



The Federation of Children's Book Groups National Share-a-Story Month 2026

Once Upon a Storytime



Once Upon a Storytime Competition



National Share-a-Story-Month 2026



To celebrate the joy of reading aloud, the fiftieth anniversary of National Share-a-Story Month, and the National Year of Reading, NSSM 2026 invites families, schools, libraries, book groups, nurseries, and community organisations to take part in a **national competition** that celebrates reading aloud in all its forms.

Tell us about your own **read-aloud experience or event**: it might be a story time shared between children or within a family; it could be a special reading session; or perhaps you could share a creative way you've brought stories to life. Get children involved, make it fun, and show us how you've celebrated sharing stories aloud together!

Entrants should submit a written report of up to 500 words or a recorded report no longer than 5 minutes, together with at least one picture capturing the spirit of their event. **Generous book prizes** will be awarded, thanks to the support of our publishing and distribution partners. The competition closes on **30th June 2026**.

Here are some ideas that you could use:

- 1) Organise a special story-sharing occasion. The readers don't have to be adults. Children could read to children, or everyone in the family could take part and join in.
- 2) Hold a read-aloud event. On our [resources page](#) you will find details of two of last year's prizewinning competition entries. Both included an element of reading aloud.
- 3) Make a story sack and enjoy using it together. There is more information about using story sacks on the [resources page](#). Watch out for our blog with more ideas for story sack 'recipes'.
- 4) Perform a poem or story. You could use the 'Readers' Theatre' technique in class or at home. If you aren't familiar with this approach, there are some guidelines on the [resources page](#). You could record a story for a particular audience. One of our school members enabled children to make a school audiobook to share with each other. **(Please note: for copyright reasons, it is not permitted to share recordings beyond your school or family.)**



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National
Year of
Reading
2026

How we will judge the competition:

Submit a short written (up to 500 words) or recorded (no more than 5 minutes long) report together with a picture* that captures the spirit of their event. The account must include:

- i) who was reading or storytelling and who was listening (children reading to adults or adults reading to children?)
- ii) what story, books or poem you used
- iii) who was involved in the celebration
- iv) an evaluation of how what you did was successful. This could be demonstrated by quotations from children or adults involved.

* Illustrations could be hand drawn by children or could be photographs of the event. Remember to take photographs so that individuals are not identifiable unless they have specifically given permission to allow their photograph to be used by the FCBG.

The prizes:

There will be piles of books as prizes for the winning entries.

How to enter:

Download an entry form and full T&Cs from the NSSM2025 page of the Federation website: Send it by email to nssm@fcbg.org.uk by **30th June 2026**

Entries received after this date will not be accepted.