



RESOURCE PACK

The Malta Book Festival
2026

- CONTENTS:**
- | Introduction - Discovering Books
 - | Users' Guide
 - | Activities for Young Readers (Years 1–6)
 - | Activities for Growing Readers (Years 7–8)
 - | Activities for Independent Readers (Years 9–11)

INTRODUCTION

THE MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL IS BACK!

The Malta Book Festival is back!

A world of stories are waiting to be discovered... by YOU! Inside this pack you'll find activities, challenges and creative ideas designed to help you explore the joy of books and develop exciting reading habits.

Get ready to uncover hidden treasures, meet unforgettable characters and discover places, ideas and adventures that will blow your mind!

Your reading journey starts here...

DISCOVERING BOOKS

If every great story begins with a brilliant idea, every great reader starts with a single discovery.

A new story can take you across oceans, into ancient kingdoms, through mysterious forests or even into the future. It can make you laugh, wonder, think and dream. Every book you open is a chance to discover something new, about the world and about yourself.



Discover what interests you

Think about the things you already enjoy. Animals, football, history, space, magic, mysteries, cooking or comics. Whatever excites you, there's a book about it waiting to be discovered.



Explore before you choose

Read the blurb of the book, flick through a few pages and sample a paragraph or two. If it captures your curiosity, you've probably found a book worth discovering. Reading should feel enjoyable, not overwhelming.



Keep exploring

Not every book will be the right one and that's perfectly fine. Every reader discovers different stories at different times. If one book doesn't spark your interest, simply keep looking. The next discovery might become your favourite.

WHY DISCOVERY MATTERS

Every book you discover helps you grow as a reader. Each new story builds your confidence, stretches your imagination and introduces you to new ideas, people and perspectives. The more you explore, the more your world grows.

So visit your school library, your local library and the MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL. Take your time, browse the shelves and discover a book that makes you want to turn the very first page.

And remember—you have a **€20 BOOK VOUCHER** to spend on exciting new discoveries!

Happy reading!

USERS' GUIDE

There are activities for **YOUNG READERS (YEARS 1 – 6)**, **GROWING READERS (YEARS 7 – 8)** and **INDEPENDENT READERS (YEARS 9 – 11)**, with three activities for each level. Every set is designed to encourage curiosity, exploration and the discovery of new books.

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL – activities that prepare students for discovering everything the Malta Book Festival has to offer.

DURING THE FESTIVAL – interactive activities that encourage students to explore, browse and make exciting discoveries during their visit.

AFTER THE FESTIVAL – follow-up activities that help students continue their reading journey and build lasting reading habits.

You can complete one activity, two activities, or the entire set—it's completely up to you!

EACH ACTIVITY IS ORGANISED INTO EASY-TO-FOLLOW SECTIONS:

WHAT WE'LL LEARN

A quick overview of the learning goals and the reading skills students will develop.

WHAT WE'LL DO

A summary of the activity and what students and educators will be doing together.

WHAT WE'LL NEED

A list of the materials required for the activity.

LET'S START

Simple step-by-step instructions, helpful prompts and an estimated completion time.

WORKSHEETS

Printable activity sheets ready to photocopy and use with your students.

OFF WE GO!

MAKE YOUR OWN BOOK COVER!

**What story will
your cover tell?
Let's find out!**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- | How book covers help readers choose books.
- | How pictures, colours and words communicate ideas.
- | How to use imagination to create a story concept.
- | How to express ideas through drawing and simple design.

REMEMBER!

YOU WILL GET A BOOK
VOUCHER TO SPEND ON
BOOKS AT THE MALTA
BOOK FESTIVAL!

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We will look at different book covers and discover how pictures, colours and titles help tell us what a story is about. We will then design and create our own book cover for a real or imaginary story.

