

Level: Pre-intermediate–intermediate (A2–B1)

Age: Teenagers

Time: 90 minutes – full lesson plan; 60 minutes – if students do the ‘favourite book’ activity for homework; 45 minutes – if you omit the ‘Top 21’ activity and students do the ‘favourite book’ activity for homework

Aims: This lesson is divided into two sections: Free your books and Talking books. In the lesson, students will:

1. read about a book-sharing initiative;
2. discuss their reading habits;
3. look at types of books;
4. read about Britain’s favourite books;
5. prepare a talk on their favourite book.

Key skills: Describing how something works, book vocabulary, telling a story, describing a book

Materials: One copy of each worksheet per student

FREE YOUR BOOKS

1. Draw a circle on the board and write *reading* inside it. Ask students what different types of reading material they can think of and make a spider diagram with the words they call out.

2. Ask students the following questions, or write them on the board for students to discuss in pairs.

- Are you reading a book right now?
- If so, what is it?
- If not, what was the last book you read?
- Where did you get the book? Did you buy it? Did you borrow it? Or did you find it?

3. Hand out the worksheet. Ask students to discuss what they think the title ‘Free your books’ means and elicit some ideas. Students then read the article to find out.

4. Tell students they’re going to imagine they’re describing BookCrossing.com to a friend who knows nothing about it. Ask students to re-read the article. Then direct their attention to the Phrasebook, which contains phrases from the article that they should try to use in their descriptions. Then they practise describing the website to a partner, saying:

- how it started;
- how it works;
- why it’s so successful.

5. If you have access to the internet, get students to visit the site and look for a book that they know. They can also look for BookCrossing members who live in their country or area.

6. Get students to work in pairs and ask each other the questions on the worksheet. They should not make any notes; they should just listen attentively to each other. Then tell the students to form new pairs and recount their partner’s answers to their new partner. (You may want to warn the students that they will have to do this so that they pay close attention to what their partner’s saying in the first part of the activity!)

7. Focus on the final question. Have your students ever read a book in English? If they don’t think their level of English is good enough to read a book, encourage them to try one of the many English readers that are on the market. These are graded books for English learners and there are titles for all levels. You could show them this website, which has details of the graded readers available from Macmillan: www.macmillanreaders.com. If you hover over Title Resources, you can select your students’ level and show them all the books that are appropriate for them.

TALKING BOOKS

1. Hand out the worksheet. Tell students to match the types of reading material with the definitions.

Key: 1. e; 2. g; 3. h; 4. c; 5. a; 6. i; 7. j; 8. f; 9. d; 10. b

2. Tell students that they are now going to talk about their reading habits, either whole class or in pairs. Ask them the following questions (you may wish to write the questions on the board if they’re working in pairs):

- What kind of books do they enjoy reading, and why?
- What is the best comic book / classic / biography (etc) they’ve ever read, and why did they like it so much?
- What uses do they make of reference books?

They should use the vocabulary from the activity they've just completed (types of reading material), along with the language in the Phrasebook (Talking about your reading habits). Go over the language in the box prior to starting the activity, to make sure students are confident using it.

3. Explain that, several years ago, the BBC conducted a poll to find out Britain's favourite book. Which book do the students think was voted the best, which came second, and which came third?

4. When they have predicted the top three books, ask them to read the text titled 'The Big Read' to find out the results. Have your students read any of the books, or seen the films?

5. Direct your students to the list of top 21 books from the poll and their authors. Students work in pairs to complete the titles with the correct words from the box.

6. Students compare answers. Tell them to ask each other if they have read any of the books. What did they think of them? (This offers another chance to practise the language from the Phrasebook.) Then, go over the answers as a class.

Key: 4. *Galaxy*; 6. *Kill*; 7. *Pooh*; 9. *Wardrobe*; 10. *Jane*; 11. 22; 12. *Heights*; 15. *Catcher*; 16. *Wind*; 17. *Great*; 18. *Little*; 19. *Mandolin*; 20. *War*; 21. *Wind*

7. In the Big Read television series, a different celebrity presented each book, explaining why it was so important to them. Students will now prepare to talk to the class about one of their favourite books. The completed favourite book form about *The Lord of the Rings* provides a model for the students, so give students time to read it. Then ask students to complete the blank form about their own favourite book.

