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Congratulations!!

Your school has signed up to participate in this year’s READ DL 2014 project. READ DL is a grassroots reading movement that aims to bring Donegal communities together by giving them a shared experience! When we all read the same book we all have something to talk about. Children and their families in Donegal are encouraged to read and discuss stories from Joe Brennan’s Donegal Folk Tales book, along with supporting activities held in schools, libraries and in the community.

 The aim of the READ DL project is to:

* Improve literacy skills and foster a love of reading.
* Entice people, young and old, to read more
* Encourage the entire community to read the same book and share ideas and responses to broaden and expand viewpoints

Official reading period is March 6th – April 9th (However please feel free to start reading the book now with your group!!)

This pack was compiled to equip teachers with fun and interactive teaching ideas based on the book. Below is a list of competitions and activities that your school can enter. Please note; class teachers, 3 pupils and their families from each school will be invited to attend the launch of READ DL. There will be an official invitation sent via email to schools at a later date however please take note of the date and venue below.

Finally on behalf of the committee we hope you enjoy reading Joe Brennan’s book. It is not compulsory for your school to read the entire book however we do ask that your school participates in at least 2 competitions listed below. Keep in touch with us and please feel free to send pictures if your school is engaging in any fun activities based on the book.

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| **Activities** | **Details** |
| **Launch - World Book Day 6th March** | Regional Cultural Centre Letterkenny @ 7pm |
| **2 Flash Fiction Writing Competitions** 1. **Schools Competitions**
2. **Adult (Over 18) competition**
 | **Top three entries** from each school must be posted or emailed to Bríd McIntyre in Donegal ETB **by 5pm Friday, 28th March 2014**. See competitions folder for more details.  |
| **Write a story in 6 words competition (Open to all ages)** | **Top three entries** from each school must be emailed to readdl2014@gmail.com by **5pm, Friday, 28th March 2014 See folder for more details** |
| **Art exhibition entries** | To be delivered to the Regional Cultural Centre on April 10th and will be exhibited from April 10th – 25th . Entries must be delivered to the RCC on Tuesday 8th April.  |
| **Closing Ceremony 9th April 2014** | Dunfanaghy Holy Trinity Hall at 7PM |

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| **Activities teachers can do while reading the book** |
| **Activity** | **Details** |
| Order Donegal Folktales from the Irish History Press | You can now order the READ DL books at a discount contact The History Press Ireland50 City Quay, Dublin 201 244 9470 |
| Why and where do you read?? | Ask local people to take a picture of themselves explaining why they like to read and where they like to read BEFORE THE LAUNCH 6TH MARCH. Entries in to readdl2014@gmail.com |
| Ask parents/class/JCSP class to record a story  | Using a smart phone/ipad or laptop ask a group of parents to record a story for the children to listen to. (copyright is ok as long as the school does not charge for the recording)  |
| History teacher or class teacher could gather folk stories from older people and collate them. | Link in with local nursing home, Active Age Donegal, Senior Citizens group or grandparents to collate folk stories.  |
| Research/do a class project on local Logainmneacha. Research the history of local place names.  | Use the following website to learn about the origins of local place names in Donegal and Ireland <http://www.logainm.ie> |
| Geography/JCSP teacher/class teacher map the stories in the book as the class reads them.  | Use a map from a tourist site to locate areas mentioned in the book e.g Discover Ireland website |
| Share a folk tale with another county or country  | If the school is linked with another school ask them to retell a local folk tale or set up a pen pal system in the class |
| Music teacher teaches local folk songs or teach about the origin of a musical instrument e.g. bagpipes, tin whistle etc.  | Research songs in the local area or a song from an area mentioned in the book. |
| Teach the children about the Ulster Scots language | Invite a local member from the Ulster Scots into schools to retell a folktale or teach the Ulster Scots language<http://www.monreaghulsterscotscentre.com/>  |
| Paired reading  | Train TY students to do paired reading with a local primary school or train 6th class to read to a younger class. |
| A project based on an area mentioned in the book  | E.g. Arainn mhór <http://www.arainnmhor.com/>Gaoth Dobhair <http://www.gweedore.net/>Falcarragh – An Tsean Bheiric (074) 9180888 |
| D.E.A.R – Drop everything and read for 10 mins a day | DEAR time every day using the Donegal Folk Tales book |
| Teach children how to tell stories\*\*\*\*\* StoryCraft – Free Advice online on how to tell stories\*\*\*\*\*  | Encourage children to retell a story from the book or a story passed down from their families.Master the 7 steps of storytelling through StoryCraft website[www.worldbookday.com/storycraft](http://www.worldbookday.com/storycraft) |
| Poster competition | Encourage the children to design a poster based on one of the stories from the book. |
| Invite a *Mystery Reader* to visit the class. A mystery reader is a person who visits the class but the children don’t know who the person is until they arrive.  | Ask a member of the community, postman, shopkeeper, bus driver to read a story from the book. Or ask a Finn Harps footballer, Jason Quigley, Michael Murphy etc to visit the class to read a story or share a folktale.  |
| Visit a place mentioned in the book or a local building/lighthouse and learn about its history | Lifford Court house <http://liffordoldcourthouse.com/>Balor stone in FalcarraghTory IslandInishtrahull - http://irishislands.info/trahull.html |
| Hold a local storytelling event and share stories passed down from generations with families or friends | This could be within the school or between a primary school and a secondary school or link in with a local Active age centre. |
| Seachtain na gaeilge 2014 1ú- 17ú Márta, Learn an Irish Folk Dance | Tonnaí Thoraí - Waves of ToryThe Donegal Set |
| Hearing other people tell similar stories from the same story.  | Retell different variations of a folktale e.g. retelling various stories of the Ghost lights of Ramelton |
| Interview a person who worked as a customs officer in the past.  | Linked to the story Salty butter |
| Explore the Genealogy of a family mentioned in the book  | There are numerous families mentioned in the book, research these families as part of a class project. |
| Learn about the history of an antique or ask a parent to bring in an antique and discuss its history | Or invite a local antique dealer to talk about the history of a certain antique <http://www.irishantiques.com> (press Donegal) |
| Hire a facilitator work carry out a drama, art, animation, music workshop in the class.  | List of facilitators attached to the folder e.g. Sean Byrne – Drama teacherPatsy Kavanagh – Story Teller Nora Kavanagh – Drama Teacher 0861995949Invite Joe Brennan to recite stories from the bookAll Details are listed in the ‘Tutors folder’  |
| Use Donegal Folk Tales to teach Irish History and folklore | Use Donegal Folk Tales links with the Strand Stories in the Primary school History curriculum |
| Book Joe Brennan/local writers through ‘Writer in Schools’ programme to do a workshop in your school.  | You can book local writers and story tellers at a discount through the Writers in schools programme. Search Donegal for a list of available tutors.Website: http://www.poetryireland.ie/education/writers-in-schools.htmlEmail: writersinschools@poetryireland.ie |
| Hold a quiz in your school/class/community | Select 4 stories from the book and hold a quiz within the class/year group/ community/ family and class together |