



# YIPEE! THE GRAND FINAL

Welcome to the National  
Competition Pack

**BOOK  
SLAM** **2026**

# Congratulations on reaching the national round of the BookSlam!

## BOOKSLAM is back!

This is your chance to represent your county, **discuss books**, attend an **author session** and **watch your promotional advertisement** on the big screen!

The winning schools will win a special trophy and one of the following:

.....  
This year's prizes:

.....  
1st prize – £200 worth of books (and bragging rights!)

.....  
2nd prize – £150 worth of books

.....  
3rd prize – £100 worth of books  
.....

**BOOK  
SLAM** 2026

Go for it!

# HOW IT WORKS

A maximum of 8 members will need to be selected to attend the national round.

Discussion

4 for the discussion group and 4 for the additional challenges

Writing

Writing a blurb (maximum of 2 members).

Illustrating

Illustrating a cover (maximum of 2 members).

Choosing a book

The discussion group is welcome to discuss one or the same book from the county round, or another book from the reading list.

Scoring

40% of the marks are given for the discussion task, 40% for the promotional advert, 10% for the blurb, and 10% for the book cover.



# CHALLENGE 1

## The Discussion

Similar to the discussion task in the county rounds, the main aim of this challenge is to show that the group can discuss the characters, events, themes and messages of the book along with the reading experience.

- The intention is not to prepare / learn a script in advance.
- All members are expected to contribute to the discussion and respond to each other's comments, open-ended questions, and the judge's comments where appropriate.
- There will be **4 members** in each discussion team.
- The discussion session with the judge will last around **8 minutes**; the judge will give a minute's warning before the end of the discussion.

## What will the judge be looking for?

### Information

- Thorough knowledge of the book's content.
- The ability to delve into the book(s), story, and characters, where appropriate.



- A good understanding of the book's message and themes.
- Refer to wider reading beyond the requirements of the competition books, where appropriate.

### Expressing Opinions

- Express opinions clearly, giving honest and fair reasons.
- The ability to ask, agree, disagree, answer, and challenge politely where appropriate.
- Listen and build on each other's comments.
- Offer comments that are relevant to other comments.



### Discuss as a Group

- The ability to discuss independently as a group.
- An equal and balanced contribution from all members of the group.
- A lively discussion.
- Being able to respond to questions that arise from the discussion.



### Language Accuracy and Naturalness

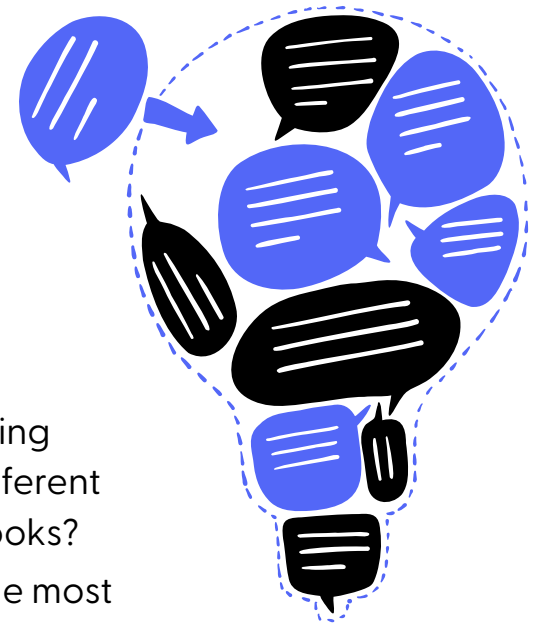
- Demonstrate good use of vocabulary, expressions and book terminology.

## Examples of discussion points

- Was there anything in particular that you enjoyed or did not enjoy about / in the book?
- Which character did you find most interesting? In what way? Why?
- What caught your attention about / in the book?
- Have you read any books like this before?
- What would you like to change about the book?
- Who do you think this book is suitable for?
- How would you describe this book to someone your age? Would you recommend it?
- If you could meet one character from the book, who would you like to meet? Why?
- What have you learned by reading this book?



- What questions did you have after reading this book? Have you found answers to those questions? What were the answers?
- How do you think reading non-fiction books is different from reading fiction books?
- What do you think is the most important thing about this book?



