

# A BOOK FOR EVERYONE!

GRAB your book tokens and get making those costumes, because this Thursday (5 March) is World Book Day 2026. We're celebrating with this special pull-out, diving into this year's £1 books, meeting the authors, and having some fun along the way!

## WHAT IS WORLD BOOK DAY?

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

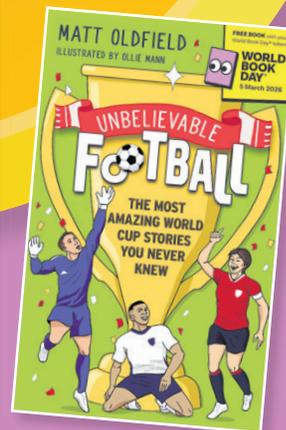
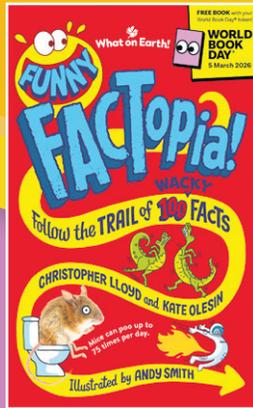
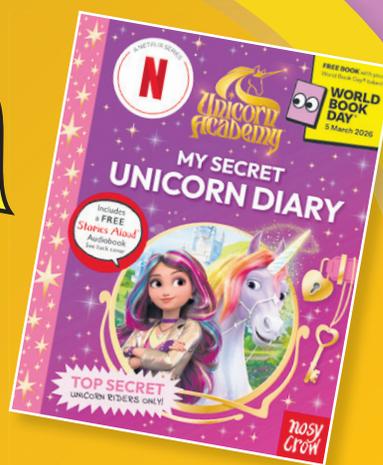
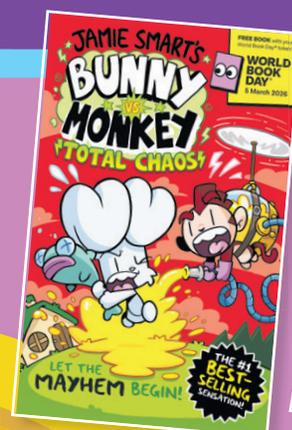
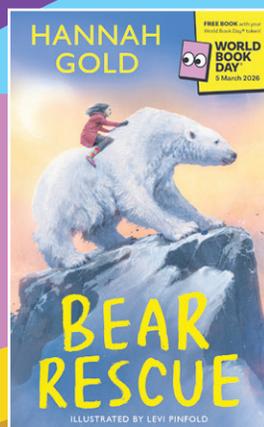
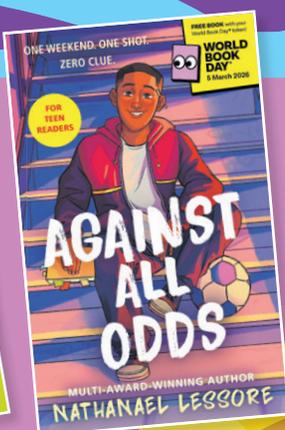
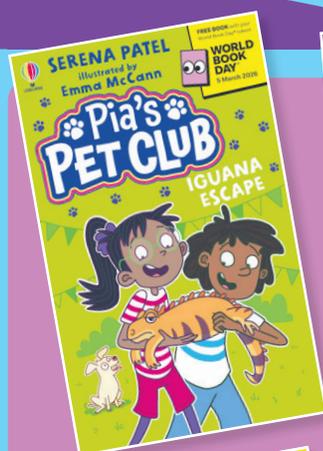
Its aim is to spread the message that reading can change your life, and to get books into the hands of as many children as possible – and with this being the National Year of Reading, there's never been a better time to get involved!

Research has proven that reading helps children become happier and more successful, but did you know that over one 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 access to books, 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 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

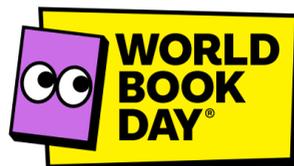
CHOCOLATE FACTORY FUN

MEET THE AUTHORS

DRAW BUNNY VS MONKEY

£1 BOOK VOUCHER

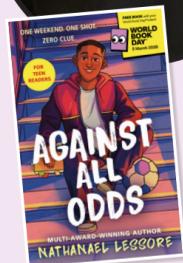
# AUTHORS ON THE SPOT!



