



BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Human ingenuity • Inventions

Seven Small Inventions that Changed the World

By Roma Agrawal and Jisu Choi

Technology and engineering surround us: from HUGE spaceships and skyscrapers, to much smaller things like the toaster in our kitchen and the shoes on our feet. But all of these things only exist because of seven small inventions: the nail, the wheel, the spring, the magnet, the lens, the pump, and string.



OUR THOUGHTS

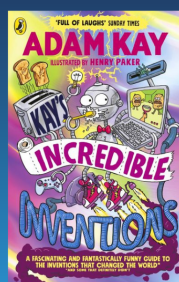
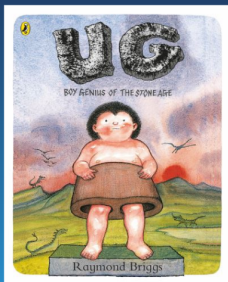
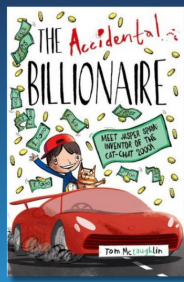
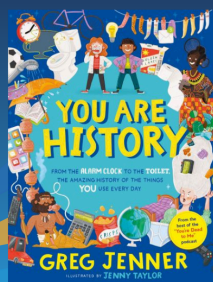
"Fascinating approach to an often-covered topic, focusing on smaller but important innovations. Bright and eye-catching, sure to be picked up by budding inventors."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Have any of the potted histories of these common place inventions surprised you?
- 2 Are you amazed at how old some of the inventions are?
- 3 Have a look around the room – can you see any of these inventions where you are?
- 4 Do you like the art style in the book?
- 5 Imagine being the first person to invent something, like string. How would you discover it? Would people be interested in your invention at first?
- 6 Which is your favourite invention in the book, and the one you could do without the least?
- 7 Is there any information in here that makes you want to discover more? What is it?

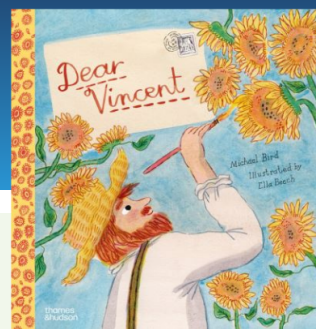


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Artists • Art • Letters
Brothers • Sunflowers

Dear Vincent

by Michael Bird and Ella Beech

Vincent is fed up with life in the grey city, but things are about to change! With the support of his loving brother Theo, Vincent sets off on a journey to the 'Sunny South'. There he will discover new and inspiring places and make new friends. But will he be able to paint the picture of his dreams?



OUR THOUGHTS

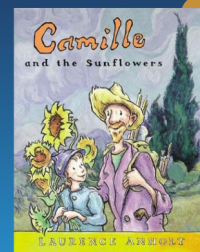
"All pretty idealised and cheery but could be useful as topic support for this artist and illustrations are attractive."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Vincent is a talented artist and enjoys painting, but why do you think nobody wants to buy his work?
- 2 Vincent's bag doesn't shut so he takes out his toothbrush and socks. If you were going on holiday and your suitcase didn't shut, what would you take out and why?
- 3 How do you think Vincent felt when he got to his holiday destination and there was no sun? Have you been excited to go on holiday and then been disappointed once you got there?
- 4 In what ways is Theo a good brother to Vincent? How do your siblings look out for you?
- 5 What things must the postman not do whilst he is sitting for a portrait?
- 6 Vincent keeps saying that he wants to paint the picture of his dreams. What picture of your dreams would you most like to paint? Who would you give it to and why?
- 7 Do you agree with the comments that the people made about Vincent's pictures? Were the colours too colourful? What advice would you give to Vincent so that his paintings could get sold?
- 8 What do you think the little girl liked about Vincent's paintings? Have you ever liked a painting that no-one else has? Is it okay to have your own opinion about something?

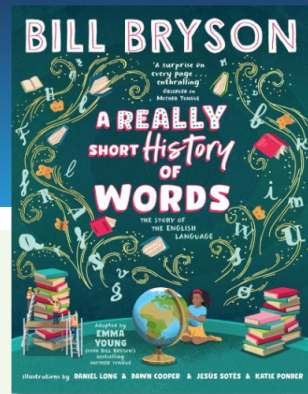


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Shakespeare • Dictionary
History • English language

A Really Short History of Words

By Bill Bryson and Emma Young

Every day, you do something incredible, and I bet you barely ever think about it: you speak. But have you ever wondered why the English language turned out like it did? If so, this is the book for you. It will also answer some VERY important questions...



