



Children's Books



When it comes to choosing a good fiction book for a child, either for your own child or as a gift, there are some important criteria to consider. The big three are plot, character and setting. Experts suggest that you actively consider the following when selecting children's books.

- Plot** - The book should tell a good story. Children want to turn the pages and read to the end to find out what happens.
 - Look for a plot that is original and fresh
 - Does the plot consist of a logical series of events?
 - The plot should be chronological and
 - There should be an identifiable climax.
- Character** - The main character(s) should be well developed, multidimensional and believable within the context of the story.
 - The characters should be individuals, not stereotypes.

- The characters show growth and development over the time of the story.
- The author should reveal character effectively using one of these methods:
 - through narration
 - in conversation
 - by others' thoughts
 - through action
- Setting** - The time and place are well established and clearly identifiable with the plot.
 - Setting can either be a backdrop or an integral part of the story.
 - When setting is important to the story, it is vividly and appropriately presented to the reader so that the reader can easily image the setting.
 - Think about how the author uses setting:
 - How does the author describe the setting?
 - In great detail or generally?
 - How does the author indicate time?
 - Does the setting affect the action, characters or themes?

A good book should also have sturdy binding for multiple readings. All of these factors play a pivotal role in developing a child's love of reading for life.

Events Calendar 2007

March

18th - Trinity ESOL Examination continued

April

5th - RTL closed Ching Ming Festival

9th - RTL closed Easter Monday

16-17th - Cambridge Preparation Classes at H.H.

24-25th - Cambridge Preparation Classes at N.P.

30th - Cambridge Preparation Classes at W.S.L.

May

1st - RTL closed Labour Day

2nd - Cambridge Preparation Classes at W.S.L.

3rd - Cambridge Preparation Classes at W.S.L.

4th - Cambridge Preparation Classes at W.S.L.

6th - Cambridge ESOL Examinations

New Staff

Please welcome our newest member of staff
Alan Wong.

Alan is from Newport, Wales in the United Kingdom. He is an Honours graduate from the University of Glamorgan, Wales. Alan enjoys playing the guitar, going to the cinema and reading. He is captivated by the uniqueness of living in Hong Kong and the Hong Kong experience.



Poetry Board

The Poem for March

Suitable for 6 - 10 year olds

The Mice

I think mice
Are rather nice.

Their tails are long,
Their faces small,
They haven't any
Chins at all.

Their ears are pink,
Their teeth are white,
They run about
The house at night.

They nibble things
They shouldn't touch
And no one seems
To like them much.

But I think mice
Are nice.

by Rose Fyleman



Cambridge Exam Tips

Be Prepared

- Be on time for your exam.
- You will need to bring a pen or pencil for the reading and writing paper, and coloured pens or pencils for the listening paper.
- Write as neatly and clearly as possible.
- Learn the words from the vocabulary list and practice spelling them.
- Practise listening to a recorded English voice.

Read The Instructions

- Read the instructions carefully before you answer each part.
- Write only as much as you are instructed to write.
- Remember to turn the page over to complete the exercise.

Listen

- Listen carefully to the whole of each dialogue before you answer.
- The recording will be played twice. Check your answers during the second hearing of the recording.

Spotlight on Ms Susan and some of her students



Welcome to one of Ms Susan's class of young, enthusiastic, English learners. This class has shown considerable improvement over the past few months. Well done boys!



Horace's hobbies include speed and freestyle ice-skating competitions and collecting model buses. Overseas travel has given Horace the opportunity to put to good use the language skills learnt in class.



Derek enjoys playing the violin and reading English texts. He reads the newspaper daily to improve his English skills. Derek has a passion for reading adventure books. He enjoys learning English and recognises the importance of it as an international language for business.



Ka Chun in his spare time enjoys listening to spoken word books and listening to CD's. His favourite novel is *The Witches* written by Roald Dahl. Ka Chun finds discovering new words and using them in conversation a personal coup.

Registered: Educational Centres, Trinity ESOL / Cambridge Young Learners ESOL Test Centres

Need help? We are here to listen!

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