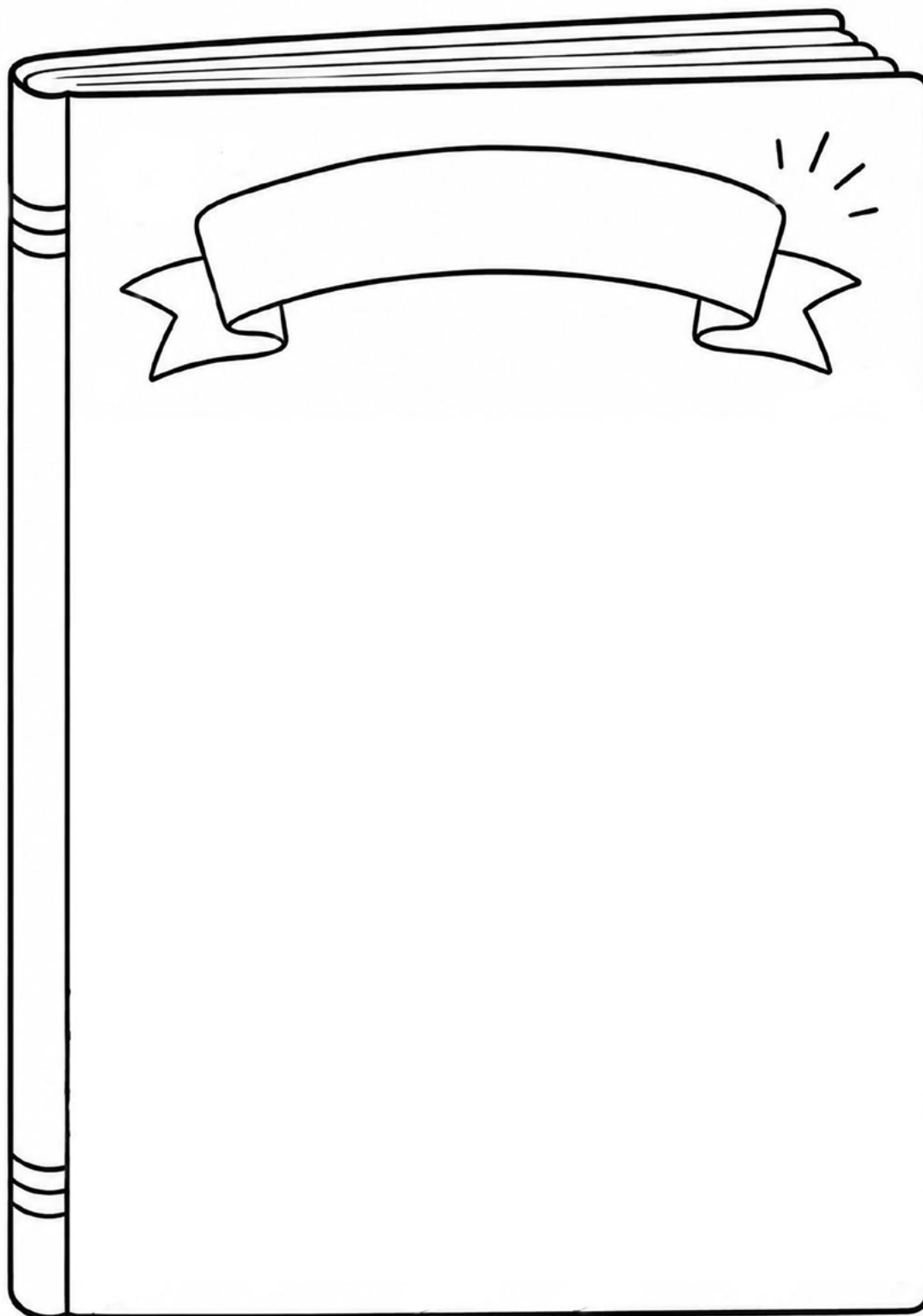
WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- | A4 sheets of paper or card templates shaped like book covers
- | Pencils
- | Colouring pencils, crayons or markers
- | Erasers
- | Stickers (optional)
- | Examples of children's book covers

LET'S START!

1. Show the children a selection of book covers and discuss what they reveal about the stories inside. "What do you think this story is about?" "Which cover makes you want to read the book?"
2. Help them think of a story they would like to tell. It could be about an animal, a magical place, an adventure, a mystery or something else from their imagination.
3. They have to decide on a title for the story.
4. The children can now draw the front cover of the book. They have to include the title and an illustration.
5. Once they're ready, they show the cover to a friend or the group and explain why they chose that title, pictures and colours.
6. The finished covers can then be displayed on a board.

MY BOOK COVER



MY BOOK FESTIVAL ADVENTURE!

