



Your



NEXT GREAT READ



FOREWORD

In a world that races forward at a rapid pace, *Your Next Great Read* offers a cherished pause – an opportunity to dive into the creative realm of stories and storytelling.

We take great pleasure in introducing you to this diverse collection of books featured in the Once Upon A Book Storytelling Showcase video series. The showcase is designed to ignite a passion for books and storytelling, inviting young people to unleash their creativity as they share their interpretations of their favourite reads.

Each story presented here has been chosen to inspire young readers to spend more time immersed in a book and more time exploring positive values and attitudes, such as empathy, respect for others, responsibility and unity.

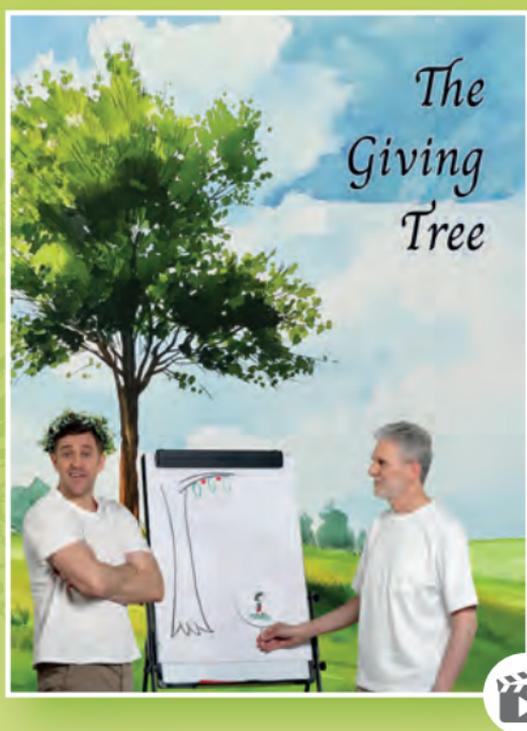
Inside this brochure, you will find an introduction to each book and an accompanying storytelling video. These videos are models for students to learn about storytelling techniques and are lively places to start for parents and teachers who would like to introduce these books to young people.

Dive in, and remember: every book is a new adventure waiting to unfold.

NET Section, CDI, Education Bureau

Scan the QR code to access the Once Upon A Book Storytelling Showcase video series online.





The Giving Tree

By Shel Silverstein

Harper & Row, 1964

An apple tree loves a boy. Every day, the boy visits the tree, playing with her leaves, swinging from her branches, and sleeping in the tree's shade. The tree is unwavering in her love for the boy and gives to him selflessly. But as the boy grows older, he asks the tree for more and more, while the tree continues to give without hesitation. What will be left of the tree at the end of the boy's life?

Why you should dive in

Shel Silverstein illustrates his poignant children's story with simple but beautiful black-and-white line drawings. This classic story has a powerful message that can be interpreted in different ways. Does the tree represent a mother giving unconditional love to a child or Mother Nature giving selflessly to humanity? The story explores the themes of unconditional love, selflessness, and care for others.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Books, Environment

Values: Responsibility, Respect for Others, Benevolence

Dragon Keeper

By Carole Wilkinson

Walker Books, 2012

Accompany Ping, a courageous slave girl, as she forms a deep bond with Danzi, a wise dragon. Together, they set out on an extraordinary journey across Ancient China. In the face of daunting challenges, Ping must dig deep within herself to find the self-respect, strength, and courage to break free from her cruel master while protecting a magical stone of immense significance.

Why you should dive in

This novel immerses readers in the rich tapestry of the life of China's Han dynasty as Ping and Danzi navigate their quest across an ever-changing landscape. The thrilling plot keeps you glued to the page.

Witness Ping's remarkable transformation as she grows in self-esteem and embraces new challenges. Sometimes overwhelmed but never defeated, Ping's determination inspires us all. The story instils a powerful message about resilience and courage in the face of adversity.

