



Spring Book Review Competition



Lesson duration: Approximately 1 hour

Starter – Oracy activity (10-15 minutes)

- Listen and respond appropriately to others
- Speak fluently and confidently
- Articulate and justify answers and opinions

Resources

Show the **Starter Activity Sheet** on the interactive whiteboard and read each question as a class. Ensure children have a copy of the **Starter Activity Sheet** cut up in sets, one between two.

Starter Activity Sheet on interactive whiteboard

Ask the pupils to think about a book they know well/have read recently/really enjoyed. Remind them that they can think about the current or a past class novel. It could be a book read in English lessons or linked to another topic. It could be a picture book or a graphic novel. It could be fiction or non-fiction. It could be a book from school or home. Give them one minute to quietly think to themselves. Invite pupils to share their ideas.

Starter Activity Sheet cut into sets of 12 cards, one set between three pupils.

Before the children begin, the teacher should model answering one or two of the questions on the **Starter Activity Sheet** using the sentence stems about a book of their choice. Model confident and fluent speaking and reiterate what good listening looks like (looking at the speaker, possibly nodding/smiling, waiting their turn to respond or ask a question related to what was said).

ACTIVITY – Children will work in threes. Take turns to choose a face down card from the cut-up **Starter Activity Sheet**. Children listen to each other’s responses. After all of the pupils in the group have answered the question on the card they have picked, invite children to ask a further question about one of their group member’s books. The teacher can circulate during this activity. Choose intervals to stop the children for them to listen to a good example heard whilst circulating.

Main Session (20-25 minutes)

A. Show the **KS2 Template Spring into Reading Book Review Competition 2025** on the interactive whiteboard. Provide each child with a copy of their own.

Resources

KS2 Template Spring into Reading Book Review Competition.

Focus on the section ‘Briefly Outline the Plot’. Tell pupils that this will be very similar to a blurb; it will summarise the plot without giving away the ending or any exciting parts that would spoil the reading experience. Challenge the

children to explain the plot using a maximum of four sentences. Display/provide the sentence stems below:

In this book, the main characters are _____.

The story takes place in _____.

The plot is about _____.

As the story unfolds, _____.

If required, the above can be modelled by the teacher based on a book the children have read and are familiar with.

B. Introduce the 'What is so special about the book?' section and display/provide the sentence stems below:

1. The book made me laugh when _____.

2. The books made me cry when _____.

3. A part of the story that made me smile was when _____.

4. I was really surprised when _____.

5. It was exciting when _____.

6. A part of the story I will always remember is _____
because _____.

7. The book made me really think about _____.
because _____.

If required, the above can be modelled by the teacher based on a book the children have read and are familiar with.

C. Move to the 'Who is your favourite character?' section and display/provide the sentence stems below:

1. My favourite character in the book is _____
because _____.

**KS2 SEND Template
Spring into Reading
Book Review
Competition.**

**Sentence Stem
Resource Sheet (1
between 2)**

2. This character _____ is special because _____.
3. Something I admire about _____ is _____.
4. A part in the story where the character _____ stood out was when _____.
5. If I could meet _____, I would ask them _____ because _____.

If required, the above can be modelled by the teacher based on a book the children have read and are familiar with.

D. Focus on the final section: 'Did you learn anything new, or any new words?' and display/provide the sentence stems below:

1. From this book, I learned that _____.
2. This story has taught me that _____.
3. A new fact I learnt from reading this book is _____.
4. This book helped me understand _____.
5. Since reading this book, I now know _____.
6. The moral of the story is _____.
7. Some new words I learnt are _____.
8. This book made me think differently about _____ because _____.
9. One lesson I will remember from this book is _____.
10. This story changed my opinion about _____ because _____.

If required, the above can be modelled by the teacher based on a book the children have read and are familiar with.

Independent task (20 mins)

Pupils complete the **KS2 Template Spring into Reading Book Review Competition** or **KS2 SEND Template Spring into Reading Book Review Competition**.

Give the pupils the **Sentence Stem Resource Sheet** to support their writing.

Extra time can be given to complete the drawing as the last task.

Plenary (5-10 mins)

Display genres: adventure, historical, romance, sci-fi, fairytale, fantasy, graphic novel, mystery and myths.

Ask the children to categorise their book into the correct genre. Use partner/group talk.

If time, repeat the starter activity encouraging children to replace their card if they have already. This could be done in groups or as a whole class.