

THE STORY MUSEUM

Blue Sky Book Club

An opportunity for selected students, especially those who encounter barriers to reading, to enjoy new stories and receive the latest books, and through this, raise their literacy and wellbeing.

What is the Blue Sky Book Club?

Blue Sky Book Club is a club for students with stories at its heart. Each term, a group of 10 students is selected to become a member of the Blue Sky Book Club.

The Club Leader arrives with 12 suggestions for books, from which the students collaboratively choose two to focus on for the following seven sessions. These books are then ordered through the Story Museum to be gifted to the students, one per student.

The students read sections of the book each week in their own time, and come together as a group once a week to talk about the story, the characters and themes, and to do an unusual activity – it could be puzzles, riddles, craft or role play.

At the end of the term, each Blue Sky Book Club member will receive a family Dream Ticket to The Story Museum, allowing entry to the Museum for £1 each instead of £8.

What do Blue Sky Book Clubs do?

Blue Sky Book Clubs put joy into reading, by focusing on the story and associated creative activities to aid understanding. Students need stories, but reading can be a dispiriting process especially when students know they are being assessed. Working in a small group of no more than 10, and working with trained volunteers outside of the school staff, releases inhibitions that may arise from the structure of the classroom environment and allows students to have their voices and opinions heard.

Blue Sky Book Clubs books are chosen with the help of the Centre for Literacy in Primary Education's excellent resource lists of quality literature, Book for Keeps' latest recommendations, Cheltenham Literature Festival's Reading Teachers Reading Pupils Programme, and The Story Museum's Collections Team who keep up to date continually with the latest great stories.

Blue Sky Book Clubs have been run as Lunchbox Clubs for over 10 years by the wonderful Bookfeast team, working in over 30 schools, and evaluation data shows outstanding impact every year.

The Volunteers

Blue Sky Book Clubs are run by members of The Story Museum's trained volunteer pool. The volunteers have a wealth of diverse experience with young people, many with backgrounds in publishing or teaching. Many volunteers have years of experience running Lunchbox clubs with Bookfeast and have chosen to continue with The Story Museum. They are given full training and support by the Story Museum's Volunteer Coordinator and the Learning Team. All the Blue Sky Book Club Leaders are DBS checked.

The Club Leader will liaise directly with the named contact at the school in order to organise the sessions in school.

Beneficiaries

Schools gain:

- 24 sessions of story-making activity for 30 targeted students
- 60 books (10 copies of 6 titles) for their library (unless they opt for their participating students to keep these – see below)

Students gain:

- 8 sessions of fun story making activity, based on 2 books chosen by themselves, led by a trained, fully DBS checked Club leader;
- Read two chapter-books as a group, led through guided activities;
- 2 books (unless these are kept for the school's library – see above)
- 1 Dream Ticket, allowing each child to visit The Story Museum with their families at the cost of only £1 each as opposed to £8 each;
- Bookmarks, posters and bookplates from The Story Museum.

The Story Museum can:

- Build targeted audiences and its charitable objectives and vision that every child should 'grow up rich in story', especially those who will encounter barriers to reading.
- Ensure it is embracing the 1001 Story Collection by using these stories within projects and ascertaining the greatness of these stories to the world.

Costings

The school contribute £540+VAT which goes towards the cost of books, postage, Club Leader support and training, learning resources, Story Museum research and Dream Tickets.

Blue Sky Book Club Schools have a 15% discount on our other offers, including school visits to the Museum, in-school sessions and Teacher CPD.

Find out more

To find out more, please email learning@storymuseum.org.uk

Please note that this offer is currently only available for schools situated in Oxfordshire.

Twinning your school with a Club Leader depends on availability. The Club will not be confirmed and no invoice raised until we can ensure we have a Club Leader for your school.

Become a Club Leader

We welcome new volunteers to our team to run Blue Sky Book Clubs. Several of our Club Leaders are also staff, support staff or parents associated with the Blue Sky Book Club school.

As a Club Leader you will be provided with training on how to lead the sessions, a DBS check, support from the Volunteer Coordinator and Learning team, travel reimbursement and you will join a wonderful group of Club Leaders to share resources with. You will also become part of our wider volunteer pool, providing openings to other opportunities within The Story Museum and helping us to ensure children grow up rich in stories. To find out more, please email jessica.corfield@storymuseum.org.uk or take a look at our website: <https://www.storymuseum.org.uk/support-us/volunteer>