

# Careers with Books

To celebrate World Book Day and National Careers Week 2021, New Writing North would like to inspire your class to learn more about different roles working with books.

This resource provides accompanying activities for a series of five short videos which will introduce your pupils to different careers. Please share your contributions on social media using #NCW2021 and @CareersWeek.

You can also find [related resources in the \*What's Your Story\* toolkit](#) produced by National Careers Week.

## Authors

[Click here to watch the video about authors on YouTube](#)

People who write books are called authors. This job is all about having a passion to tell a story, and to make your characters come alive using words. You could write fiction: stories which are made-up; or non-fiction: stories which are factual. There are lots of different types of stories, or genres to choose from, such as horror, romance or science fiction.

Any type of person can be a writer. To be a writer, you have to be imaginative, to love words, and to be willing to keep working at things to make them the best they can possibly be.

**Create your own story, inspired by World Book Day.**

You might like to:

Imagine you have woken up inside your favourite book. What will you do?

Write a story about a very special book which has gone missing.

Write a story about someone who really wants to be a writer, but just can't think of what to write. How will they find inspiration?

**Remember to plan your story. Who is the main character? What happens at the beginning, the middle, and the end?**



# Illustrators and Designers

[Click here to watch the video about illustrators and designers on YouTube](#)

Illustrators use the writer's words to create images which help to tell the story. For example, they might draw the characters, or a setting.

A designer will create the cover which you see in the shops or the library. The cover helps us to know the kind of story that we can expect inside, as well as telling us some key information like the name of the author, and the title of the book.

To be an illustrator or designer, you have to be able to picture things in your mind and draw them onto the page. You need to be able to work well as part of a team, and have an eye for detail.

**Think of a book you really enjoyed reading. Can you design an alternative cover?**

What information is usually on the cover of a book?

How can you use colours and pictures to make us want to pick it up?

What kind of book will we think it is, from looking at the cover?



## Editors

[Click here to watch the video about editors on YouTube](#)

An editor is someone who works with a writer to improve their story. Before a book is published, it has to be read many times. Some editors check that the story flows well, or if there are any moments when a reader would lose interest. Other editors, called copy editors, are more focused on catching any mistakes before the book goes to print, and many copies are made.

To be an editor, you have to enjoy looking for solutions to problems, and to be able to concentrate on a project for a long time. You have to have a good feel for a story, and what makes it sparkle.

**For this challenge, you will need a piece of work that you have already written. Look back at your piece of work. How could you make it better?**

Are there any mistakes which need to be changed?

Does everything in the piece of writing make sense?

Are there any moments where you could tell us more detail about a character, a setting, or an action?



# Agents and Publicity

[Click here to watch the video about agents and publicity on YouTube](#)

A literary agent is someone who works with the author, to help them on their journey to publication by connecting them to the right people. Agents look for the most exciting writers that they want to work with and promote.

If you work in publicity, your job is to try to encourage as many people as possible to read the book. You could be making adverts, organising events like signings, and sending the book out to reviewers.

For both of these jobs, it helps if you're good at talking to people, and if you're someone who is organised.

**Think of a book you have enjoyed, or a story you have written yourself. How would you sell this book? Write a radio advert which encourages listeners to read it.**

What kind of adjectives could you use to describe the story?

You might like to make up a quote from another reader or reviewer.

Remember not to give away the ending!



# Librarian or Bookseller

[Click here to watch the video about librarians and booksellers on YouTube](#)

Librarians and booksellers are surrounded by books all the time. Their job is to help you find the books you want – and sometimes the ones you don't know you want yet. They know lots of information about books, and are great people to ask for reading advice. Librarians keep the library a safe and welcoming space for people in the community to visit for other activities too.

For these jobs, you have to be passionate about books, and to want to share that passion with a wide range of people.

**Librarians and booksellers often make recommendations to other people. Write a review for a book which you have read.**

What did you like or dislike about the book?

Can you summarise what it is about?

Why should other people read it?



New Writing North supports reading and writing in the North of England. For more information about our work with young people, [please click here](#).