SAY hello to some of the big-name authors behind a handful of this year's £1 World Book Day books, as they share their stories and top reading tips!



## NATHANAEL LESSORE Author of *Against All Odds*



**Who's your book about, Nathanael?**  
Noranto, who's always got rhymes, football and finance on the mind. When his English teacher discovers his talent for poetry, he has to choose between football and rhyming. On top of that, he's single-handedly organising his mum's birthday. What could go wrong?

**How does it feel to be involved in World Book Day?**  
Quite emotional. I spend most of my life travelling up and down the country trying to get teenagers to

read and write stories – what better way than by sharing and discussing free World Book Day books?

**What do you read to support your other passions?**  
I like to read all the books that are shortlisted for awards, and I read books that other authors send me. I find it important to be supportive.

**What's your tip to readers for finding a book that suits them?**  
It all counts! Graphic novels, comics, audiobooks, song lyrics, scripts: if you're reading something, it can have a positive impact on your life.



## AF STEADMAN Author of *Skandar and the Secret Element*



**What's your book about?**  
The story follows 13-year-old Albert, who dreams of being chosen to go to the magical Island. But nobody thinks Albert is brave enough to bond with a powerful unicorn and learn how to wield fire, water, air and earth magic – can he prove them all wrong and make his dream come true? This story is perfect for Skandar newcomers as well as super-fans!

**How does it feel to be involved in World Book Day?**  
It is an utter author (and life!) dream come true. I remember dressing up as a character for World Book Day when I was younger!

**What do you read to support your other passions?**  
I have two main hobbies – singing and fencing. When it comes to the music I'm singing. When it comes to fencing, I love to read non-fiction books about real-life famous fencers, as well as historical fiction and fantasy about pirates – there are usually sword fights involved!

**What's your tip to readers for finding a book that suits them?**  
Telling yourself to just try out a book – a bit like trying a new food – can help. You don't have to finish it if you don't like it. But you might – and you never know, it could become your next favourite read.



## SIBÉAL PONDER Author of *Chaos at the Chocolate Factory*



**What's your book about, Sibéal?**  
The book is about what happens when Willy Wonka and the Oompa Loompas go on holiday and leave Charlie in charge of the factory for the first time. He thinks he's found the perfect thing to help him – a clever machine! But can a machine think like a genius chocolatier, or will chaos ensue?

**How does it feel to be involved in World Book Day?**  
It feels wonderful – World Book Day is such an incredible and magical

initiative. All children should have access to books to read for fun.

**What do you read to support your other passions?**  
I read a lot of non-fiction as I love history. I'm reading a book at the moment called *The Worst Journey in the World*, about a polar expedition in 1910.

**What's your tip to readers for finding a book that suits them?**  
Librarians and booksellers are the very best people to ask – their brains are filled with millions of books! They can help you find something perfect for you.



## JAMIE SMART Author of *Bunny vs Monkey: Total Chaos*



**What's your book about, Jamie?**  
It's a comic book about a Bunny and his friends in the woods, and a Monkey who wants to take over! Monkey uses all these silly inventions and it usually ends up in explosions, jam and/or laughter!

**How does it feel to be involved in World Book Day?**  
It's such an honour! It's really exciting that, thanks to World Book Day, more children than ever will be able to access books, and it's a real thrill

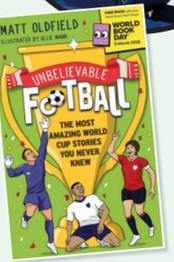
that this year some of the stories I've created will be included too!

**What do you read to support your other passions?**  
I love comics but I do also like ghost stories too. I'm drawn to spooky things, and science fiction. I like big, bold ideas that make you think!

**What's your tip to readers for finding a book that suits them?**  
Everyone likes different things – just because your friends like one type of book, that doesn't mean you have to. Try everything! Take your time. If you can find a type of book you love, it'll be a best friend for life!



## MATT OLDFIELD Author of *Unbelievable Football*



**What's your book about, Matt?**  
The *Unbelievable Football* series is all about celebrating the weird and wonderful side of the game, and this World Book Day special focuses on football's greatest competition, the World Cup!

