travelled.
Think about when you have gone somewhere new for the first time. How did you feel?	Make a welcome booklet to give to new children who join your class. What information do you need in there?	Find out what a refugee is. How are refugees helped?
Why is Ahmet's bag really special to him. What thing is really special to you? Why?	Find out about the Queen the test what you have learnt with this fun quiz .	Read another book by the same author. You might enjoy <i>The Nightbus Hero</i> .

The Illustrated Mum by Jacqueline Wilson

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Dolphin and Star have different opinions about Marigold. Who do you agree with?	How would you stop people being bullied? Make a poster to help someone who is being bullied.	Find out more about one of the oldest tattoos on Ötzi the Iceman who lived 5,300 years ago.
What do you think of tattoos? Why do you think people get them?	Dolphin, Star and Marigold decide they are still a family. Make a family tree to show your family.	Find out about Jacqueline Wilson . What other books has she written that you might you like to read?
Have you ever been embarrassed by someone. What did you do?	Find out about dyslexia by watching this short programme .	Write a review for this books so other people could decide if they want to read it.

Poppy Warrior by Peter J. Murray

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
How is computer game fighting different from fighting in real life?	This book is set at a Doncaster school. What can you find out about Pheasant Bank academy?	What can you find out about World War 1. Why are poppies significant?
Which character did you like the most? Why?	Are computers good for you or bad for you? What do you think.	Find out about the author Peter J. Murray . Has he written any other books you would like to read?
What does Josh learn from dealing with his grandfather?	Find out about the Poppy Appeal . Why is it important?	Can you write a review so someone else could decide if they want to read this book.

Room 13 by Robert Swindells

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What would be in your room 13? Why?	Make a flap book with 13 doors on. Draw a write a scary surprises behind each one.	Write a newspaper report based on what happened to Fliss and her friends.
Fliss dreamt about the room. Have you ever had a dream that seemed really real?	What do you know about vampires? Can you find out more?	Find where Whitby is. What else can you find out about Whitby's spooky past?
Have you read any other books where something bad happens when a character goes into a room or through a door?	Write your own <i>Room 13</i> story. How will you scare your reader?	Enjoy another story about vampires. Ask for a recommendation in your local library.

The Hobbit *by J. R. R. Tolkien*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Who was the bravest character in the book? Why do you think that?	Can you make up a Hobbit song to retell a part of the book?	Make your own scenery to retell the most exciting part of the book. You could even try filming it.
What do you think of Gollum? Have you ever been obsessed by something?	Can you make a map to show the journey that the friends make?	The Hobbit is one of a series of books. Why don't you try the next in the series – The Lord of the Rings.
How do the characters change as they go on their journey?	Bilbo escapes Gollum with a riddle. Can you make up your own <u>riddle</u> to defeat Gollum?	Write a review to help someone else decide if they want to read the Hobbit.

War Horse *by Michael Morpurgo*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other books with horses as a key character?	What do you know about horses? Can you make a leaflet to share the information with someone else?	Find out about the first world war .
Which part of the story did you enjoy the most?	Compare the original War Horse book to the picture book version. Which do you prefer? Why?	Read about another famous horse – try borrowing Black Beauty from your local library.
Friendship is really important to Joey. Which friend is important to you and why?	Find out more about how horses are used in wars.	Find out more about Michael Morpurgo What other books of his could you read?

Stormbreaker by Anthony Horowitz

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What other books/films do you know with spies in? How does this one compare?	Design your own secret gadget. What does it do? How will it help you?	Write your own Alex Rider adventure.
Have you ever found out a secret about someone?	Design an evil villain to fight against Alex Rider. What skills does he have to help him defeat Alex?	Enjoy another book about spies – ask your teacher for a recommendation.
Would you like to be a spy? What skills do you have to help you?	Find out what the <u>secret service</u> is.	Write a book review for Stormbreaker so other people can decide if they would like to read it.

Charlotte's Web by E. B. White

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Talk about friendships. Who are your friends? What things do they do to help you?	Can you make your own spider web? You can even try to make it from sellotape so it is sticky!	Visit a farm and learn more about the different animals and how they are cared for.
Did Fern make it trickier for Wilbur to live on the farm?	What do you know about how pigs are used for food? What can you find out?	Go the library and find out more about spiders. What kind of spider do you think Charlotte was?
How did Wilbur feel when Charlotte died? Have you ever lost a friend?	Find out what the RSPCA say about keeping pigs as pets.	Try one of the farming activities on Countryside Online to help you learn more about farms.