## CHALLENGE 2

### Design a Book Cover

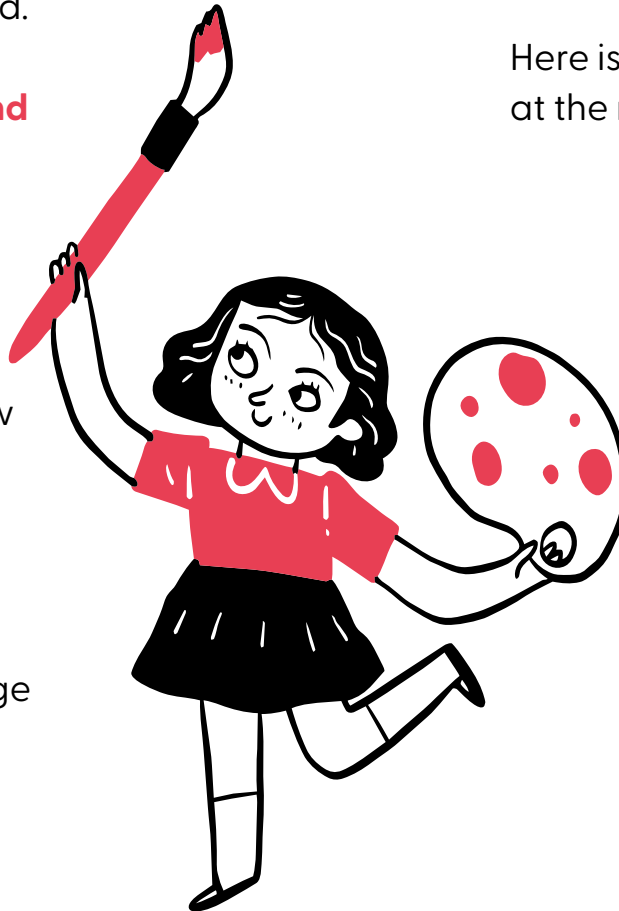


The Books Council will provide learners with a brief on the day and provide resources. This task will last **45 minutes**.

Here is an example of the **Criteria** that will be available at the national round.

**We want you to create a brand new book cover for this book which ...**

- conveys the story but without revealing too much – just enough to draw readers' attention!
- is attractive and colourful
- is creative
- highlights at least one important theme or message from the book
- shows original ideas



## CHALLENGE 3

### Write a Blurb



The Books Council will provide a brief for learners on the day. A copy of the book, as well as resources such as paper and pens, will be provided. Writing resources and dictionaries will also be available. This task will last **45 minutes**.

Here is an example of the **Criteria** that will be available at the national round.

**We want you to write a new blurb for this book which ...**

- gives a good idea of the book without revealing too much – enough to draw readers' attention!
- includes varied and interesting vocabulary
- highlights at least one important theme or message from the book
- is no more than 100 words
- encourages readers to pick up the book
- shows creativity and original ideas



# KEY DATES

Looking for further information?  
Contact a BookSlam coordinator  
by emailing [plant@llyfrau.cymru](mailto:plant@llyfrau.cymru)

## Travel Information

Teams will need  
to arrive at  
**THEATR ARAD GOCH**  
by 9.30 in the morning.\*  
Bath Street, Aberystwyth,  
Ceredigion, SY23 2NN

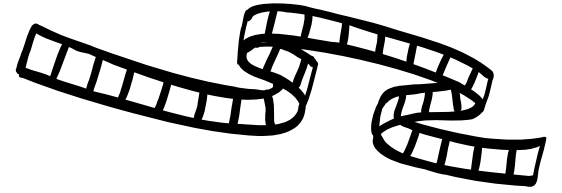
County organisers  
inform the Books Council of  
the county results by  
**MAY 20**

Schools to  
confirm their choice  
of book for the discussion  
task and send videos via  
WeTransfer to the  
Books Council by  
**JUNE 3**

**JUNE 19**  
National round  
takes place in  
Aberystwyth.

\*We suggest travelling  
in two full cars.  
There is a car park around the  
corner of North Road, SY23 2EG.

# IMPORTANT INFORMATION!



It would be wonderful to play the clips from all the winning schools in a special cinema session for the children to watch on the day.

In order to do so, we kindly ask teachers to arrange with parents or guardians of the children in the clips to fill in and return **CONSENT FORMS**.

**Bring a picnic!**

You are welcome to bring a packed lunch with you to eat at the seaside - but please beware of the cheeky seagulls!



# BOOK SLAM 2026

  
CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU  
BOOKS COUNCIL of WALES



Ariennir gan  
**Lywodraeth Cymru**  
Funded by  
**Welsh Government**

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