**Discover your
next favourite
book!**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- I Build confidence in making our own choices about what we like to read.
- I Develop speaking and listening skills by sharing our book discoveries.
- I Foster a love of reading through hands-on exploration and curiosity.
- I Discover different kinds of books.

REMEMBER!

HANDLE BOOKS WITH
CARE AND KEEP THE
STANDS TIDY FOR EVERY-
ONE TO ENJOY!

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll explore the stands, looking for books that catch our eye. We'll use our Book Voucher to buy some of them. Then we'll complete the Book Discovery Checksheet to record the different books we found.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- I Mobile phone or camera. (Please follow your school's data protection guidelines.)
- I Book Discovery Check Sheet (overleaf)
- I Book Vouchers

LET'S START!

1. Take a walk around the festival and visit different book stands. Encourage children to look carefully at the books and enjoy discovering something new.
2. At each stand, help children browse through the books and select one that interests them. Encourage them to think about what makes the book appealing to them.
3. Once everyone has chosen a book, gather together for a group photo showing off your exciting discoveries.
4. Use the Book Discovery Checksheet to identify and record the different types of books chosen by the group. Compare your findings and see which categories were the most popular!

BOOK DISCOVERY CHECKSHEET

CHARACTERS & CREATURES

- ☐ A pirate
- ☐ A superhero
- ☐ A dinosaur
- ☐ A unicorn

ANIMALS

- ☐ A dog
- ☐ A cat
- ☐ A farm animal
- ☐ A wild animal

PLACES & ADVENTURES

- ☐ A castle
- ☐ A forest
- ☐ Outer Space
- ☐ A school

TYPES OF BOOKS

- ☐ A story book
- ☐ A fact book

BOOK COVER HUNT

- ☐ A character on the cover
- ☐ An animal on the cover

MY DISCOVERIES

- ☆ My favourite book: _____
- ☆ The funniest thing I found: _____
- ☆ The most surprising discovery: _____

TOTAL DISCOVERIES: ____ / 16

STORY MAP ADVENTURE!

**Discover where stories
can take you!**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- | Discover that stories can happen in many different places.
- | Develop observation and comprehension skills by identifying story settings.
- | Learn to categorise and compare different types of story worlds.
- | Encourage curiosity about real and imaginary places.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- | Story Map poster (overleaf)
- | Stickers or sticky notes
- | Pencils or crayons
- | Books bought during the Malta Book Festival

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll look at the books bought from the Malta Book Festival and note where the stories happen. On a map, we'll place stickers or drawings to show where the stories take place, creating a colourful map of worlds.