The Firework-maker's Daughter *by Philip Pullman*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Was Lila right to try and become a firework maker? Have you ever done something you were told not to? Why?	Create your own design for a firework. What will you use to create the bangs and flashes?	Do some research to find out if there any jobs that girls can't do. Which jobs have more girls than boys in?
How do Hamlet and Chulak help Lila? Have your friends ever helped you when you really needed it?	Make a poster to advertise the Firework Festival. How will you encourage lots of makers to take part?	Find out how fireworks are made.
Lila's gifts are talent, perseverance and luck. What three gifts do you have?	Make your own model of the Fire Fiend.	Go to a fireworks display on Bonfire night or find a fireworks display online.

The Boy in the Dress *by David Walliams*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which character do you enjoy reading about the most. Why?	Find out about some famous dress designers. Do you like their designs?	Write a review of the book so someone else can see if they would enjoy it.
It is brave to try something different. What brave things have you tried? How did the make you feel?	Design a dress for Dennis. Can you add some bits of which show what you know about Dennis?	Explore the David Walliams page all about the boy in the dress.
What do you think of Lisa? Why do you think she helped Dennis?	Choose someone to help by doing something kind for them. Who have you chosen? Why?	Look at clothes in shops and online. Are clothes for boys and girls different? How?

The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe *by C. S. Lewis*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Are there any other stories you know with a door that goes to another place?	Make your own wardrobe doors and draw a picture behind them to show what Edmund sees when he goes through the wardrobe.	Use the library or internet to research cold countries. Which country do you think Narnia was based on?
Think about Aslan. Are there any other stories with lions in you know? What is special about lions?	What magical creatures are in Narnia? Are they in any other stories you know? Make a magical creature catalogue.	Find out what it was like to be an evacuee in the war. You might enjoy <i>Goodnight Mister Tom</i> by Michelle Magorian.
What do you think about Edmund? Do you ever fall out with your brother or sister?	Make a wanted poster to find and capture the Ice Queen.	Read another books about Kings and Queens. You can find suggestions here .

Goosebumps : Horrorland by R. L. Stine

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What monsters do you know about? Make your top 10.	Design and create a monster using craft materials.	Make some monster Top Trump cards. Decide which abilities each monster has.
What kind of monster would scare you the most? Why?	Have a spooky sleepover and tell spooky stories at night.	Read other books about famous monsters e.g. Dracula or Frankenstein. Your library will help you find a version for you.
How does R. L. Stine scare you in the Goosebumps books?	Make a monster movie using a flip book.	Explore the R. L. Stine website . You could even write to R. L. Stine.

Horrible Histories *by Terry Deary & Peter Hepplewhite*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Who is your favourite character? Are they similar to any other characters you've read about?	Make your own comic to share some history.	Go to your local museum and find out more about your favourite historical period.
Which is your favourite bit of history? Vikings? Romans? Egyptians? Share what you know with someone else.	What other horrible histories can you read? Which is your favourite?	Explore the Horrible Histories website .
Do you like the way that the <i>Horrible History</i> books are presented? If you do, what do you like about them?	Write a diary extract by your favourite historical character.	Find out what horrible history there is in Doncaster. Romans, middle ages, plague! What will you discover?

Street Child *by Berlie Doherty*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Jim gets separated from all the people he cares about. Have you ever lost anyone special?	This book was based on a booklet by Dr. Barnardo. What can you find out about him?	What can you find out about street children in Victorian times?
How does Tip help Jim? How do your friends help you?	What can you find out about workhouses in Victorian times?	Explore the Street Child activity pack .
Is it important to go to school? How did it change life for Jim? How does school affect your life?	Make a poster to promote the work of Barnardos.	What differences were there between rich and poor people in Victorian times?