OUR THOUGHTS

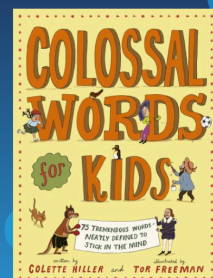
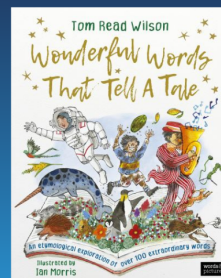
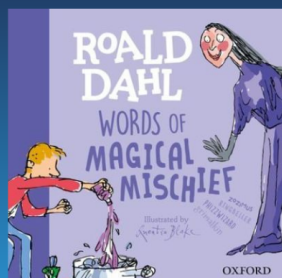
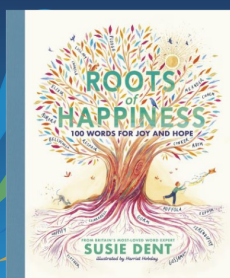
"Well adapted for younger readers with a wealth of interesting information. Immensely readable for all linguaphiles whether for lesiure or topic support."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Why do you think more people speak English than any other language? What other languages do you speak? What other languages would you like to learn? Why is it important to know more than one language?
- 2 Can you communicate effectively without words? Tell your friend what you did at the weekend without using words. How did this make you feel? How has this helped you to understand the importance of language?
- 3 Do you think it's important that everyone learns sign language and why?
- 4 Why do you think people continue to learn ancient languages when they are not used for everyday communication?
- 5 Many words have changed their meanings over the years. Do you agree that certain words should have their meanings changed? Can you think of words that you use today whose meaning was different for your parents?
- 6 English spellings can sometimes be quite tricky. Which words have you struggled to spell because they sound nothing like the pronunciation of the word?
- 7 Some American words are spelled differently to English words. How does this cause confusion for children at school? Should we allow American spellings? Is it wrong to spell words the American way?
- 8 Some words just sound good. What are your favourite words? What words do you use to impress your friends? Do you enjoy learning new words and why?

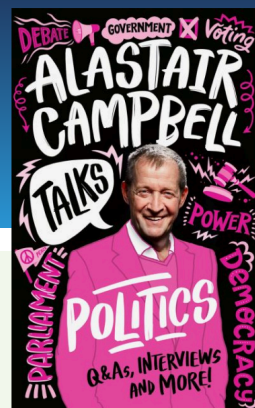


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Politics • Laws • Democracy
Government • United Kingdom

Alastair Campbell Talks Politics

By Alastair Campbell

Alastair shares his incredible knowledge and passion to empower young people and give them the skills and confidence they need to understand how the country is run, how they can get involved, encourage them to have a view, or take a stand, give them tips about how to debate, and so much more!



OUR THOUGHTS

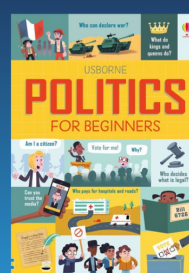
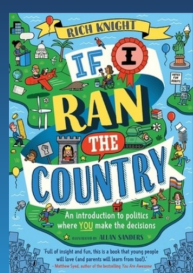
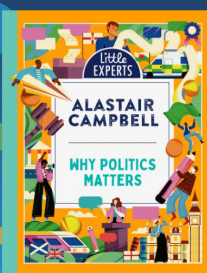
"Really accessible, useful potted guide that explains some key aspects really effectively. Great for interest/study support."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What is Politics and why should we care about it?
- 2 Do you think a country needs a government and should they be the ones making important decisions? Why, or why not?
- 3 What is a politician and what skills do you think you need to be one?
- 4 Who were the suffragettes and what did they campaign for?
- 5 How often are UK general elections held? What are the UK's main political parties?
- 6 If you were a Prime Minister, what policies would you have? Is there anything you would like to change?
- 7 The prime minister appoints cabinet ministers, what are they responsible for? What departments in government do you think should be most important and why?
- 8 How does the government protect the environment? Do you think they are doing enough, if not what else could they do?
- 9 What are the United Nations and when was it established?
- 10 Even though you are not able to vote yet, what do you think you could do as students to get your opinions heard?

