

## Email a friend about a book

**Level:** A1.2, A2.1, A2.2, B1.1, B1.2

**Age:** 8-12

**Organization:** whole class, pairs

**Aims:** To send an email to a friend from a website about a book; to say why you think the book is good or looks interesting; to practise writing short messages; to develop interest and curiosity in books.

**Language focus:** present simple, opinions, any other language and vocabulary depending on the book

**Materials:** *Essential:* computers and internet access, pre-selected website addresses in English for the search; children also need individual email accounts / *Optional:* class email discussion group list, examples of reference and story books you have used with the children

### Procedure

1. Show children examples of reference or story books if you have these available. Ask children to tell you the books they like and any others they know. This can include stories you have read to them in class, graded readers, picture dictionaries, bilingual dictionaries or reference books they have used for topic – and content – based work.
2. Explain that the children are going to look for a book either that they know or that they think looks interesting on a bookshop website and send an email about it, directly from the website, wither to a friend in the class or to the class discussion group.
3. Ask the children for suggestions of what they can say in the email and establish a framework for writing this e.g. *Dear ...,  
I hope you are well. I'm writing to tell you about a book I like very much / I think looks interesting.  
It's about .... I think it looks very exciting / good / funny. Please reply and let me know your opinion.  
Love from ...*
4. Divide the class into pairs.
5. Ask the children to decide whether they will look for a particular book on the website (in which case they need to note the name of the title and author.) or a book on a topic which interests them, e.g. science or football. When they are ready, ask them to note the address of the website for the activity.
6. Explain that the children in each pair should take turns to find the book they want and send an email. When they first enter the site, they should click on 'children's book' and then type in the title/author or topic that they want to find a book about. When they have found the book they want, or one that they think looks interesting, they should click on 'send an email about this item to a friend' and write their email.

7. Children can then read and reply to each others' emails either individually or via the class group discussion list.

### **Comments and Suggestions**

- This activity develops children's awareness and interest in books and they enjoy the feature of being able to send an email to a friend or to the class discussion group directly from the site.
- You may wish to make the point that children can easily get hold of books they are interested in by borrowing them from the class, school or local library. Children can also exchange and borrow books from each other. They do not need to buy every book they want to read.
- The 'tell a friend 'via email facility exists on many websites. However, you need to be cautious about using this from commercial websites in order not to encourage consumerism and to avoid children receiving advertising mail. Other websites such as museums which have this facility may be more suitable to use.
- Children can also post book reviews they have written on some bookshop sites.