BONUS IDEAS

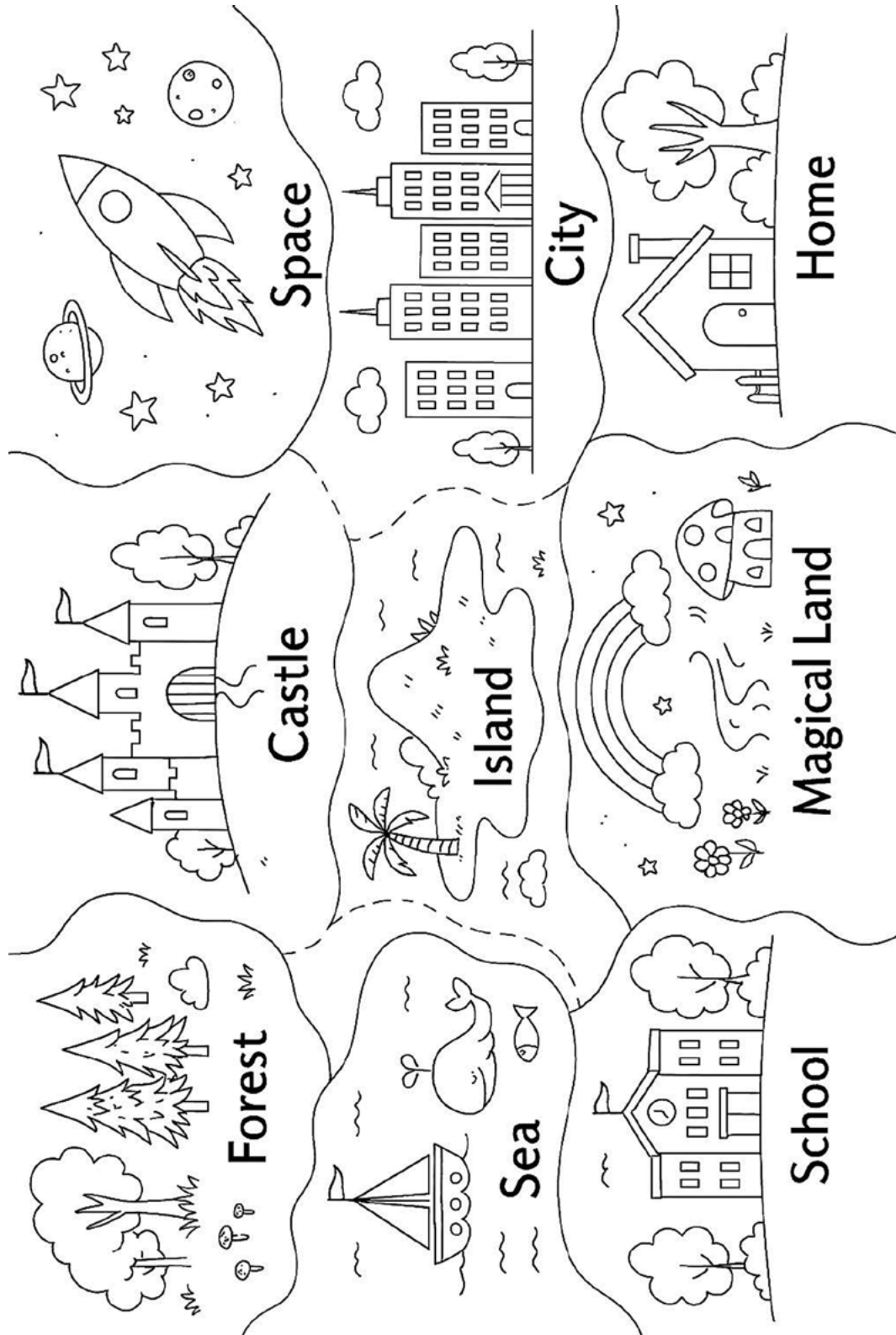
CHARACTER DETECTIVE: Children become book detectives and search for different characters in books, such as a pirate, a dinosaur, a superhero or a talking animal.

THE STORY CHALLENGE: Children choose a book and write the first sentence of a new adventure inspired by its cover. There are no wrong answers—just imagination!

LET'S START!

1. Choose a book and look at the cover, illustrations, blurb or story.
2. Think about the main setting. Is it in a forest, on a pirate ship, in outer space, at school, underwater or somewhere completely magical?
3. Find the matching location on the Story Map and place a sticker or the book title on a sticky note.
4. Keep exploring! Add more books and see how many different places you can discover from the books you bought at the Malta Book Festival.
5. Look at the completed Story Map. Which places appeared most often? Were there any surprising or unusual settings?
6. Share your favourite discovery and talk about if you would like to visit that place.

STORY MAP ADVENTURE!



MYSTERY BOOKS!

Curiosity is your guide!

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- | How to engage with books beyond their covers and illustrations.
- | How to identify personal reading interests.
- | How to share opinions and discuss choices.
- | How to discover new genres, authors, and topics.

REMEMBER!

YOU WILL GET A BOOK VOUCHER TO SPEND ON BOOKS AT THE MALTA BOOK FESTIVAL!

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll go through a selection of books wrapped in paper so that the covers cannot be seen. We'll choose one based on clues written on the wrapping. It's good to be curious when choosing books!

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- | A selection of books.
- | Wrapping/plain paper to conceal the covers.
- | Sticky labels or tags.
- | Pens or markers.
- | The Mystery Books worksheet (overleaf).

LET'S START!

1. Prepare the books by wrapping them so that the covers are hidden.
2. Write three to five clues on each wrapped book. These could include the genre, a short teaser, a key theme or an interesting fact about the story.
3. Ask the students to browse the books and read the clues without opening them.
4. The students choose one or more books that spark their curiosity.
5. Allow students to unwrap or open their chosen books and read the blurb.
6. Encourage students to compare what they discovered with their original predictions.
7. Students then talk about which book surprised them the most and why.