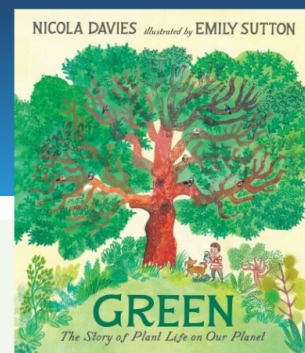


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- Nature • Plants
- Climate • Living things

Green: The Story of Plant Life on our Planet

By Nicola Davies and Emily Sutton

This tree doesn't look like it's doing very much: it just stands there in the sunlight, big and GREEN. But this tree is busy... Starting with the secret workings of a tree, this book transports readers billions of years into the past; back to the moment when plant life first appeared on our planet.



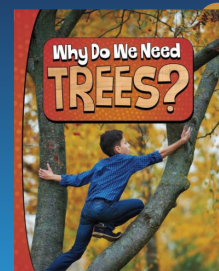
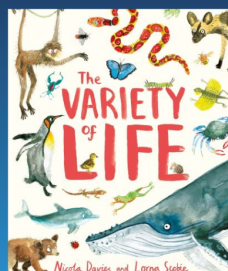
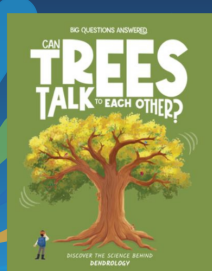
OUR THOUGHTS

"Clear font for easy reading and beautiful illustrations make this a lovely book for leisure non-fiction but also great for topic boxes."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Look at the large tree at the beginning of the book. Do you agree that *'it doesn't look like it's doing very much'*? What could it be doing even if it is very still? What important things can humans do when they are very still?
- 2 Which part of a tree do you think has the most important job? Is it the roots, the bark or the leaves? Explain your answer.
- 3 What makes plants green? Do you think it's important to have green plants everywhere? What would happen if we didn't have them?
- 4 Would you like to live in a world that didn't have any green plants? Describe what it would look like
- 5 Do you think it's important to have fossil fuels? Could humans live without them and what could they use instead?
- 6 Who or what is causing the most threat to all the green nations?
- 7 Do you agree that GREEN is the most important colour or do you think other colours are more important and why?
- 8 Who do you think works harder: humans or plants? Explain your answer.

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Wildlife
Environment • Conservation

Rewild The World at Bedtime

By Emily Hawkins and Ella Beech

What is rewilding? It means putting things back to how they were! Humans have been polluting the Earth for over 4000 years. Before that, nature lived freely. Now, it's time to let our world heal. We can do this by helping some of the animals that have been left behind.



OUR THOUGHTS

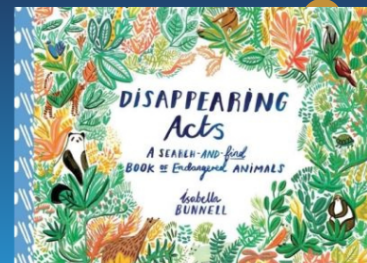
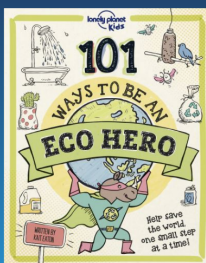
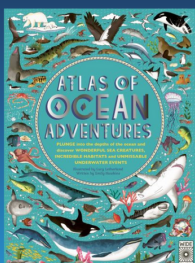
"Very engaging storytelling style of writing has strong appeal and a hopeful tone, and still gets plenty of information across. Illustrations add to the leisure feel."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Think of a space in your home/school/community. What would you like to do to help rewild it? What differences do you think it might make for the people who use that space?
- 2 The rewilded spaces at the end of each story are all very different. Which one would you most like to visit and why?
- 3 At first it was difficult to persuade everyone to agree to the plan. Why do you think this was? How do you think you might feel about a plan like this effecting your home?
- 4 Have you ever had a good idea that you had to persuade other people about? What did you do to try and make other people believe in your ideas?
- 5 Lots of changes had to be made to make their new home suitable for the lynxes and make sure they had food, space and food. If you were going to create a habitat for your favourite animal what things would you need to do to make them safe and happy?
- 6 At first, the local farmers had a very bad opinion of the lynxes and didn't understand how important they are and that lynxes would help the area. Can you think of any other animals that are often thought of in a negative way? What might you say to help change people's minds?