Harry Potter *by J. K. Rowling*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Friendship is really important to Harry. Which friends are most important to you? How do you know?	Design a new house for Hogwarts. What are its colours? What type of pupil goes to your house?	Find out more about the magical creatures, such as centaurs, in the story. Can you find any other stories from history they appear in?
The Dementors feed off people's fear. What would they look like to you?	Design a mystical creature.	Explore the Harry Potter site and learn more about your favourite characters.
What animal would your patronus be? Why?	Create a spell. Show how your wand would need to move and what words you would need to say.	Create your own Harry Potter story. What challenge will he have to overcome?

Dork Diaries by Rachel Renée Russell

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Compare yourself to Nikki. Are there any similarities?	Draw your own <i>Dork Diaries</i> character. What are they like?	Write a book review of the <i>Dork Diaries</i> . Can you persuade someone else to try them?
Talk about a time when you have felt out of place.	Create a comic strip based on your life. Add doodles and drawings like in the book.	Which <i>Dork Diaries</i> book will you read next? Talk to a librarian to find out!
Nikki is a talented artist, what are you talented at?	Start your <u>own diary</u> and see how long you can keep going.	Explore the <u><i>Dork Diaries</i></u> website.

Wonder R.J. Palacio

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Did this book help you change your mind about anything?	Do a good deed for somebody – how does it make you feel?	Explore the Wonder website and try some of the activities.
Being different is a good thing. What is unique and special about you?	Research other famous people who teach us that it's good to be different.	Write a story about someone who stands out for being different and include a happy ending.
Why do you think friends are important?	Write your own rule to live by. Share it with someone and see if they agree.	Explore these books about happiness and wellbeing .



Creating opportunities for Doncaster families

Independent Readers

Age 12 +

Mirror, Mirror : A Twisted Tale *by Jen Calonita*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
The beginning of the story is very dramatic. Did that make you want to read on? What did you think would happen next?	Create a report written by the Evil Queen to explain why Snow should be killed.	Take a traditional tale you know and rewrite it with a twist just like Jen Calonita did.
What is the relationship like between Snow White and the Wicked Queen. Can you compare it with anything else you've read?	How does this book compare to other versions of Snow White you know? Note down what differences you can see.	Explore Jen Calonita's website and find out more about her.
Snow's mother tells her 'If you want something, you have to take risks'. Do you agree with her?	Find out about the Brothers Grimm. What other tales have they written. Compare the original to this version.	Enjoy some other modern version of traditional tales. You can borrow them from your local library.

The Kissing Booth by Beth Reekles

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other books where characters who are opposite are attracted to each other? How is this similar/different?	Beth Reekles wrote this when she was a teenager. Can you find out about any other writers who have written books at a younger age?	Enjoy another book by Beth Reekles . Explore Beth's website to find out which one.
Have you ever kept a secret? Did it get found out? How?	Noah is clever and athletic. Is one more important than the other? Write a for and against list for your argument.	Write a book review so someone else can decide if they'd like to read the book.
Did you agree with how the story ended? What other endings could you have given it?	Create your own short story in the same style as <i>The Kissing Booth</i> .	Enjoy another book like this. Ask your library to recommend one to you.

Cirque du Freak *by Darren Shan*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Do you know any other books with vampires in? How are they similar/different to this one?	Design your own creature for the Cirque du Freak. What is it like?	Research other half animal/half human creatures such as centaurs.
Darren and Steve are great friends. How can you tell this? How do you support your friends?	Look at some of the Ripley's believe it or not books and find out about other amazing creatures and people.	Research circus side shows. What were in them? How were the audience tricked?
Are the vampires in this book like other vampires you have read about?	Are there any other vampire books you want to read? Ask in your local library for suggestions.	Find out more about Darren Shan. What other books would you like to read?

Dustbin Baby *by Jacqueline Wilson*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
April would love to meet her mother. Is there anyone you would love to meet? Why?	Write a newspaper report to show what happened when April was found.	Watch Jacqueline Wilson talk about Dustbin Baby on You Tube . Can you make your own introduction to the book?
April often compares herself to her friends. Do you compare yourself to anyone?	What do you think would have happened next in the story? Will it be a happy ending for April? Can you write the ending?	What might have happened if April was found by someone different. Can you write an alternate version of the story?
Which of the people April goes to meet has the most impact on her? Who has had a big impact on your life?	Draw a timeline to show the people April met and record how they affect her.	Explore the Jacqueline Wilson page to find out more about her books.