MYSTERY BOOKS

GUESS. OPEN. DISCOVER.

NAME: _____

BEFORE I OPENED THE BOOK...

What clues did I notice?

What do I think this book is about?

What kind of book do I think it is?

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ☐ Adventure | ☐ Fantasy |
| ☐ Mystery/Horror | ☐ Comedy |
| ☐ Dystopian/Sci-fi | ☐ Other |
| ☐ Drama/Real-Life Story | |

AFTER I OPENED THE BOOK...

Was my prediction correct?

- ☐ Yes ☐ A little ☐ Not at all

One thing I discovered about this book:

How interested am I in reading this book?



MY FINAL VERDICT

This book is:

- ☐ A great discovery! ☐ Interesting ☐ Not really for me

The most interesting thing I discovered was...

THE ONE-MINUTE BOOK

**Share a book.
Discover a reader.**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- I How to examine a book quickly and thoughtfully.
- I Recognise that different readers enjoy different kinds of books.
- I Discover new books, genres, and authors through our classmates' recommendations.
- I Reflect on our own reading preferences while appreciating different tastes and points of view.

REMEMBER!

HANDLE BOOKS WITH CARE AND KEEP THE STANDS TIDY FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY!

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll share with a friend a book that grabs our attention at the Malta Book Festival. We'll spend one minute exploring the book by looking at the cover and browsing a few pages. Then we'll complete our One-Minute Book worksheet.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- I The One-Minute Book worksheet (overleaf).
- I Pencil or pen.
- I A book selected by each student during the festival.
- I Book vouchers.

LET'S START!

1. Choose a book that interests you during your visit to the Malta Book Festival.
2. Form groups of two or three students.
3. Take turns talking about your chosen book to the group.
4. Give your friends one minute to explore your book. They may look at the cover, read the blurb, browse the first pages or examine the illustrations.
5. Everyone then completes one section of The One-Minute Book worksheet.
6. Repeat the activity until each group member's book has been explored.
7. Did everyone enjoy the same books or were your opinions different? What surprised you about your classmates' choices?

THE ONE-MINUTE BOOK

NAME: _____

BOOK 1

Whose book was this?

What caught my attention first?

- ☐ The cover ☐ The title
☐ The illustrations ☐ The blurb

MY FIRST IMPRESSION

I think this book is about...

Would I read it?

- ☐ Yes! ☐ Maybe ☐ Not really

Why?

NAME: _____

BOOK 2

Whose book was this?

What caught my attention first?

- ☐ The cover ☐ The title
☐ The illustrations ☐ The blurb

MY FIRST IMPRESSION

I think this book is about...

Would I read it?

- ☐ Yes! ☐ Maybe ☐ Not really

Why?

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS!

Pass on your favourite discovery!

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- I Build awareness of different book genres.
- I Develop the ability to recommend books by thinking about our personal reading preferences.
- I Encourage us to go beyond our reading comfort zone.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- I Mini Recommendation Cards (overleaf)
- I Class Reading List (overleaf)
- I Pencils or pens
- I Chart

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll complete a Mini Recommendation Card for a book we chose during our visit to the Malta Book Festival and swap it with friends. Using these recommendations, we'll create a class reading list.

BONUS IDEAS

BOOK SPEED CHAT: Students pair up and have two minutes each to talk about a book they discovered at The Malta Book Festival. Swap partners and repeat!

MY READING CALENDAR: My Reading Calendar: Throughout the year, students write down their favourite book of each month on a Reading Calendar, building a collection of their best reading discoveries.

LET'S START!

1. Begin by asking the students the following questions:
 - What was the most interesting book you discovered during your visit to the Malta Book Festival?
 - Have you ever read a book you didn't think you'd enjoy but ended up loving? What was it?
2. Hand out the Mini Recommendation Cards and invite the students to complete them.
3. Students swap their Recommendation Cards with one or more of their friends and discuss the reasons behind their choices. Encourage them to listen to each others' opinions.
4. Collect the completed cards and use them to create a Class Reading List featuring their favourite discoveries. Display both the cards and the list on a Recommendation Board or table.

