Genres and types of book

Can you find the missing vowels?

N ... v ... l  F ... c t ... ... n  N ... n-f ... c t ... ... n  F ... b l ...  
P l ... y  S h ... r t s t ... r y  G r ... p h ... c n ... v ... l  
B ... ... g r ... p h y  ... t ... b ... ... g r ... p h y  T h r ... I l ... r  
C r ... m ... f ... c t ... ... n  S c ... n c ... f ... c t ... ... n  
R ... m ... n c ...  F ... m ... l y s ... g ...  M y s t ... r y  
H ... r r ... r  T r ... v ... l  E p ... c  F ... n t ... s y  
F ... r y t ... l e  G ... d ... b ... ... k  C h ... c k l ... t

Quotes about books

The quote in the title of this resource is from the American musician and songwriter Frank Zappa (1940–1993).

Look at the quotes below. What do you think they mean? Do you agree or disagree with what they are saying?

1. ‘A room without a book is like a body without a soul.’
   Marcus Tulius Cicero – Roman philosopher and politician (106–43BC)

2. ‘I would never read a book if it were possible for me to talk half an hour with the man who wrote it.’
   Woodrow Wilson – 28th President of the United States (1856–1924)

3. ‘Good friends, good books, and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.’
   Mark Twain – American author (1835–1910)

4. ‘If one cannot enjoy reading a book over and over again, there is no use in reading it at all.’
   Oscar Wilde – Irish writer and poet (1854–1900)

5. ‘You can never get me a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.’
   CS Lewis – Irish-British novelist and academic (1898–1963)

6. ‘There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.’

7. ‘A good book has no ending.’
   RD Cumming – Canadian writer and poet

8. ‘Classic – a book which people praise and don’t read.’
   Mark Twain – American author (1835–1910)
Write about reading

The kind of books I like reading are ………………………………………………………………………………………………

My favourite authors are ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. .

The last book I read was ………………………………………………………………………………………………………………. .

The next book I’m going to read is ……………………………………………………………………………………………………

I own ……………………… books.

I like / don’t like giving books as presents because ……………………………………………………………………………

When somebody gives me a book I ………………………………………………………………………………………………………

I ………………… read ebooks because ……………………………………………………………………………………………………

I ………………… listen to audio books because …………………………………………………………………………………………………

I ………………… read to my children because …………………………………………………………………………………………………

I ………………… go to the library because …………………………………………………………………………………………………

I think books are ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

If I couldn’t read, I ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

In my opinion, World Book Day is ……………………………………………………………………………………………………

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………….
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Talk about reading</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Which types of books do you like reading?</td>
<td>Do you own a lot of books?</td>
<td>Do you often go to the library?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you ever download ebooks or use a Kindle?</td>
<td>Have you ever listened to an audio book?</td>
<td>Do you think a book makes a good birthday present?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What do you do with your books when you've read them?</td>
<td>Who are your favourite authors?</td>
<td>Do you think that World Book Day is a good idea?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was the last book you read?</td>
<td>Which book are you going to read next?</td>
<td>How long does it usually take you to read a book?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do you think people will still be reading books in 20 years’ time?</td>
<td>Which books do you think children should read in school?</td>
<td>Have you ever written a book or short story?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When and where do you usually read?</td>
<td>What was your favourite book as a child?</td>
<td>How often do you buy a new book?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Teaching notes

A collection of ideas about books and reading, suitable for a range of levels. They are particularly useful for World Book Day (first week of March every year).

Apart from the lead-in, which obviously comes first, they are not intended to be used all in the same lesson, or in any particular order.

**Lead in (B1–B2)**

Brainstorm types of books and literary genres. Create a class mind map of the students’ ideas. Ask students for definitions and examples. Make sure students know how to use the words, i.e. what part of speech they are, whether they are countable or uncountable and what other words they collocate with.

For example:

- I’m not a big fan of **epics** [countable noun]. I don’t enjoy **epic films** or **epic novels** [adjective].
- On the other hand, I love **horror** [uncountable noun]. I watch lots of **horror films** and read lots of **horror stories** too [adjective].
- I only enjoy **travel writing** if I’ve visited that country myself [adjective].


**Answers:**

- Novel; Fiction; Non-fiction; Fable; Play; Short story; Graphic novel; Biography; Autobiography; Thriller; Crime fiction; Science fiction; Romance; Family saga; Mystery; Horror; Travel; Epic; Fantasy; Fairy tale; Guidebook; Chick lit.

**Quotes about books (B2)**

Students could discuss these in pairs or small groups, or change partners to discuss each one.

**Read about World Book Day (B1–B2)**

Information about World Book Day is available on the ‘About us’ page of their website: [http://www.worldbookday.com/about/](http://www.worldbookday.com/about/)

**Write about reading (A2–B1)**

Students complete the sentence stems on p.2 individually, and then compare their answers in pairs or small groups.

**Talk about reading (B1–B2)**

Cut up the cue cards on p.3 and distribute a set to each pair or small group. Invite the students to ask each other the questions on the cue cards.

Alternatively, use the sheet as a handout and conduct a class mingle activity, with students walking around asking each other some questions from the handout.