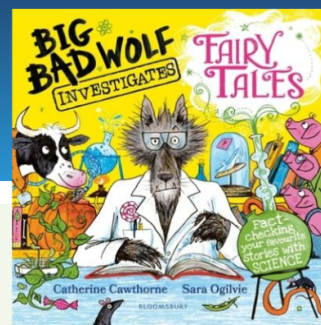


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Science • Experiments • Goodies
Baddies • Traditional tales • Humour

Big Bad Wolf Investigates Fairy Tales

by Catherine Cawthorne and Sara Ogilvie

The Big Bad Wolf is on a mission to find the truth behind fairy tales, and clear his name in the process.



OUR THOUGHTS

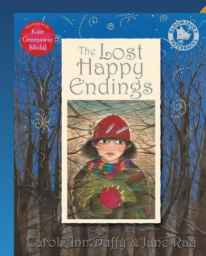
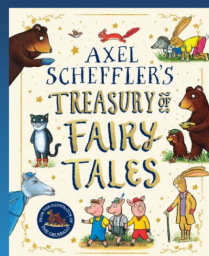
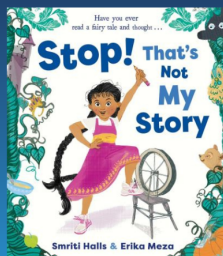
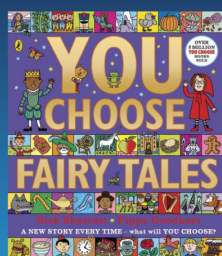
"Amusing writing style and characterful illustrations work well together, and the contrast of fairy tales and actual science is handled with humour and a sense of balance."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Which is your favourite fairy tale? Could you have a vote in your class/group to find your favourite?
- 2 What was your favourite fact from the book?
- 3 There are lots of different houses in the book – gingerbread houses, castles on beanstalks, straw houses. What would be your favourite? If you could design any house for yourself what would it be?
- 4 Would you like to be a scientist like the wolf?
- 5 Can you think of any other fairy tales? Are there any questions about a different tale you would like answers to?
- 6 Did you think this book was funny? Would you rather read this book or a normal fairy tale?
- 7 Some characters, like the wolf, are automatically seen as the 'baddy'. Who else is usually seen as a bad character? Do you think this is fair?
- 8 Do you like reading fairy tales? Did this book make you feel differently about them?

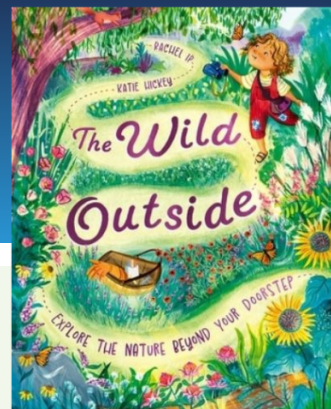


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Humour • Curiosity
Facts • Perseverance

The Wild Outside

By Rachel Ip and Katie Hickey

When Tulip finds a nature trail drawn in chalk on the street outside her house, she is delighted to discover the names and uses of all her favourite trees, plants, and flowers. Then one day, she comes home to find a carefully wrapped present waiting on her doorstep ... A book of nature from around the world.



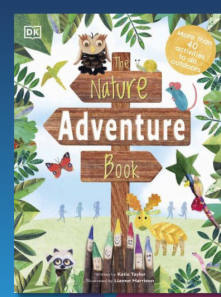
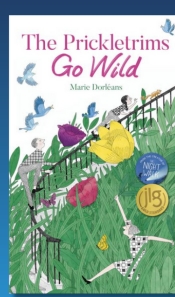
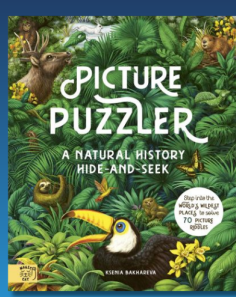
OUR THOUGHTS

"A really lovely and simple guide to the outdoors, that's informative and interesting. The illustrations are wonderful."

