



# A BOOK FOR EVERYONE!



GRAB your book tokens and pop on your best costumes, because this Thursday (6 March) is World Book Day 2025. We're celebrating the epic annual event with this special pull-out, diving into this year's £1 books, meeting the authors, and having some fun along the way!

In partnership with

## WORLD BOOK DAY



### WHAT IS WORLD BOOK DAY?

WORLD Book Day is an epic celebration of reading right across the UK and Ireland.

Its aim is to spread the message that reading can change your life, and to get books into the hands of as many children as possible!

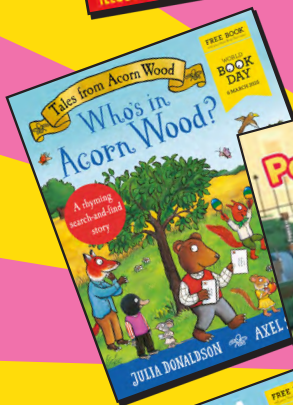
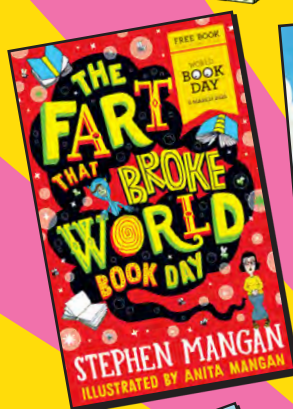
Research has proven that reading helps children become happier and more successful, but did you know that almost a million children in the UK don't own a book? It could be that they're yet to discover the joy of reading, or it could be that they just don't have books around them, or the money to buy one.

World Book Day gives all kids in the UK the chance to choose a book of their own from a range of £1 books, using a free £1 token (yours is on page 16)!

There are loads of different ways that you can celebrate World Book Day. You could take a trip to the local library, set up a classroom display of famous literary characters, or ask your teacher if you could do some book-themed lesson activities.

However you celebrate, have a fabulous time!

## THIS YEAR'S £1 BOOKS



BOOK BATTLE ⚡ MEET THE AUTHORS ⚡ POKÉMON HOW-TO-DRAW ⚡ £1 BOOK VOUCHER





## STEPHEN AND ANITA MANGAN'S

# BOOK BATTLE!

ONE brother, one sister. One author, one illustrator. They teamed up to create a special £1 book, *The Fart That Broke World Book Day*. Now, they're taking on our quick-fire questions!



**STEPHEN**



**ANITA**



Billie Charity

<p><i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> – I loved the upside-world where the child was the sensible one and the adults were bonkers.</p>	<p><b>What was your favourite book to read as a child?</b></p>	<p>Anything by Roald Dahl, but <i>James and the Giant Peach</i> was a particular favourite because it was so surreal and magical!</p>
<p>I think in my back garden on a sunny day is my absolute favourite. I won't read while walking down the street, like some do, as I'd keep bumping into lampposts.</p>	<p><b>What's your favourite reading spot – on the bus, on a bench, on a beach, in bed?!</b></p>	<p>I love reading in bed, but the danger is, it's so comfy, I fall asleep!</p>
<p>Probably space! I'd love to know more about what's out there. In another life I'd love to be an astronaut.</p>	<p><b>If you could read a non-fiction book on one subject, what would it be?</b></p>	<p>I really enjoy reading books about writing, by writers! I've read Philip Pullman and Stephen King's books on writing. It's fascinating how different people write stories.</p>
<p>Definitely a bookmark. If I can't find one I'll use a piece of paper or a leaf or a bit of string or even a sock, but I NEVER fold the corner!</p>	<p><b>Do you use bookmarks, or are you a corner-folder?</b></p>	<p>I always use a bookmark, even if it's an old receipt or a tissue – an unused tissue, by the way! I don't like to ruin any pages of my books – they're precious objects!</p>
<p>We have the same sense of humour and have been making each other laugh since we were children. I love seeing how she draws the characters I invent.</p>	<p><b>What's the best thing about creating a book with your sibling?</b></p>	<p>I don't need Stephen to explain any jokes to me because I get his bonkers sense of humour – because I have it as well!</p>
<p>Now we do book events for children, Anita tells them lots of embarrassing stories about growing up with me!</p>	<p><b>...and what's the worst thing?</b></p>	<p>There's no worst thing about working with Stephen – he's the greatest brother in the world. (Note: he made me say that. No he didn't. I made it up, tee-hee!)</p>
<p>Anita has a very sensitive nose, and used to sniff a scented pencil whenever she smelt farms on car journeys. Luckily our books aren't scratch and sniff...</p>	<p><b>Tell us an embarrassing story about them from when they were a kid!</b></p>	<p>When our little sister was born, Stephen was upset that he wasn't getting attention, so did lots of handstands and shouted: "Look at me, look at me!"</p>
<p>When the children work out why their teachers are farting uncontrollably – but you'll have to read the book to find out why!</p>	<p><b>What's your favourite bit in <i>The Fart That Broke World Book Day</i>?</b></p>	<p>The scene in the dinner hall is my favourite – but I can't say any more, I don't want to give the story away.</p>