**How does it feel to be involved in World Book Day?**  
Pretty unbelievable! I remember the excitement of getting my tokens at school, and when I became a children's author myself, I made 'having a World Book Day book' one of my big goals. So yes, dream come true.

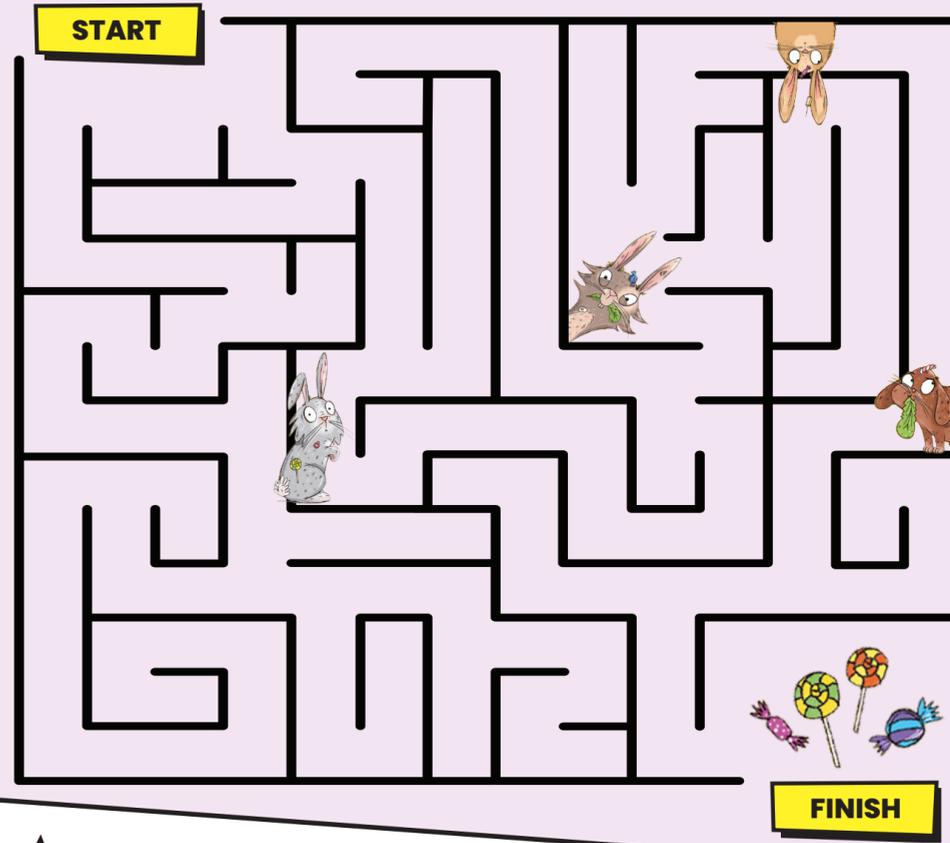
**What do you read to support your other passions?**  
Surprise, surprise – I read a lot of books about football and other sports, but I also enjoy reading about music and travel. Fiction, however, is my real favourite. I love being transported to other worlds.

**What's your tip to readers for finding a book that suits them?**  
Whatever your passion, there should be lots of different types of book available – fiction, non-fiction, biographies, graphic novels – so try them all to work out which suits you best. And if you want recommendations, just ask a librarian!

# HIDE AND SWEETS!



A CHEEKY bunch of bunnies are playing hide-and-seek in the factory! Can you help Charlie and Mr Wonka to round them up – and find their secret stash of sweets?



Illustrations: Emily Jones | © 2026 The Road Dahi Story Company Ltd.

# GUESS WHAT HAPPENED!

CAN you guess what happened next in each of these gobsmacking soccer stories included in *Unbelievable Football*?



Illustrations: Ollie Mann

**Question 1**  
**USA vs the Netherlands 2023 Women's World Cup**  
Netherlands midfielder Daniëlle van de Donk is bleeding after bumping heads with the USA's Rose Lavelle. What did she wear to patch herself up?

- A) A swimming cap
- B) A cycle helmet

Your answer:

**Question 2**  
**Romania v Tunisia 1998 men's World Cup**  
What did every Romania player do for this game, to celebrate winning their first two World Cup matches against Colombia and England?