8. Students then take turns talking about their favourite book, perhaps over a series of lessons. Finally, vote for the most interesting books and make your own class list of top titles.

HOMEWORK TASK

As a project, students read a book in English (a graded reader is best) and write a review. In the spirit of BookCrossing, they then pass the book on to a classmate to read. The classmate can add comments to the original review, pass the book on to another student, and so on.





Are you currently reading a book? If so, what is it? Are you enjoying it? Where did you get the book? Did you buy it? Did you borrow it? Or did you find it?

More and more people are finding and leaving books in unusual places.

It all started in the United States. Ron Hornbaker created a website called BookCrossing, where book lovers could write about what they were reading and share their books with other people. Before long, BookCrossing.com had over 586,000 members, with over 4,200,000 registered books. So, how does it work?

'It's really quite simple,' Hornbaker says.

BookCrossers register a book that they own by going to the website, entering the ISBN number of the book and getting a unique BCID (BookCrossing ID number) that they then write inside the cover (or on a bookmark) along with the web address. Then, they pass their copy of the book on for someone else to read.

The next person to read the book goes to the website and enters the book's BCID. They can see who has had the book before them and write their own comments on the site, before passing it on to the next person.

While some BookCrossers simply give their books to friends or relatives, more adventurous BookCrossers release their books into the wild by leaving them on park benches, in coffee shops, on buses

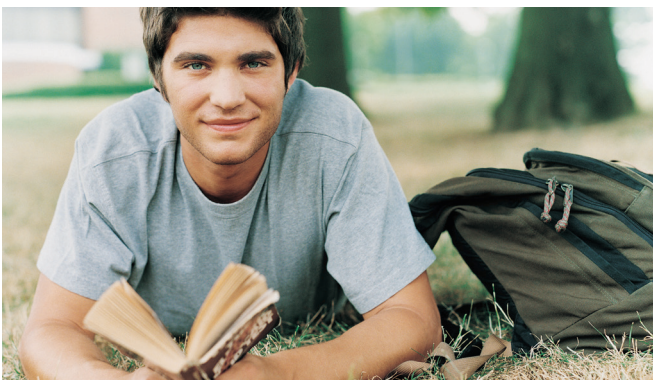
and so on. They can either leave clues on the website to help others find their book or simply leave it to fate. Maybe the book will disappear or maybe someone will follow the instructions and register their find on the site.

So, why has BookCrossing been such a success? For some, it's the chance to read books for free; for others, it's the opportunity to communicate with people and share the experience of reading a book. As it says on the BookCrossing site, 'You know the feeling you get after reading a book that speaks to you, that touches your life – a feeling that you want to share it with someone else? BookCrossing gives you a simple way to share books with the world, and follow their paths forever more!'

PHRASEBOOK

Use these phrases from the article in your description.

- Describing how something works
 - It all started ...
 - Before long, ...
 - It's really quite simple.
 - So, why has BookCrossing been such a success?
 - For some, ...
 - For others, ...



Discuss these questions with your partner.

Do you usually read books because you have to, or out of choice?

How much time do you spend reading?

When do you read?

What type of books do you like?

Do you prefer reading 'real' books, or do you prefer reading on an e-reader or tablet?

What's your favourite book of all-time?

Have you ever bought a book after seeing a film based on the book?

Have you ever read a book that you thought would make a great film?

Have you ever read a book in a foreign language?

TALKING BOOKS

Here are some examples of types of reading material. Match each with the correct definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1. romantic fiction | a. books about a person's life |
| 2. comics | b. stories about police investigations |
| 3. paperbacks | c. books that tell an invented story |
| 4. novels | d. books that tell you how to do something |
| 5. biographies | e. stories about love and romance |
| 6. encyclopaedias | f. books that contain information used for study |
| 7. classic fiction | g. magazines with stories told in pictures |
| 8. textbooks | h. books with a soft cover |
| 9. instruction manuals | i. books with a lot of factual information |
| 10. detective stories | j. novels from the past that have literary importance |

PHRASEBOOK



Look at the list of the top 21 titles below. Can you complete the titles with the missing words from the box?