Skullduggery Pleasant *by Derek Landy*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Stephanie changes her name to something more magical. What magical name would you choose?	Record all the clues Stephanie and Skullduggery find as they try to solve the murder. Did you miss any clues early on?	Explore the Skullduggery Pleasant website.
Skullduggery can shoot fireballs by clicking his fingers. What magical skill would you like to have?	Draw your own maze to hide the Sceptre of the Ancients. How tricky can you make it?	Explore the other Skullduggery books. Can you think of any ideas for future books?
Skullduggery takes on Stephanie as his magical assistant. What would you like to learn to do?	Research famous detectives. Are there any similarities to Skullduggery?	Visit your library to see what other books you might like with a similar theme.

Northern Lights *by Philip Pullman*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
What animal would your daemon be. Why have you chosen that animal?	Can you draw your daemon. What special abilities does it have?	Use your library or the internet to find out more about the Northern lights.
Think about Mrs Coulter. Have you read about any characters like her? Who?	Can you draw a poster for the General Oblation Board? What message would it have on it?	Take a trip on a canal barge. How long does your journey take? Imagine how long Lyra's journey took.
Lyra is brave to search for her friend, Roger. Have you ever been brave to help a friend?	Find Oxford on the map. How long would it take you to get there? What could you see there?	Find out about Arctic bears and how the World Wildlife Fund is supporting them.

Itch *by Simon Mayo*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Who are you most like? Itch, Chloe or Jack? Why?	Look at the periodic table. How many have you already heard of?	Create a book trailer to persuade more people to read Itch.
Itch finds a world changing element. How would you change the world?	Find where Cornwall is on the map. What can you find about about it?	Research some simple chemistry experiments to try at home like this one.
Itch makes mistakes but tries to sort them out. Have you ever made a mistake? How did you try to fix it?	Draw a picture of what Itch's element might look like. Can you find any evidence in the book?	Find out more about radioactivity. What is it? What impact does it have?

Oliver Twist *by Charles Dickens*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about if you have ever done something you shouldn't have. How have you made it better?	Have a go at making a gruel (oatmeal). What does it taste like?	Learn about another book set in Victorian times – <i>Rooftoppers</i> by Katherine Rundell.
Think about Fagin. Have you read anything else with a character like him?	Find out what a pickpocket was. Why did children become pickpockets?	Make a book trailer to persuade other people to read Oliver Twist.
Think about the other characters in the story. Which character change Oliver's life the most?	Make a poster to warn people about the dangers of pickpockets.	Find a film or play of Charles Dickens. Which do you prefer?

The Railway Children *by Edith Nesbit*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Discuss what dangers there are near railway tracks. Why do we need fences and warning there?	Make a model train. Can you research carefully to make it look like one that might be in the book?	Look at the website for the National Railway museum Which trains do you think look like the one Roberta, Phyllis and Peter stopped?
Chat about any trips on a train you have been on. What was your favourite part?	Make a map of the countryside that the children were in and plot on all the places they go.	Find out about railway signalling - your local library should have a good book.
Have you ever done something really brave to help someone?	Imagine you were Roberta and were sending a postcard to the old man. What would it say?	Research train travel in the past. What can you find out?

The Hunger Games *by Suzanne Collins*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Which character is your favourite? Chat about your favourite characters and why you think they are the best.	See if you can draw a map of where <i>The Hunger Games</i> takes place.	Research gladiators and look at how the Roman used fights between them for entertainment.
Think about when the names are chosen for the games. Would you step in like Katniss did?	What do you think the world will be like in the future? Make some predictions and see what comes true.	Go to a your local woods. Can you build a den that would keep you safe?
Katniss is very protective of her family. How do you look out for your family and friends?	Design your own emblem. What is on it and why?	Suzanne Collins was inspired by the story of Theseus and the minotaur. Read it and see if you can spot the links.