TIME TO TALK

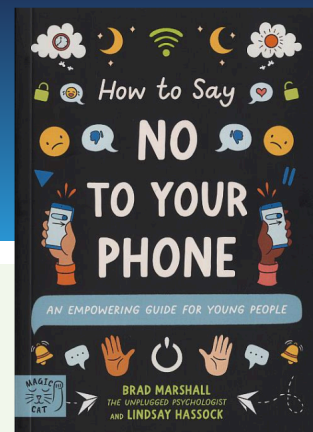
- 1 What do you like looking at when you are outside - the sky, the animals, the flowers, the trees, other people?
- 2 What environment do you like the best - woodland, countryside, seaside, city?
- 3 What is your favourite flower and why - the colour, the shape, the smell, the name?
- 4 Can you imagine what it would feel like to walk in bare feet on the grass, on sand, on pine cones, on pebbles, in the snow, and on a pavement?
- 5 Why do you think different plants and different trees grow in different parts of the world?
- 6 What kind of explorer are you? Do you like to look for unusual things as you walk or do you prefer to be told what to look for?
- 7 Count how many plants there are growing along the street where you live - in the walls, in the curb, in the pavement cracks.
- 8 Collect some natural things that you find outside like leaves, shells, feathers, acorns and create a wild picture.

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Communication • Technology
Mental health

How to Say No to Your Phone

By Brad Marshall,
Lindsay Hassock and
Lauriane Bohémier

Two psychologists share their insights on how children can unplug from technology, build a better relationship with their phones, and develop healthy habits.



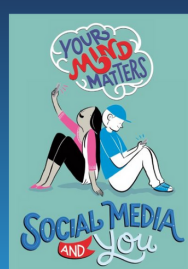
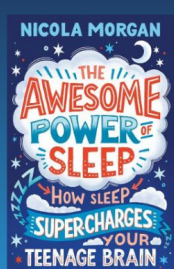
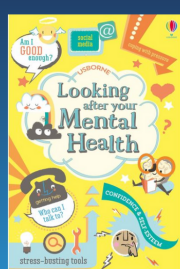
OUR THOUGHTS

"Covering the addictive nature of social media and the importance of getting away from screens for our mental and physical health, this is a thoughtful, enlightening and essential read for teens and adults alike."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 How can Smartphones and technology be rewarding or useful in our lives?
- 2 A smartphone is a useful tool, but how can technology and social media negatively impact your mental health?
- 3 What impacts do you think screen addiction could have on your friends, family and society as a whole?
- 4 What are your thoughts on the statement '*Smartphones are causing more harm than good in the hands of young people*'?
- 5 Do you think you use your phone too much? How long can you go without checking your phone? How many hours a day do you think you spend on your phone?
- 6 In what ways can you create new habits and limit your screen time?
- 7 Why is getting a good night's sleep so important? How do you think a person's sleep can be improved?
- 8 What are your favourite activities/hobbies to do away from your screens?
- 9 What do you like to do to unwind and relax? Are there any tips from the book that you would now like to start to do?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Conservation • History • Discovery
Extinction • Preservation

Lost

By Jess McGeachin

What does it mean to be lost? Is it stranded at sea without a map, or carefully camouflaged in the wild? Travel back in time to hear herds of honking dinosaurs, find sunken shipwreck treasure and uncover ancient cities in the sand. The things we've lost could even hold the key to protecting our future, so there's not a moment to lose. Lost worlds await!



OUR THOUGHTS

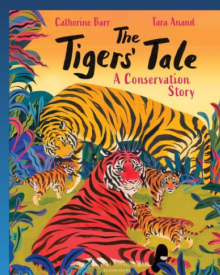
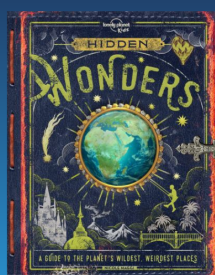
"A beautifully illustrated book full of fascinating bite sized pieces of information that is perfect as a leisure NF browser. Worth having in KS2 collections."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What "lost" thing from the book would you like to go back in time and visit, and why?
- 2 What does the word lost mean in this book?
- 3 The book itself asks questions that can make you think, such as on page 19 Lost Cities, it asks "What does it mean to lose a city". Think about that and any other questions posed in the text.
- 4 Have you ever visited an old building like a ruined castle, or old church?
- 5 What do you think is in danger of being lost that exists nowadays? Is there anyway we can help to preserve it?
- 6 What would you do if you got lost? Would you know the way back home and who you could ask for help?
- 7 What part of the book fascinates you the most?