**THEY AGREE ON TWO THINGS...!**

First... just how important it is for children to lose themselves in books.

*"You can meet amazing new characters, go anywhere and experience life from new angles,"* says Stephen.

BOOK SHOP

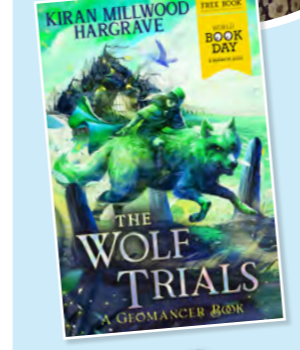
Second... the other £1 book they're most looking forward to reading is *This Story Is A Lie* by Benjamin Dean, and for the same reason:

*"The title's so intriguing!"* says Anita!



## KIRAN MILLWOOD HARGRAVE

Author of *The Wolf Trials*



## JENNIFER SWANSON

Author of *LEGO: Our Amazing Universe*



## BENJAMIN DEAN

Author of *This Story Is A Lie*



**What's your book about?**  
*The Wolf Trials* introduces a world where warriors ride wolves, castles are built of broken boats, and a rebellious princess tries to change her destiny...

**What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**  
If you can read, you can learn anything. All the information of the world is open to you. I also love the escapism and excitement I get from stories, but in today's world of 'fake news', I think it's so important to be an independent, informed thinker.

**What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**  
There's a story out there that will change your life or make you see the world in brighter colours. It's easy to give up, but reading is worth sticking with – you won't regret it.

**What's your book about?**  
*The LEGO: Our Amazing Universe* book offers readers a way to connect with our very own planet and the universe – by building it! Get ready to dive into some engineering fun.

**What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**  
Books take you to the most amazing places! They allow you to learn, investigate, and experience so many different emotions and ideas without leaving the comfort of your room.

**What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**  
I'd find a book about their favourite activity and give them some really cool fun facts about it. Triggering someone's curiosity is a great way to get them reading.

**What's your book about?**  
Secrets of the popular kids in school are revealed by an anonymous blogger, as they compete to win a spot on the prestigious Rising Stars programme to help make their dreams come true.

**What's your favourite thing about books and reading?**  
I think reading is essential to building empathy and kindness towards others. It also allows you to escape from reality... I wanted to dedicate *This Story Is A Lie* to anybody who needs that. Sometimes you just need a break from the real world!

**What would you say to encourage someone who struggles with books?**  
Find the stories that interest you the most – like adventure, mystery or romance... books, audiobooks, poetry or chapter books. Choose something that's perfect for you!

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## TOM PALMER

THE author of £1 book *The Soccer Diaries: Rocky Takes the Lead* shares his love of footy, libraries and World Book Day!

by Tom Palmer

**My first experience of reading wasn't books. Not at first. For me, it was newspapers and magazines.**  
Newspapers and magazines about football! Because I loved football. I looked up to footballers and wanted to know about them. And reading things that were shorter in length worked for me. I was reading what I was interested in. And, to be honest, I found books quite difficult at first. They were long and needed a lot of concentration and confidence. Confidence I didn't have.

But, through newspapers and magazines, I built up my reading ability, and that led me to reading books too – football autobiographies and fact books, then, onto a range of other subjects. I was a book reader.

I started going to the library then. Now I saw myself as a book reader, I wanted to get at lots of books. But I couldn't afford to buy them all – so I borrowed them!

And the great thing was that, if I didn't like a book, I could take it back and get a different one. Thanks to libraries, I was learning what I liked to read and what I didn't like to read. And which authors.