And who doesn't love a story about talking dragons? *Dragon Keeper* is a thrilling adventure and a beautifully crafted exploration of friendship, bravery, and the magic of believing in oneself. Don't miss out on this delightful story that will capture your heart and imagination!

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Young Adult, Adventure, Fantasy, Chinese History and Culture

Values: Courage, Self-respect, Perseverance, Responsibility





Pete the Cat

By Eric Litwin

HarperCollins, 2010

Pete the Cat is a cool cat, and he has a brand-new pair of white shoes. Pete loves his white shoes, and he can sing about them all day long.

As Pete goes for a walk, he keeps stepping in the wrong things, making a mess of his perfect white shoes. Does Pete cry? No! He just keeps on walking and singing his song.

Why you should dive in

This simple and entertaining book, accompanied by a catchy and groovy song called 'I Love My White Shoes,' is a delightful read. It's the song Pete sings as he walks down the street and continues singing no matter what he steps in. Pete teaches us how to keep going and stay positive, even when bad things happen. The book reminds us that while we can't always control what happens to us, we can always choose how we react.

This funny and cheerful book, with its bold and colourful artwork, radiates a positive tone that is sure to uplift your spirits. It is part of a series of *Pete the Cat* titles, so if you enjoy this one, you can explore plenty of his other adventures too.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Books, Animals, Humour

Values: Perseverance, Positivity

The Empty Pot

By Demi

Henry Holt and Company, 1990

Ping, an honest boy from an Ancient Chinese village, has a passion for growing flowers. He is thrilled when the emperor announces that his successor will be the child who cultivates the most beautiful flowers from the seeds he provides. However, on the day of the final evaluation, Ping arrives with an empty pot. What is the reason behind Ping's empty pot? Who will become the emperor's successor?

Why you should dive in

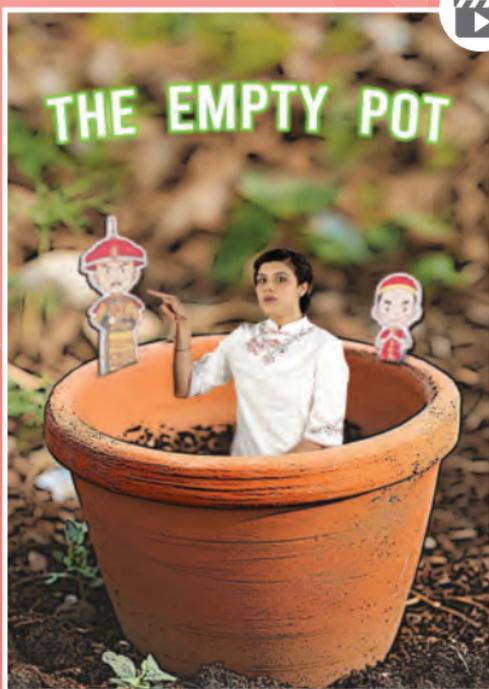
This beautifully crafted book, rich with illustrations and a simple yet impactful story, shows us honesty, integrity, and courage in action.

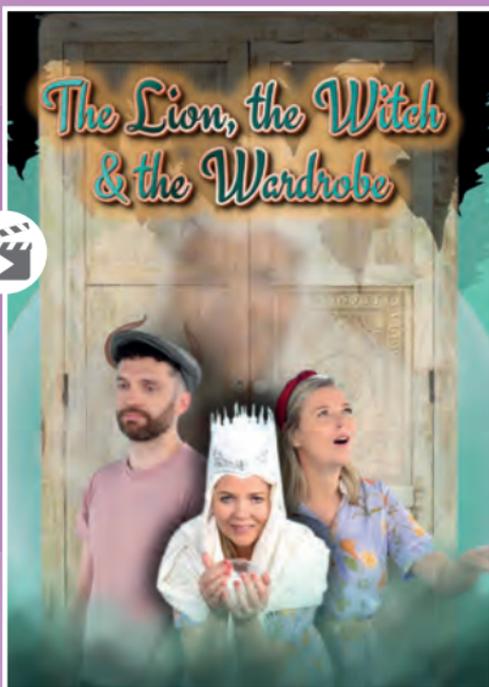
Young readers will surely be captivated by Demi's stunning artwork and the book's unique feature of pages shaped like paper fans. This visual element provides a unique and engaging experience, enhancing the enjoyment and keeping readers engrossed in the story.