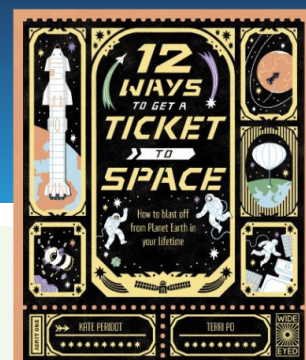


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Science • Space • Physics
Astronauts • Space flight

12 Ways to Get a Ticket to Space

By Kate Peridot and Terri Po

Space travel has never been so accessible, with NASA even aiming to land humans on Mars in the 2030s. This book is a launchpad for the curiosity and intrepid nature that any young space traveller will need to have in our solar system and beyond.



OUR THOUGHTS

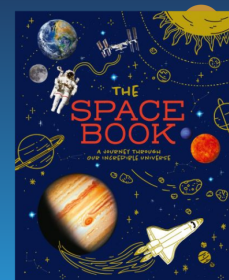
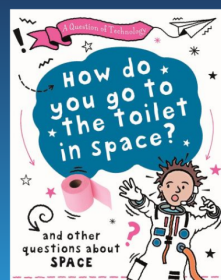
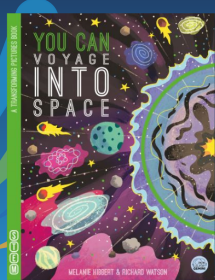
"Appealing and bang up-to-date read that will capture the imagination. Budding astronauts will enjoy dipping into this, perfect for any library."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Who was the first person to set foot on the moon? What year did this happen?
- 2 If you could meet an astronaut, what questions would you like to ask them?
- 3 Which method from the book would you use to get into space? Why would you choose this method?
- 4 If you could go anywhere in space, where would you like to go? What would you like to see in space?
- 5 One of the methods used in the book is a space balloon, how does the space balloon fly?
- 6 What is G-Force? What effects can G-Force have on the body?
- 7 What Force is used when rockets move upwards? How do rockets fly?
- 8 What training do astronauts have to complete before they can go into space?
- 9 There are lots of jobs linked to space, which job did you find the most surprising? Is there a job that you would like to do if you went into space?
- 10 Is there anything else about going into space not featured in the book that you would like to know about? How could you find out more?

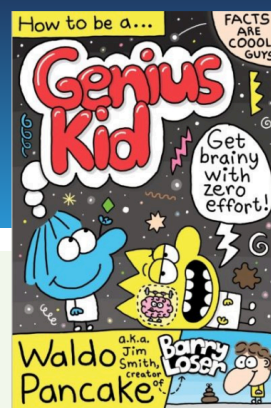


TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Humour • Curiosity
Facts • Perseverance

How To Be a Genius Kid

By Jim Smith

Zany and laugh out loud bonkers, this graphic novel of large and small facts, is The Best, and that's official! You'll want to quote from it, repeat the gags, and reread it again and again. Plus Waldo Pancake shows you how to draw stuff, as well as learning you to be the biggest genius ever...



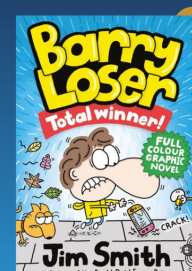
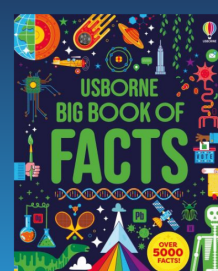
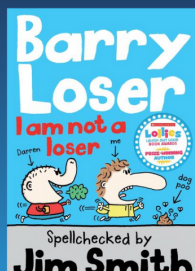
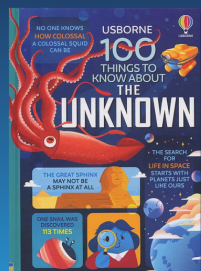
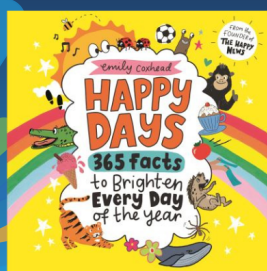
OUR THOUGHTS

