

GWR Reading Adventures



This resource is inspired by Isambard Brunel, founder of the Great Western Railway, whose inventions connected Victorian England to the rest of the world via the railway and sea.

It is a perfect opportunity to support your pupils' writing and reading skills, while boosting their imagination and storytelling ability. Children who enjoy reading are three times more likely to have good mental wellbeing than children who don't.

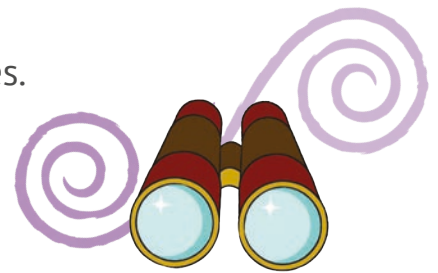
Welcome to our Reading Adventures!

Welcome aboard and thank you for joining our fantastic expedition into a world of pirates, spies, magic lands and unexpected adventures.

Inspired by Swindon's historic past of voyage and discovery, this booklet invites you to journey into imagined worlds, before placing yourself at the centre of your own adventure!

It is full of activities including a postcard competition that asks you to become the first person to ever step into your own magic world. What awaits you there; is it a land full of excitement and danger, or a place of hope and peace? With some fabulous prizes to be won, we have started you on your journey, but the rest is up to you.

Good luck and thank you for travelling with Swindon Stories.



Great outdoors booklist

Stories can transport us to wild, exotic and scary places and give us the power of time travel. They invite us into the worlds of imagination, fables and legends.

Set off on your own reading journey with our curated booklist for KS2 children below. These can be borrowed from your local library and will help you explore themes of adventure, resilience and bravery.



For more information on how to join the library, please visit: swindon.gov.uk/libraries or call **01793 463238**.

These stories might generate some ideas and inspire your imagined journey later on...

For fans of **classic adventure**, try...



Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson

Jim Hawkins winds up getting more than he bargained for when he pursues his enthusiasm for life on the sea and treasure-seeking. This is perfect for fans of pirate stories!

Tick me when you've read this story!



Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome

Set in the summer of 1929 in the Lake District, the book introduces the main characters of the Walker family (Swallows) and Amazons. Clashes, discovery and danger ensue.



Famous Five by Enid Blyton

Part of a popular series by Enid Blyton, The Famous Five follows the adventures of a group of children on their school holidays. The books are often set in Dorset and involve adventures such as finding lost treasure or crossing paths with criminals.

For fans of **magical worlds**, try...



Brightstorm: A Sky-Ship Adventure by Vashti Hardy

Bandits, crooked explorers and kings, dominate this story with a good versus evil narrative. From super-bright female captains and engineers, to a young boy who doesn't allow his disability to define his life, this book has so many characters to fall in love with.



The Wild Way Home by Sophie Kirtley

This story follows Charlie, who has always wanted a baby brother. But when he gets his wish, his brother is born with a heart condition that leads Charlie towards hurt and confusion. Fleeing his situation into an ancient forest, he is transported back in time to the Stone-Age and meets another boy in desperate need of help.



The Land of Roar by Jenny McLachlan

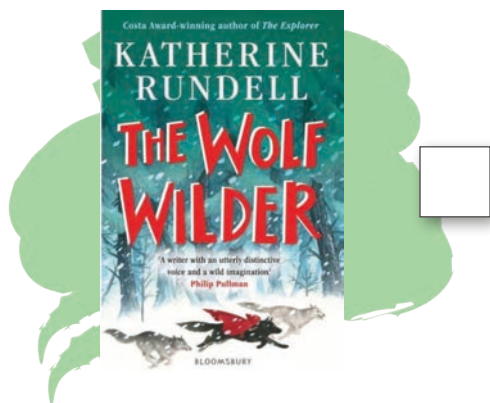
When Arthur and Rose were little, they were heroes in the Land of Roar. An imaginary world filled with mythical creatures they found by climbing through the folding bed in their grandad's attic. Now the twins are eleven, Roar is just a memory. But when they help Grandad clean out the attic, Grandad is pulled into the folding bed and vanishes.

For fans of animal adventure, try...



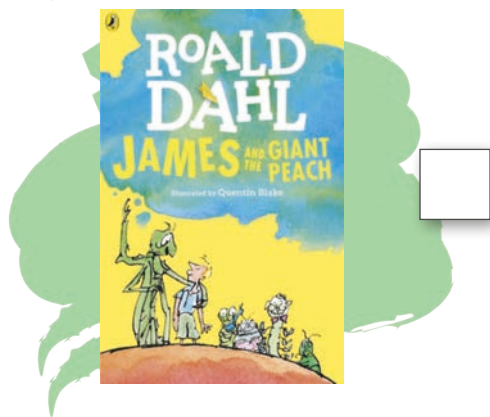
The Girl Who Stole an Elephant by Nizrana Farook

This Robin-Hood style story features a young hero Chaya who steals from the rich to give to the poor. Unfortunately, tragedy strikes and she has to escape from prison into the jungle, using a stolen elephant. Set in the beautiful backdrop of Sri Lanka, this is a real page-turner.