Ping's journey is a powerful testament to the importance of being honest and staying true to oneself. It demonstrates the courage it takes to uphold our principles, even when faced with difficult situations. Ping's unwavering commitment to truthfulness ultimately earns him recognition and respect. Young readers will be inspired.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Books, Chinese History & Culture

Values: Integrity, Courage





The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

By C.S. Lewis

HarperCollins Children's Books, 2001

Embark on a magical journey with this fantasy tale. Evacuated to the countryside during World War II, four siblings stumble upon a unique discovery - a magical wardrobe that serves as a gateway to the enchanting land of Narnia, a realm held captive by the sinister White Witch.

Within Narnia's mystical borders, the siblings encounter Aslan, a noble lion embodying the principles of virtue and justice. Initially swayed by the Witch's deceit, Edmund embarks on a profound journey of forgiveness and redemption. The siblings' unwavering courage unites them as they stand alongside Aslan in a fierce battle against the Witch and her malevolent forces.

Why you should dive in

A timeless classic and one of the most beloved stories ever penned, this book has captivated millions of readers worldwide. Its imaginative, world-building plot, and its engaging exploration of themes such as good-versus-evil, sacrifice, and redemption make it a compelling read. The Pevensie siblings' journey through the magical land of Narnia, encountering memorable characters and moral challenges, encourages their growth and bravery. With its allegorical elements and universal appeal, this novel sparks creativity and fosters important discussions about values, making it a must-read for readers of all ages.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Fantasy, Young Adult, Classics, Adventure

Values: Courage, Perseverance, Respect for Others, Empathy, Unity

Tiddler

By Julia Donaldson

Scholastic, 2007

A little fish, Tiddler, tells very tall tales. When Tiddler arrives late to school, he spins fantastical stories about his adventures in the ocean. One day, when he gets lost, Tiddler must rely on his incredible imagination and the friends he meets to find his way home.

Why you should dive in

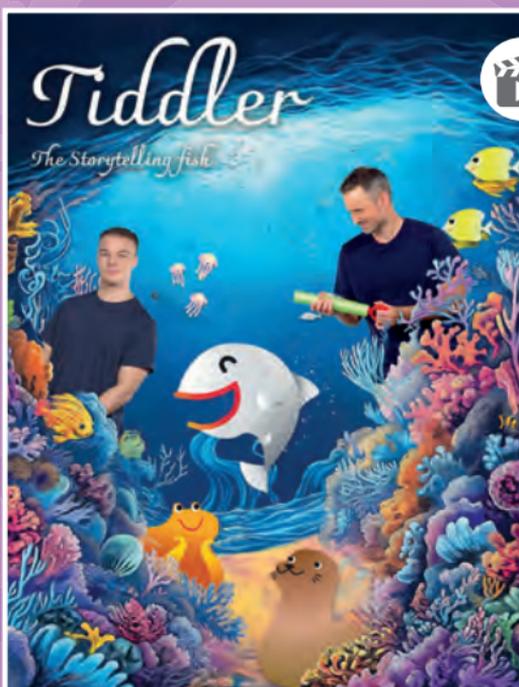
Tiddler is a delightful read that encourages us to embrace our imagination. This story is all about creativity and the importance of storytelling.