"Could equally sit in graphic novel or JNF collections - Jim Smith fans will lap this up. Hysterical."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 What is your favourite fact in the book? Do you know a great fact?
- 2 Who do you think is more like you, GK or Flea?
- 3 They're both different and have different ways of going about getting the facts together. Do their differences make them complement each other. Are they a good team?
- 4 The art style is fun and quite easy to copy. Maybe you could illustrate your favourite fact in the style of the book?
- 5 Think of a time you and your friends came up with some good ideas after working together
- 6 Which fact was the most surprising/mind-blowing and made you want to find out more about it?
- 7 What do you feel about doing nothing? Can you think of the last time you just did nothing?
- 8 Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

- Science • Time
- Changes • Growing

Patience...

by Rachel Williams and Leonie Lord

The concept of time is hard to grasp. From a single minute to a full century, hearts beat, trees bloom and grow - and a human lives a lifetime. This book takes 18 different periods of time - from a single minute; to an hour; to over a century - to show the process of life



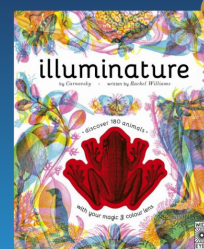
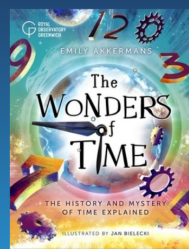
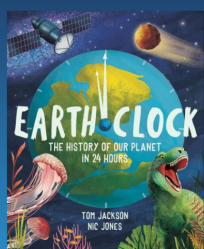
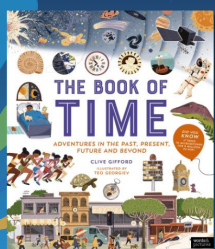
OUR THOUGHTS

"Beautifully illustrated and really gets the idea across of time passing and having to wait for things. Ideal to share and spark discussion."

TIME TO TALK

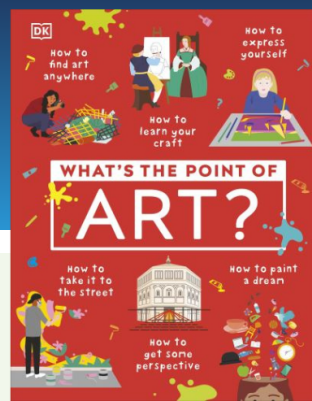
- 1 Patience means 'to endure' or 'to wait'. What things do you find difficult to wait for?
- 2 Your heart does a very special job. Why is it important to look after it? What things can you do to increase your heartbeat?
- 3 When you look into the night sky, the moon appears to change shape. Why does this happen? The moon changes over a month. What things have changed for you over the last month?
- 4 Compare a day in your life to that of a dragonfly? If you could go through METAMORPHOSIS what creature would you like to turn into?
- 5 The incubation period for blackbirds is 12 days. What sort of things would take you 12 days to do?
- 6 Describe what would happen to your body if you had to wait 2 weeks to get some water.
- 7 Describe the life cycle of an apple tree. In what ways does your life change according to the seasons?
- 8 It takes 25 years for coral polyps to change into a reef. How do you see your life changing in the next 25 years? How old will you be and what do you think you will be doing? How will your body have changed in 60 years, 75 years and 100 years?

TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:





BOOK TALK CARDS



THEMES:

Art appreciation • Inspiration

What's the Point of Art?

By Sanya Jain (illustrator)

Why is art important? What's so great about it? In this book, you'll see the world through famous artists' eyes, learning what inspired them to make art, and how art has changed our world.



OUR THOUGHTS

"A fascinating book that will inspire those interested in art. The bite-sized pieces of information and a range of illustrations and photos make it a good browser for curriculum or leisure collections."

TIME TO TALK

- 1 Have you got a favourite artist and/or painting? What do you like about it?
- 2 Have you seen any famous paintings? How did it make you feel to see them?
- 3 Does looking at art interest you? Has this book made you think about art differently?
- 4 Have you learnt anything from this book that has surprised you?
- 5 Why don't you try creating a piece of art about or inspired by what has surprised you.
- 6 Can you think of a piece of art that sends a message?
- 7 Do you think art should be completely life-like and accurate, or can art be interpretive and abstract and be just as good?
- 8 What do you think would improve this book? For example, would more images of the artworks help the reader?



TAKE THE TEXT FURTHER WITH OUR TOP 5 TITLES TO CONTINUE THE THEME:

