



**Reading is Magic
Reasons to Love Where You Live
Teacher Pack Copy**



Reasons to Love Where You Live is a non-fiction writing project from Bradford Literature Festival and acclaimed author Catherine Barr, specially devised for Reading is Magic Festival 2021. The project is designed to be of greatest relevance to children aged 6-10* and supports the development of literacy, creativity and cultural literacy skills, whilst exploring themes of citizenship and local history and geography, in a way which is relevant for children across the UK and around the world.

**The project has been devised as most appropriate for children working at age 6-10 level, however the session is appropriate and accessible to all primary school year groups (under 12s).*

Overview



Reasons to Love Where You Live is based on the successful non-fiction [10 Reasons to Love](#) format, written by [Catherine Barr](#) and published by [Frances Lincoln Children's Books](#).

Reasons to Love Where You Live invites participating schools to access a 15 minute on-demand digital workshop, led by children's non-fiction author Catherine Barr, taking children through the process of creating a double-page book spread, exploring their top *Reason to Love Where They Live* – whether that's the beauty of their local parks, the deliciousness of the food, a particularly good stretch of path or road for cycling or scooting, a special beach or building, a place of worship, or a cultural experience... or maybe their school!

Catherine will offer some broad themes for children to explore, before explaining the process of creating the double-page book spread, including research, initial design, illustration and copy writing processes, inviting children to create their page designs in class or at home.

Once children have finished their designs, teachers (and home educating parents) can share children's work on Twitter.

To be part of this brilliant international project, follow the @BradfordLitFest and @BathKidsLitFest Twitter accounts and look for the hashtags #WhereYouLive and #ReadingIsMagic

About Catherine Barr

Catherine Barr's first book was *The Story of Life*, a picture book about evolution she wrote inspired by her two (then primary aged) daughters. Since then Catherine has gone on to write the popular *The Story of... Series*, with co-author and science teacher Steve Williams, and the magical *10 Reasons to Love a... series*, which offers children a fantastic introduction to both environmental issues and the wonders of the natural world. Catherine lives close to the Welsh hills where she writes books which she hopes will encourage children to get involved in protecting the environment. Catherine has two teenage children, a dog called Boo and loves to cycle in places with beautiful views... just not in the hills!

GUIDANCE FOR TEACHERS



This project has been designed to be particularly appropriate for children working at age 6-10 level, but participation would be appropriate for primary school age children across the board. We would encourage teachers to simplify or extend the activity as necessary.

For younger children, teachers may wish to offer page or sentence templates, and for older children, you may wish to encourage extended research or more sophisticated art materials, but teachers should use their discretion according to the needs of their students.

How Does the Project Support Curriculum Learning?

The project supports learning in a number of curriculum areas:

English:

- o Communicate ideas effectively, develop children's their vocabulary and build their own knowledge of their local area
- o Develop well-structured descriptions and reasons why they love the city of Bradford
- o Organise their ideas effectively for writing.
- o Develop a broader, deeper and richer vocabulary to discuss abstract concepts and a wide range of topics
- o Participate in discussion about books
- o Identify the audience for and purpose of the writing
- o Select appropriate grammar and vocabulary, understanding how such choices can change and enhance meaning

Art and Design:

- o produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences
- o evaluate and analyse creative works using the language of art, craft and design

History and Geography:

- o Gain historical perspective by increasing children's understanding of the locality of their home village, town or city and its place in the wider world.
- o Introduce ideas of global citizenship, by exploring other children's work that is shared by their teachers online; e.g. look for similarities and differences between children's experiences of life where they live.

Workshop Content



In the workshop film, Catherine begins by introducing the format of her series of books *10 Reasons to Love a...* using her books to offer examples of layout and design. If you would like to pause and explore Catherine’s page layouts with your class, you can find examples of page layouts from the book *10 Reasons to Love a Whale* at the end of this pack, (and they’re also available if you look at the page for the book on the Amazon [website.](#))

You may wish to further explore the “10 Reasons to Love...” format. This series includes:

- 10 Reasons to Love... a Bear
- 10 Reasons to Love an... Elephant
- 10 Reasons to Love... a Penguin
- 10 Reasons to Love a... Whale
- 10 Reasons to Love... a Lion
- 10 Reasons to Love a... Turtle

Catherine then introduces some reasons that children might like where they live; ideas for children to explore, which you might like to offer as guidance, could be:

- **Nature** – e.g. green spaces, outdoor play, gardens, water and wildlife
- **Heart of the city** – e.g. shops and offices

- **People** – who are the people who make where you live such an amazing place?
- **Arts and Culture** – museums, galleries, street art, statues, ice rinks, dance, music, and poetry – what makes the place you live vibrant and creative?
- **Food** – whether it’s the fruit and vegetables grown local to you, the spices or the diversity of the cuisine on offer, local delicacies or dishes unique to your area, food can be a wonderful way to connect with where we live, and who lives there.
- **Religion** – you could think about buildings, like churches, mosques, Gurdwaras and temples, or the religious traditions of the place where you live
- **Festival/ celebrations** – what are the festival days where you live? Do you have carnivals or street parties? Do you have special celebrations that are unique to the place where you live? What do you celebrate as a community?
- **History** – not just buildings, archives or museum relics, we can connect with our simply by talking to people older than us; what’s the history of the place where you live? Is it a new town, or have people lived there for hundreds of years?
- **Sport** – celebrating sport – from professional football, hockey or rugby, to leisure surfing, skating and cycling – how does the place where you live stay active? And who are the teams you cheer on at their games?

Catherine then reads through some of her books to offer examples of how children might design their pages and write their sentences.

Catherine also offers an overview of the writing, editing and publishing process, in a way that children will understand.

What Materials Are Required?



Not many!

- Paper
- Art materials e.g. pencils, pencil crayons, felt tips, crayons or paints.
- You may also wish to make IT equipment and/or reference books available for children to research their content.

Acknowledgements

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The workshop was produced, filmed and edited by Trago Films. We are also grateful to *10 Reasons* series publisher Frances Lincoln Children's Books for their support, and Bath Festivals, for inviting us to take part in this exciting and uplifting programme.

Images from previous BLF school events