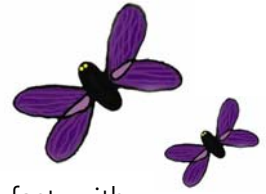




## 10 THINGS TO TRY THIS SPRING



### 1 Join our Big Book Group

*big book group*

If you like reading and discussing books then you'll love our Big Book Group. As well as that nice warm feeling that comes from supporting a good cause, joining brings you unique gifts, a ticket to our annual Big Read

Event and regular chances to win a literary 'prize guest' for your book group, child's school or other gathering. 'Paperback' membership is £25, 'Hardback' £100. Our first guest shortlist includes an English don, a storyteller and five leading authors: Carnegie Medal winner, Meg Rosoff; romantic writer, Jojo Moyes; author and broadcaster, James Naughtie; humorist, Guy Browning and children's favourite, Andy Stanton. Visit [www.storymuseum.org.uk/bigbookgroup](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/bigbookgroup) for details.

### 2 Grow a magic bean

Last year we launched our Magic Bean Appeal to fund our work towards a permanent centre – running consultations in schools and communities, developing detailed business plans and creating inspirational materials for our international capital appeal to be launched next winter. Thanks to generous donations from individuals, foundations and Arts Council South East we've now raised £250,000, over two-thirds of the way towards our target. If you'd like to help us climb that beanstalk, even in a small way, you can donate online via [www.storymuseum.org.uk/donate](http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/donate) and earn a place in Story Museum history.



### 3 Learn through story

Our schools programme is evolving fast, with occasional story days developing into ongoing partnerships with clusters of schools to develop a generation of teachers and children who know and can tell a wide range of stories. Storytelling builds children's language, imagination and confidence – which in turn benefits their reading, creative writing and ability to learn other languages. If you've never done it, try telling (not reading) someone a story: something special happens.

### 4 Book a hot exhibition

Our latest touring schools exhibition is now complete and will be available from 1 June. This uses puppets, pictures, sounds, smells and science challenges to bring to life *The Hottest Story*, a modern myth that gently introduces primary children to the issues surrounding global warming. [Teachers: please contact our office for details or to book.]



### 5 Take five

This may make us 'story anoraks' but it's time to admit that we enjoy swapping lists of our favourite books. You're welcome to join in...

#### 5 books ... about the power of stories

- 1 *One Thousand and One Nights*, many authors
- 2 *Mister Pip*, Lloyd Jones
- 3 *The Midnight Love Feast*, Michel Tournier
- 4 *The Uncommon Reader*, Alan Bennett
- 5 *The Child that Books Built*, Francis Spufford

#### 5 books ... if you love dragons

- 1 *Eragon*, Christopher Paolini
- 2 *How to Train Your Dragon*, Cressida Cowell
- 3 *The Reluctant Dragon*, Kenneth Grahame
- 4 *Winnie's Midnight Dragon*, Valerie Thomas & Korky Paul
- 5 *Dragonology: The complete book of dragons*, Dugald Steer, Helen Ward, Douglas Carrel and Dr Ernest Drake



## 6 Discover The DFC



For the past two years in a basement in Beaumont Street, Oxford a small group of comic geniuses has been painstakingly creating a new version of an old idea – the serialised story. The result, an

innovative children’s story comic with accompanying website, will be launched on 30 May. Designed for the visually-literate child of today, *The DFC* has top quality content from such great storytellers and artists as Philip Pullman and Nick Sharratt. The comic, which will be subscription-only and carries no advertising, is the brainchild of children’s publisher, David Fickling, who is also a trustee of the Story Museum. We showed an early proof to a cross-section of children and, if their reaction is anything to go by, *The DFC* should soon be a big hit among boys and girls aged 8 to 12. [www.thedfc.co.uk](http://www.thedfc.co.uk).



## 7 Meet Danny

It seems to be the season for plugging Story Museum trustees. This time it’s children’s playwright, David Wood (below), whose “enormously enjoyable” adaptation of Roald Dahl’s popular adventure, *Danny, the Champion of the World* has been attracting rave reviews as it tours the UK. Catch it at Oxford Playhouse from 10-14 June: [www.oxfordplayhouse.com](http://www.oxfordplayhouse.com).



## 8 Save a book to swap

This year the Oxford Literary Festival suggested that The Story Museum and local literacy project, Reading Quest, run a children’s book swap from a

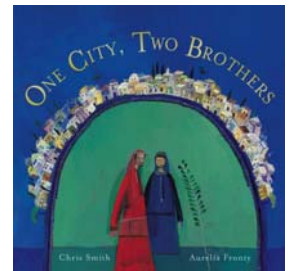


beautiful native American style tipi somewhat incongruously placed in Christ Church Master’s Garden. The idea proved so popular that we are planning to repeat it on a larger scale next year: so please save some books next time you’re clearing your shelves and swap them next spring.



## 9 Enjoy a world tale

Congratulations to the Story Museum’s Outreach Director, Chris Smith, whose picture book, *One City, Two Brothers*, illustrated by Aurelia Fronty, has just won the Middle East Book Award for promoting “non-partisan understanding of Arab cultures”. Chris’s re-telling of this traditional tale from the time of King Solomon tells of two quarrelling brothers who are reconciled when they hear the story of the founding of Jerusalem. [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com).



## 10 Volunteer?

We are looking for a very special volunteer to run a creative fundraising project for us. If you love children and their books, are well-organised, persuasive and can write a good letter we would be delighted to tell you more. This is a unique project that you can do from home in your own time. Contact our administrator, [sarah@storymuseum.org.uk](mailto:sarah@storymuseum.org.uk) for details.



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