Bone Breaker *by Peter. J. Murray*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Create your own Viking name. What are your Viking strengths and weaknesses.	Draw a picture of a Viking warrior that could defeat Bonebreaker. Research what the armour and weapons would have looked like.	Find out about Vikings and how they invaded places.
What was the scariest part of the book? Why?	Find the east coast of the UK on a map and look at where the Vikings would have invaded.	Create a pack of Viking top trump cards. Research famous Vikings to add them on.
Talk about your own history. What do you know about your grandparents/great-grandparents?	Design and build your own Viking boat and see if it is seaworthy.	Design some traps that could be used to stop the Bonebreaker.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime

by Mark Haddon

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Christopher investigates the death of the dog. Have you read any other books with an investigation in?	Create your own fictional murder mystery novel. Decide on the crime and who it was committed by.	Read another book told from the viewpoint of an Autistic person. <i>Can you see me?</i> by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott is a good choice.
Christopher manages to meet new people as he investigates. Have you ever done something where you met lots of new people?	Christopher loves maths and this book uses prime numbers for the chapters. Can you investigate prime numbers with this maths challenge ?	Find out more about Autism? How does it affect the lives of autistic people?
Christopher is very good at maths. What are you very good at?	Christopher finds noise and lots of people really tricky. What do you find tricky? What do you do to help?	Watch this clip to show you what autistic overload might feel like.

Shadow *by Michael Morpurgo*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Aman and his mother have to make a really scary journey to safety. Have you ever experienced something that really scared you but had to be done?	Find Afghanistan on the map. Can you find a route Aman and his mother could take to the UK?	Research the war in Afghanistan. What have you found out?
Do you have a special pet? What is special about them?	Read about another journey through Afghanistan on Newsround.	What impact has the war had on Afghanistan? Look at before and after pictures of cities.
Matt and his Grandpa work hard to help Aman and his mother. What has someone done to help you?	Shadow is actually a bomb detecting dog. What other animals have special skills?	Enjoy another book about Afghanistan. You might enjoy <i>No ballet shoes in Syria</i> by Catherine Bruton.

Put out the Light *by Terry Deary*

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Think about Billy and Sally and Manfred and Hansl. What similarities are there between them?	Create your own blackout blind. Investigate how you can make it block out the most light.	Go and visit places in Sheffield where bombs fell or planes attacked.
Are there any other stories you know with a brother and sister in? Are Sally and Billy like them in any way?	Find Sheffield and Dachau on the map. See if you can find any photos to see what they look like.	Research the bombing in Sheffield. What facts can you find out?
The boys are brave plotting to save Irena. What is the bravest thing you have ever done?	Find Dachau on the internet. What can you find out about it?	Find out about concentration camps. How can you show what you have found out?

Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Compare how different characters react to Cameron's illness.	Write a newspaper report breaking the story of Cameron's heart transplant from a positive viewpoint.	Find out how animals have been used in medicine. What do you think about it?
Should animal organs be used for humans? What do you think?	Send an uplifting note or card to a friend to help spread some positivity.	Research how the main organs are linked in the body and draw or create something to show this.
What does Cameron miss out on doing because of his illness?	Use the internet to research organ transplants .	Find out about the 1st ever heart transplant on Newsround

The Wordsmith by Patricia Forde

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Imagine you lived in the Ark. What would you miss the most?	Create a character profile about John Noa. What character traits make him a leader?	Are there any similarities between the world of Ark and events in history?
The Ark controls ideas by banning words. Which ideas would you control by banning their words?	Design a poster to warn people about the dangers of global warming.	Research the impact of rising sea levels. Which areas might eventually need to move their populations?
What are the most powerful words you know? Why?	Read a news article about global warming. What changes could you make which will help?	Learn about an artist, such as Banksy, who uses art to make political statements.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Conversation starters	Quick and easy activities	When you have more time
Stanley is wrongly accused of stealing trainers. Have you ever been accused of something you didn't do? How did it feel?	Look up Texas on a map. See if you can find where the desert is.	What else can you find out about Texas? Explore the National Geographic page to find out.
Stanley has a difficult experience digging holes in the desert. Have you ever had to do something hard? How did you cope?	Find out more about lizards. How many are venomous?	Explore the Louis Sacher site and find out more about Holes.
Stanley is under a curse. Have you read any other stories about characters who are cursed?	Enjoy the film of <i>Holes</i> . How is it different to the book? Which did you prefer?	Ask your librarian for another book recommendation based on <i>Holes</i> . There are lots in your library.



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