MINI BOOK RECOMMENDATION

RECOMMENDED BY: _____

BOOK TITLE: _____

AUTHOR: _____

Why would you recommend it?

- ☐ It was funny
- ☐ It was exciting
- ☐ It taught me something new
- ☐ I liked the ending

MESSAGE TO ANOTHER READER

I think you should read this book because...

MY RATING

- ☐ ★
- ☐ ★ ★
- ☐ ★ ★ ★
- ☐ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ☐ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CLASS READING LIST

THESE ARE THE BOOKS OUR CLASS RECOMMENDS!

[illegible]

THE BOOK EXPLORER!

**The best discoveries
begin with yourself.**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- I We'll reflect on our interests and preferences.
- I Be aware that readers enjoy different kinds of books for different reasons.
- I Develop greater confidence in selecting books independently.
- I Understand that reading can be a journey of personal discovery.

REMEMBER!

YOU WILL GET A BOOK
VOUCHER TO SPEND ON
BOOKS AT THE MALTA
BOOK FESTIVAL!

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll complete a fun quiz to identify what kind of Book Explorer we are. By answering questions about our interests, we'll find out what kinds of books we enjoy most and embark on new reading adventures.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- I What Kind of Book Explorer Are You? quiz sheets. (overleaf)
- I Pens or pencils.

LET'S START!

1. Complete the quiz. Choose the answer that best describes you. There are no right or wrong answers.
2. Count your answers to see how many A, B, C and D answers you have chosen.
3. Use the guide to find your Book Explorer profile.
4. If your answers are mixed, don't worry! Many readers enjoy exploring different kinds of books.
5. Read your explorer profile and learn about the types of books that may appeal to you.
6. Share your profile with your classmates.
 - What kind of Book Explorer are you?
 - What's one thing you learned about yourself as a reader?



WHAT KIND OF BOOK EXPLORER ARE YOU?

**CHOOSE THE ANSWER THAT SOUNDS MOST LIKE YOU.
THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS!**



1. If you found a mysterious door, what would make you open it?

- A. The chance of an adventure.
- B. Finding out how it works.
- C. Learning who built it.
- D. Meeting someone on the other side.

4. You discover an old map. What do you do?

- A. Follow it immediately.
- B. Study it carefully.
- C. Research where it came from.
- D. Invite friends to explore with you.



2. Which school trip sounds most exciting?

- A. Exploring a hidden cave.
- B. Visiting a science laboratory.
- C. Touring an ancient city.
- D. Spending a day with interesting people.

5. Which question do you ask most often?

- A. "What happens next?"
- B. "How does that work?"
- C. "What happened before?"
- D. "Why do people do that?"



3. What catches your eye first in a bookshop?

- A. Exciting covers and titles.
- B. Books about facts and ideas.
- C. Historical stories and biographies.
- D. Stories about friendships and relationships.

6. If you could discover one thing, what would it be?

- A. A lost world.
- B. A new invention.
- C. A forgotten secret from history.
- D. A new way to help people.





WHAT KIND OF BOOK EXPLORER ARE YOU?

**CHOOSE THE ANSWER THAT SOUNDS MOST LIKE YOU.
THERE ARE NO RIGHT OR WRONG ANSWERS!**



7. What kind of movie do you enjoy most?

- A. Adventure or fantasy.
- B. Science fiction or documentaries
- C. Historical dramas.
- D. Stories about people and emotions.

9. What would you most like to discover at a book festival?

- A. A thrilling new story.
- B. An interesting new idea.
- C. Something surprising from the past.
- D. An author who understands people well.



8. A new student joins your class. What are you most curious about?

- A. Their adventures and hobbies.
- B. What they are good at.
- C. Where they come from.
- D. What they are like as a person.

10. Which object would you rather find?

- A. A treasure.
- B. A mysterious machine.
- C. An ancient diary.
- D. A letter written to you.





YOUR SCOREBOARD



KEEP TRACK OF HOW MANY TIMES
YOU CHOSE EACH OPTION.

A	B	C	D

YOUR DISCOVERY STYLE

☆ MOSTLY A'S

The Adventurous Explorer

You love exploring new worlds, exciting stories and unexpected journeys. You might enjoy fantasy, adventure, mystery and action-packed books.