- A) Wore gold face paint
- B) Dyed their hair blonde

Your answer:

**Question 3**  
**Brazil vs Germany 2014 men's World Cup**  
Brazil were the host nation and hadn't lost a competitive game on home turf in 39 years. What was the final score in their semi-final against Germany?

- A) Brazil 7-1 Germany
- B) Brazil 1-7 Germany

Your answer:

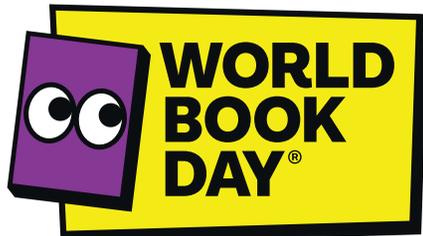
**Answers**

1-A, 2-B, 3-B

Guess what happened!



Hide and sweets!



# DRAW BUNNY!

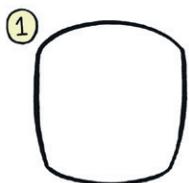
AS a World Book Day treat, clever cartoonist Jamie Smart shows us how he draws one half of the duelling duo from his legendary *Bunny vs Monkey* books...

(...sorry, Monkey!)

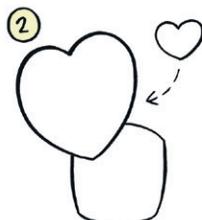
Illustrations: Jamie Smart



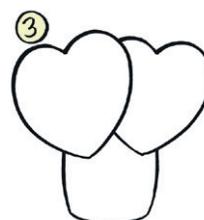
## BUNNY'S HEAD



1 Bunny's head looks like a bulging square!



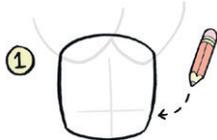
2 Try drawing a heart shape for Bunny's ear.



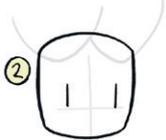
3 Draw a second heart tucked behind the first.



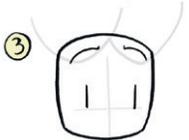
## BUNNY'S FACE



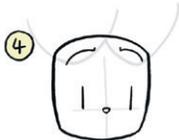
1 A cross will help you work out where Bunny's face fits on his head!



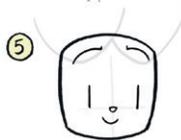
2 For instance, his eyes sit on the horizontal line.



3 Above his eyes, add two curved lines for eyebrows.



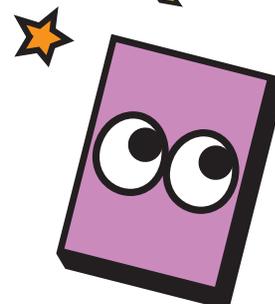
4 A little triangle for a nose...



5 Another curved line for a smiling mouth...



6 And finally a little tuft of cheeky hair!



...and that's Bunny!

## BUNNY'S BODY



Imagine it like a curved triangle, or even a shark's fin!



2 We then add a circular patch of tummy fur.



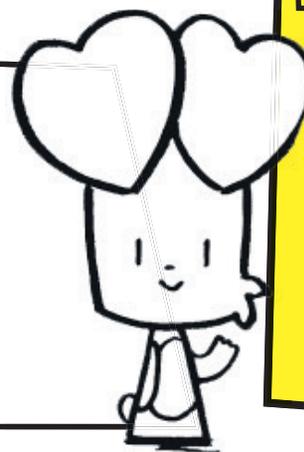
3 And a sausage shape for Bunny's arm.



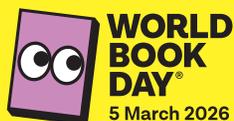
4 Another sausage for another arm (try adding fingers to the end of it!).



5 And finish the pic off with a bobble tail...



These are the basic steps for drawing Bunny. Once you've mastered these, it's important to keep practising! It will become easier and easier, and the Bunnies you draw will look more and more natural! Try giving him different expressions! Stretch his figure and see what you can make him do!



**£1 Book Token**



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



Valid from  
12 February -  
15 March  
2026

Un i Tt ac Un i Fi is exclusive to Wales only. Against All Odds is not suitable for younger readers.

**Choose your £1 book for free!**

Children, families & educators: This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 18) to ONE FREE World Book Day 2026 book or £1 off a book or audiobook costing £2.99 or more in participating booksellers only, subject to stock availability.

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Cut out your £1 book token

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