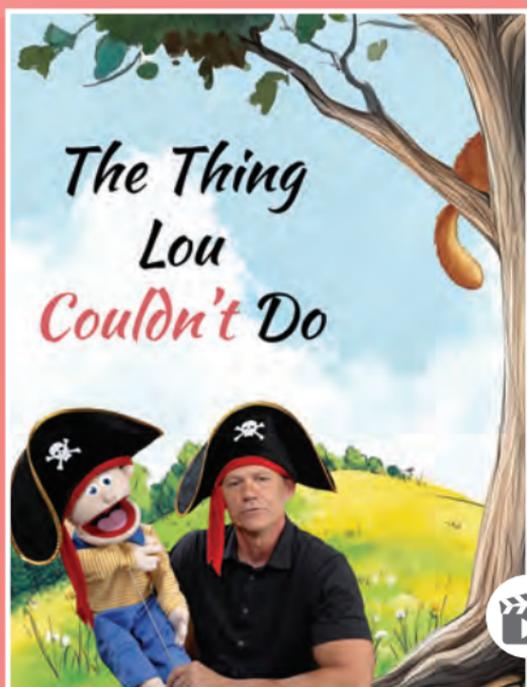
Tiddler grows into a resourceful fish who learns to navigate challenges, teaching us about honesty, resilience, adaptability and friendship. The rhythmic and rhyming prose not only makes it engaging and memorable, but also captivates the reader, making it enjoyable for storytelling and read-aloud sessions.

The vibrant illustrations complement the text, sparking visual imagination and helping convey emotions and actions. *Tiddler* is a fun read, but it also serves as a springboard for discussions about values and personal growth.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Books, Animals/Sea Life, Adventure, Growth Mindset, Friendship

Values: Integrity, Resilience, Adaptability





The Thing Lou Couldn't Do

By Ashley Spires

Kids Can Press Ltd, 2017

Lou and her friends are courageous adventurers. They run faster than planes can fly. They build mighty fortresses. They rescue wild animals. But one day, when the adventure turns to climbing a tree, Lou finds she can't do it. She comes up with all kinds of reasons and excuses for why she shouldn't climb the tree, but eventually she realises that the most incredible adventure can be found in facing your fears.

Why you should dive in

The story celebrates courage, resilience, and the discovery of one's true potential. It shows how, with persistence and the support of her friends, Lou overcomes her self-doubt and discovers new abilities within herself. Through Lou's journey, the story delves into the importance of resilience, friendship, and personal growth for children. This book not only celebrates courage but also reassures children that it's all right to struggle. It also highlights the value of support from friends. This message will surely resonate with many young readers.

With charming illustrations and a relatable narrative, Ashley Spires encourages young readers to embrace challenges and to try, even when success isn't guaranteed. It's a heart-warming tale that inspires confidence and growth in a fun, accessible way.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Book, Adventure, Growth Mindset

Values: Resilience, Courage

The Long Road

By Rod Smith

Pearson Education Ltd (1st published 2008)



Terry Fox, a young Canadian man, loses his leg to cancer, but embarks on a remarkable cross-Canada run known as The Marathon of Hope. His mission was a personal challenge and a bold attempt to raise awareness and funds for cancer research.

Why you should dive in

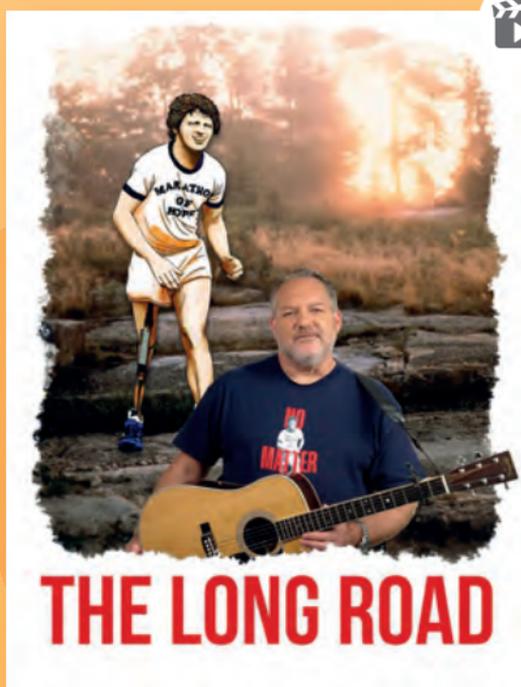
This gripping true-life account vividly portrays the struggles, setbacks, and triumphs Terry faces and overcomes throughout his life and on his epic Marathon of Hope, making it a compelling read for anyone interested in inspirational stories. It is the story of a true fighter who sets out to make the world a better place by raising money for cancer research in the hopes of someday finding a cure.