The Wolf Wilder by Katherine Rundell

Feodora and her mother live in the woods of Russia. Feodora's mother is a wolf wilder, and Feo is a wolf wilder in training. When the murderous hostility of the Russian army threatens her very existence, Feo is left with no option but to go on the run.



James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl

James was an ordinary boy who went on an extraordinary journey in a giant peach. He was joined by some giant insects and seagulls who helped the peach to fly across the ocean. An amazingly quirky tale in true Roald Dahl fashion!

Which of these stories did you enjoy? Why not write a few words or a two-line review about them!



Write your own travel report

Imagine you have discovered a new fantasy land. You are the first person to set foot here and we want you to investigate before reporting on your findings. Have a go at reporting for people who want to visit!

You will need a pen and some paper.



You might want to split your report into these categories:

- **Location:**

Have a think about where your land is set; is it in a jungle, a deserted city, in the clouds, space or another planet? Are there any famous attractions?

- **Climate:**

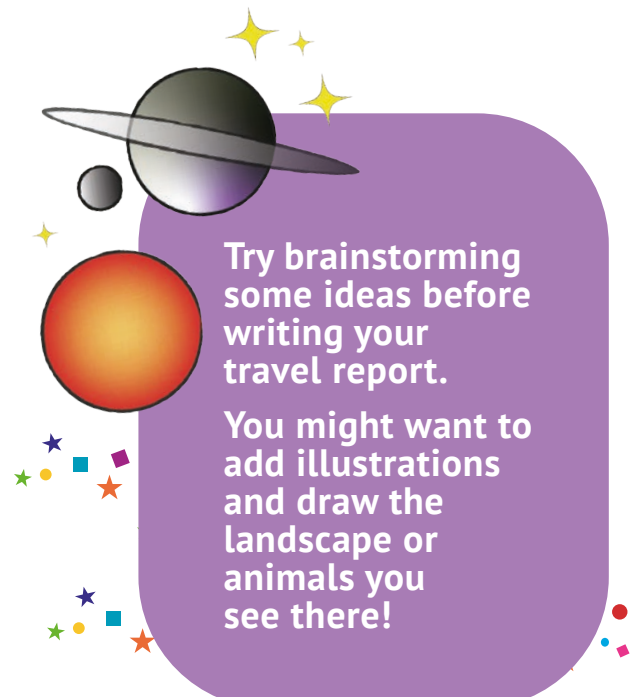
Is it cold or hot? What might people need to wear? An arctic jacket, a costume or special equipment to survive the temperature or wildlife!

- **Transport:**

How will people get there? They might need a magic cloak or a special passport to time travel. You might want to write down the route, how long it will take and anything dangerous which they might encounter along the way.

- **Language:**

How do the local people speak to each other? Do they use a combined language, dance, or puppets? How do they show their love and thanks? The ability to exchange feelings and ideas is vital for human survival!



Try brainstorming some ideas before writing your travel report.

You might want to add illustrations and draw the landscape or animals you see there!



Make this into a video report and pretend you are on location! You could pretend you are a journalist and record your news report with a smart phone.

Write your own message in a bottle

Use the illustration below to write your own message in a bottle from your imagined world.

Is there anything you need to warn incoming visitors about? What important piece of information do they need to know? Perhaps they should be careful of pirates, or an evil wizard hiding jewels. **Share your top tips on how to survive!**



Reading adventures competition:

Design your own postcard



Now that you have completed your adventure, tell your family and friends what you have been up to! Whose day would you like to brighten with a postcard from your new land?

Write a postcard about what you get up to in one day! You might want to talk about any new friends you met, the sights you saw or any discoveries you made. Try and use lots of adjectives to bring it to life!

The school with the best postcards will win an exclusive visit and workshop with Prime Theatre. Good luck from us at [@SwindonStories!](https://www.instagram.com/SwindonStories/)

You could send your postcard to a friend or family member!

Cut it out, colour the other side and don't forget to add a stamp!



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For a chance to win a journey-themed workshop with Prime Theatre and free entry to explore the STEAM Museum, please send a copy of your masterpiece to Anish Harrison at anish.harrison@literacytrust.org.uk.

You can take a photo of your piece of writing, scan and upload it, or attach it as a Word document. Or, perhaps you could create a postcard photo display in your classroom and send us a picture!



We would love to see how you get on with these activities, so please share your photos and tag [@SwindonStories](https://www.facebook.com/SwindonStories). If you enjoyed them, head to the [@SwindonStories](https://www.facebook.com/SwindonStories) Facebook page for more fun things to do with your children.

You can draw a picture of your new land below!

A large, empty rectangular area enclosed by a dashed purple border, intended for children to draw a picture of their new land. The box is positioned centrally on the page.