☆ MOSTLY B'S

The Curious Explorer

You are fascinated by ideas, questions, inventions and learning how things work. You might enjoy science, technology, nonfiction, science fiction and problem-solving stories.

☆ MOSTLY C'S

The Historical Explorer

You enjoy uncovering secrets, understanding the past and learning how the world came to be. You might enjoy history, mythology, biographies and historical fiction.

☆ MOSTLY D'S

The Human Explorer

You are interested in people, emotions, relationships and different perspectives. You might enjoy realistic fiction, memoirs, poetry and character-driven stories.

A MIX OF ANSWERS?

The best discoverers explore many paths. Your mix of answers suggests that there are many kinds of books waiting for you to discover at the Malta Book Festival!

LET'S MAKE A FILM!

**Find the book.
Make the movie.**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- | Explore books by thinking about their storytelling potential.
- | Develop creative and imaginative thinking.
- | Consider audience, genre and visual storytelling.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- | Let's Make a Film! handout (overleaf)
- | Pens or pencils.
- | Clipboards (optional)
- | Book voucher

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll step into the role of film and television producers searching for a book to adapt for the screen. We'll choose a book from the ones we bought and decide how we would transform it into an exciting film or TV series.

REMEMBER!

HANDLE BOOKS WITH
CARE AND KEEP THE
STANDS TIDY FOR EV-
ERYONE TO ENJOY!

LET'S START!

1. As you're browsing books at The Malta Book Festival, keep an eye out for a book that you believe would make an amazing film or television series.
2. Inspect book covers, titles and blurbs at the stands.
3. See which books you'd like to buy. Move away from the stand and find a place where you can read the opening pages of the book you bought.
4. Complete your Let's Make a Film handout by deciding how your adaptation will look on screen.
5. Think about questions such as:
 - Will it be a film, TV series or animated feature?
 - Who is the target audience?
 - Who should direct it and which actors would play the main characters?
 - How much would it cost to make?
6. Compare your film project ideas with those of your classmates.



LET'S MAKE A FILM!

FIND THE BOOK. MAKE THE MOVIE.



BOOK I HAVE CHOSEN:

AUTHOR: _____

IT WILL BE:

Tick one:

- ☐ Film
- ☐ TV Series
- ☐ Animated Feature

AUDIENCE:

Tick one:

- ☐ Children
- ☐ Teenagers
- ☐ Adults
- ☐ All of the above

MY PRODUCTION TEAM

Director: _____

Main Actor: _____

Main Actress: _____

BUDGET: _____

BEFORE I OPENED THE BOOK...

The most interesting thing I discovered was...

FILM POSTER!

**Design the poster
for your film!**

WHAT WE'LL LEARN:

- I Explore how images and text work together to persuade an audience.
- I Summarise the main ideas of a story through the use of images.
- I Develop artistic, communication and presentation skills.
- I Reflect on how books can be interpreted in different creative ways.

WHAT WE'LL NEED:

- I Film Poster handout on A3 or A4 paper. (overleaf)
- I Pencils and colouring pencils.
- I The chosen book for reference.
- I Film posters (optional).

WHAT WE'LL DO:

We'll design a poster for our project. Our poster should capture the mood, characters and excitement of the story without giving too much away.

BONUS IDEA

Sentence Wall: Students find a sentence in a book that makes them think, write it on a slip of paper, and add it to a shared Sentence Wall.

A GREAT IDEA!

Explore your Library: Students receive a list of different genres and use the school library to find a book from as many genres as possible.

LET'S START!

1. Look back at your Let's Make a Film! activity sheet.
2. Think about a film poster that would make someone stop and look at it. Consider:
 - Who or what should be the main focus?
 - What colours best match the mood of the story?
 - Should the poster be mysterious, exciting, funny or dramatic?
3. Your poster should include:
 - The film title.
 - An eye-catching illustration.
 - The names of the main actors and the director's name.
 - A suitable age rating.
4. Create an attractive poster that makes people want to watch your film.
5. Display the posters around the classroom.



FILM POSTER



**FILM
TITLE** →

**MAIN
ACTORS** →

← **MAIN
IMAGE**

← **DIRECTOR**

↑
**AGE
RATING**