Suddenly, I looked up to those authors like I looked up to footballers. And the truth was I couldn't be a footballer. But maybe... just maybe... I could be an author?

*"The best buzz is seeing a child dressed as one of my characters on World Book Day!"*

Using libraries and finding the right books for me was the foundation to me becoming an author. I remember finding books that were set where I live. Or were by people from where I lived. This astonished me – that you could read a story set in your home town or city, or a book that was written by someone who had lived down the road.

I'll never forget that feeling – seeing my world in books that other people had written. Seeing myself in books. That's why I make sure to include the lives of lots of different children in the books I write, so that my readers might see themselves in stories too.

I love it when children actually tell me they like my books. The best buzz is seeing a child dressed as one of my characters on World Book Day. One of my characters stood next to a Harry Potter or a Matilda. How amazing is that?

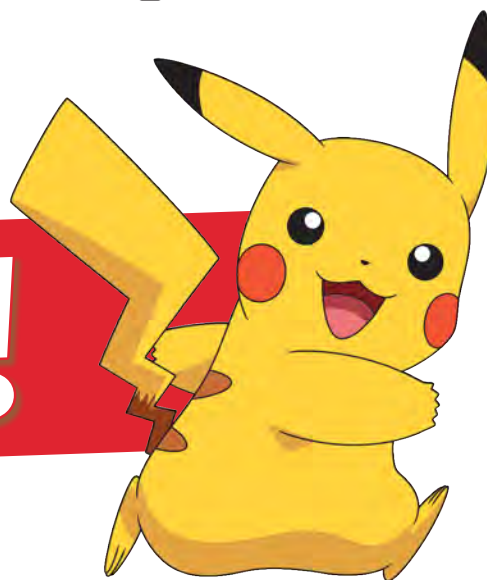
So now, when I start to write a new book, I take that feeling with me. That buzz. The confidence that some children enjoy my books.

Because authors need confidence. Just like readers need confidence.

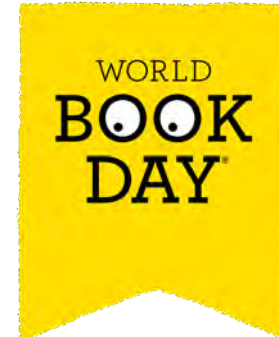




# DRAW PIKACHU!



In partnership with



THE team behind the £1 book *Pokémon: The Epic Pocket Guide* show us how to draw the perfect pika-pika-picture of the legendary Electric-type Pokémon!

### STEP 1

Lightly sketch two criss-crossing guidelines for the body. Then, draw a circle for the head. Most of the circle should sit above the horizontal guideline. When you're ready, draw a curved line on the face where the eyes will be.

### STEP 4

Connect the tail shape to the body with zigzagging lines. Can you spot the zigzags in Pikachu's paws as well? Don't forget circles on its cheeks or the curved line inside its mouth for the tongue!

### STEP 2

Use this step to block in the simplest shapes. Pikachu's body looks a little like a jellybean. Draw this shape around the horizontal guideline. Then, draw two circles for eyes and a wavy line for the top of the mouth.

### STEP 5

Time for finishing touches including colour and background! But, first, rub out the lines you don't need and make any changes. If you use markers for colour, prevent bleeding by letting the yellow dry before adding darker colours.

### STEP 3

Draw a starter shape for the tail behind Pikachu's right ear. Then lightly sketch the right hand and foot. Add details including the bottom curve of the mouth, the circles in the eyes and the stripes on Pikachu's back.

### DRAWING TIP!

Practise your Pikachu by tracing the final drawing a few times before you go freehand. Tracing isn't cheating – it's just another way to practise!

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## £1 BOOK TOKEN

Changing lives through a love of books and reading

World Book Day® is a charity sponsored by **NATIONAL BOOK tokens**

View the full line-up at [worldbookday.com/books](http://worldbookday.com/books)

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**Valid from 13 February – 23 March 2025**

**CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATORS**  
This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to **ONE FREE WORLD BOOK DAY 2025 BOOK** or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating booksellers only, subject to stock availability. Find your nearest participating bookseller at [worldbookday.com/participating-retailers](http://worldbookday.com/participating-retailers).

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**First News** wishes all of our readers a very **happy World Book Day!**

For more information, visit [worldbookday.com](http://worldbookday.com)