Talking about your reading habits

- Explaining what you like
I absolutely love reading ...
I really enjoy reading ...
I quite like reading ...
- Explaining what you don't like
I just can't bear ...
I find ... a bit dull.
I don't really like reading ...
- Language to talk about books
I simply couldn't put it down.
It's a real page-turner.
It really left me guessing.
There was a twist at the end.
It made me laugh out loud.
It's / They're full of useful information.

Little	War	Catcher	Jane	22
Galaxy	Heights	Great	Wind	Wind
Wardrobe	Mandolin	Kill	22	

TOP 21!

1. *The Lord of the Rings* by J R R Tolkien
2. *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
3. *His Dark Materials* by Philip Pullman
4. *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the _____* by Douglas Adams
5. *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* by J K Rowling
6. *To _____ a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
7. *Winnie the _____* by A A Milne
8. *1984* by George Orwell
9. *The Lion, the Witch and the _____* by C S Lewis
10. _____ *Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë
11. *Catch-_____* by Joseph Heller
12. *Wuthering _____* by Emily Brontë
13. *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks
14. *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
15. *The _____ in the Rye* by J D Salinger
16. *The _____ in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame
17. _____ *Expectations* by Charles Dickens
18. _____ *Women* by Louisa May Alcott
19. *Captain Corelli's _____* by Louis de Bernières
20. _____ *and Peace* by Leo Tolstoy
21. *Gone with the _____* by Margaret Mitchell

The Big Read

Sharing the experience of reading books was what The Big Read was all about. Organized by the BBC in the United Kingdom, The Big Read was a poll to find the nation's best-loved book.

In a series of television programmes, a different celebrity presented each title, explaining why the book was so important to them. Most of the top 21 novels were by British authors, but there were also five by Americans. By the end of the series, three quarters of a million votes had been received and *The Lord of the Rings* was voted the 'best-loved novel of all time.' In second place came Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, while Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials*, in third place, beat *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, in fifth place.



Look at this form that someone has completed for a book they have just read.

A favourite book

Title The Lord of the Rings

Author J R R Tolkien

Date published original 1954–55; my version 2001

Publisher original George Allen & Unwin; my version HarperCollins Publishers

Type of book epic fantasy

When the book is set It starts in the year 1401 on the hobbit calendar.

Where the book is set in an imaginary land called Middle Earth

The main characters (and the relationships between them)

In such a long and complex book there are many significant characters, but perhaps the most vital to the story are the hobbit Frodo, who accepts the task of going to destroy the ring; Gandalf, wizard friend of Frodo's uncle and mastermind behind the plans to destroy the ring; Sam, Frodo's gardener and closest companion on his adventure; Sauron, the evil power who will rule Middle Earth if the ring is not destroyed; and Gollum, who once possessed the ring and is tortured by his desire to get it back.

The story (but don't say what happens at the end!)

The evil Lord Sauron is preparing for battle. He wants to take over Middle Earth and subject all that live there to his dark rule. Sauron's power comes from a collection of rings that were made in the distant past. However, the most powerful ring was lost for centuries, and has only recently been found again. If Sauron gets the ring back, nothing will be able to stop his plans for world domination. But if the ring can be destroyed, Sauron will be destroyed too. The task of destroying the ring falls on peace-loving hobbit Frodo Baggins, who inherited the ring from his uncle. To destroy it he must make a long and perilous journey into the heart of Sauron's land and throw the ring into the volcanic mountain where it was originally made.

Why you like it or why it's important to you

I first tried to read the book when I was a child but didn't quite finish it. I remembered the feeling of reading the book, though. It was like stepping into a dark, primitive world full of spectacular scenery and hidden dangers. Reading the book again recently confirmed what a good story it is. I'm not personally very interested in the mythology surrounding the characters and places, but I thoroughly enjoyed it as a fast-moving, epic adventure. The story is so well told, and the ancient world it takes place in so vividly described, that it became a perfect escape from modern city living over the six weeks or so I spent reading it.

Complete the blank form with information about one of your favourite books.

A favourite book

Title

Author

Date published

Publisher

Type of book

When the book is set

Where the book is set

The main characters (and the relationships between them)

The story (but don't say what happens at the end!)

Why you like it or why it's important to you