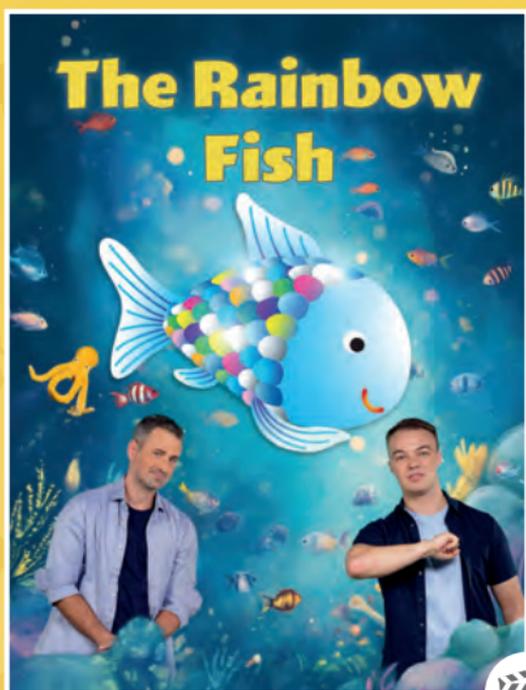
Terry Fox's dedication, courage, and commitment to a cause greater than himself are valuable lessons for us all. The book is a testament to the human spirit, strength in adversity and what people can do with the right mindset. If you are looking for some inspiration, this is the perfect book for you. Life is full of setbacks, but we can overcome them with persistence.

Terry is a true modern-day hero, a figure whose story resonates with everyone, and from whom we can all learn and draw inspiration.

Genres and Themes: Non-fiction, Young Adult, Sport, Adventure

Values: Courage, Commitment, Diligence, Perseverance





The Rainbow Fish

By Marcus Pfister

North-South Books, 1992

The Rainbow Fish is a children's book about a beautiful fish with shimmering scales. Admired by all, the rainbow fish is proud, but lonely because he has no friends. He seeks advice from a wise octopus, who suggests sharing his scales. Reluctant at first, the rainbow fish gives away his scales to other fish, finding joy in friendship and realising that sharing brings happiness.

Why you should dive in

The Rainbow Fish is a captivating book that children will adore. Its enchanting story and stunning visuals draw young readers into an underwater world bursting with vibrant colours. The book's vibrant illustrations and heartfelt message will spark children's imaginations and teach them the importance of generosity, empathy and kindness. The journey of the rainbow fish imparts essential life lessons, inspiring and guiding children in their own social development.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Animals, Adventure

Values: Generosity, Empathy, Benevolence

Tiddalick the Frog Who Caused a Flood

By Robert Roennfeldt

Picture Puffin, 1980



A small, mischievous frog, Tiddalik, is incredibly thirsty. He drinks up all the water in all the creeks, lakes, and rivers in the land. The other animals must find a way to get the water back.

Why you should dive in

This delightfully illustrated children's book is an adaptation of a famous Australian dreamtime story. Its engaging storyline captures children's imaginations while introducing them to Australian culture and folklore, teaching them important lessons about the consequences of greed, the importance of sharing, and the value of teamwork and problem-solving. The combination of vibrant illustrations, relatable animal characters, and meaningful messages makes it both a fun and valuable read for young audiences.

Genres and Themes: Fiction, Children's Literature, Picture Books, Animals, Environment

Values: Teamwork, Responsibility, Respect for Others

