PLANNING SUPPORT FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE SELECTION

Story Box Library (SBL) is a resource that is enjoyed nationally and internationally by teachers, students and families, but generating support to ensure resources are allocated is often a hurdle.

To support you with presenting SBL to your colleagues and leadership team for resource consideration, we've put together a checklist for your planning purposes and tools to ensure you are well prepared for a successful outcome.
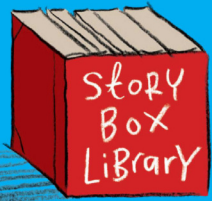
In this document you will find:
- **Planning Checklist**
- **Key Features and Benefits**: content; teacher and student support material; time saving accessibility and learning support tools, and; other key features.
- **Planning Guide**

PLANNING CHECK LIST

✓ Familiarise yourself with the features and functions of SBL.

✓ Prepare to take your colleagues and leadership team on a tour of the site to showcase features of SBL and benefits for your school.

✓ Invite individuals and teams of teachers to experiment with SBL and report back to whole staff or other teaching teams.

✓ Provide viewer log-in details to the school community, inviting teachers, students and families to explore SBL during the trial period and request formal or informal feedback.

✓ Prepare responses to questions you will likely be asked by the leadership team regarding audience, purpose and implementation of SBL as a new school resource (We've provided a planning guide to assist).

✓ Provide clear examples of how SBL will and can be used, such as preparing an action plan or a sample teaching and learning sequence.

✓ Collate and share feedback from other colleagues, students and families during trial process.

✓ Print and share the subscription quote supplied by SBL.

✓ If your proposal is rejected, consider fundraising options.

WHAT MAKES SBL A GOOD RESOURCE FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

CONTENT

About us:
Story Box Library (SBL) is subscription based educational website, created for children to view stories by local authors and illustrators, being read aloud by predominantly Australian and New Zealand storytellers. A creative, educational and fun platform developed to engage and excite the next generation about reading and storytelling, and assist in developing literacy and language skills.

A growing library of thoughtfully-curated stories:
Using SBL will ensure students frequently encounter quality stories with rich vocabulary, text structures and language devices. With an ever-growing library of stories, you're sure to find a story to engage every child in your class regardless of age, ability or background.

Australian and New Zealand stories:
Our focus on local content ensures students are exposed to stories with settings, languages, characters, issues and themes that are familiar to their experiences of living in Australia or New Zealand.

Diverse stories:
With a commitment to diverse and inclusive stories, your students will see themselves reflected in our stories, but also observe the beliefs, cultures and experiences of others.

Indigenous Story Time:
As an important part of the Australian Curriculum, this series of stories helps students access relevant and appropriate resources that will develop understanding of, and respect for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in your classroom.

Short films:
Use our short films to inspire your students' creativity with insights into the work and experiences of our authors, illustrators and storytellers.

Blog posts:
As well as providing creative inspiration, visit our blog regularly to keep up to date with latest news, updates, research and additional support material prepared for educators and parents.

WHAT MAKES SBL A GOOD RESOURCE FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

TEACHER AND STUDENT SUPPORT MATERIAL

Classroom ideas:

We've created a 'pick-and-mix' for teachers; an abundant list of engaging discussion questions and activities to further explore the stories in our library, which are rich in content and textural features. You have licence to choose, combine, adapt, simplify or extend our ideas to tailor teaching and learning activities to the abilities and needs of students.

Our Classroom ideas can be used in the teaching and learning of English- particularly in the areas of receptive language modes, literacy and literature- but also to develop General Capabilities, Cross-Curriculum priorities and knowledge and skills in other Learning Areas of the Australian Curriculum.

Our ideas are diverse, providing opportunities for children to listen to, view, speak, write, create, reflect and compare texts within our library while also developing other skills such as metacognition, social skills, and critical and creative thinking.
Download, print or use Classroom Ideas electronically. You'll also find links to other relevant stories and additional resources.

Student task sheets and QR codes:

Kids view and respond to stories independently with our Student Task Sheets. Each Task Sheet includes a QR code, to directly access the story, and three text response task options, each with a different focus and level of complexity.
Allow your students to select tasks for choice and autonomy in learning, or differentiate learning by assigning tasks to students based on how they best process content.

Activity time:

Engage and involve parents and families in learning with our Activity Time—a great holistic alternative to homework sheets.
Children and parents access an Activity Time PDF for each story with their at home access. Collectively, they provide a variety of developmentally appropriate experiences for students to enjoy with their family, promoting a balanced, connected, playful and creative approach to learning, while helping students to comprehend and respond to texts.

WHAT MAKES SBL A GOOD RESOURCE FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

TIME-SAVING ACCESSIBILITY AND LEARNING SUPPORT TOOLS

Closed captions:
Our closed captions help teachers support students with additional learning needs. By enabling via your Account Settings page, this visual support tool allows students to follow along with the story. It's particularly useful for students who have a hearing impairment or who speak English as an Additional Language. Combining audio and visual elements can also help students with SLD's –such as Dyslexia– alleviate difficulties associated with reading, spelling, word recognition, comprehension and focus.

Playlists:
To assist with differentiated teaching, use our playlist feature to curate personalised lists of stories specific to the interests or needs of your class, small learning groups or individual students. Playlists are a handy planning tool for teachers, minimising time spent searching for stories during class time and a backup for when plans go awry.

Search filters:
Our search filters make it faster and easier for you to find the stories you need.

- Our **theme filter** helps you find the right story for the right occasion. For example, find a story to help:
  - Model a particular text structure or language device
  - Model a concept from a learning area other than English
  - Start conversations about topics being studied in your units of work
  - Inspire investigations as part of a STEM program
  - Act as social stories, modelling friendships, social and communication skills, daily life and routines
- With an ever-growing library, **age filter** will help you find the right story for the age of your students. Upper-primary teachers will find this filter particularly useful because picture books aren't just for little kids.
- Our **storyteller filter** helps you find your favorite storyteller's reads. This search filter is great to help find the right storyteller to engage your students or hook a reluctant reader.
- Use **author/illustrator filter** to find stories or short films from authors and illustrators you admire, to complement an author or illustrator study or to support a guest author/illustrator visit your school.
- Our **duration filter** helps to find stories or short films from authors and illustrators to work within your schedule.

A universal tool:
Teachers love us because we are accessible, versatile and adaptable. Our many features make SBL a tool with multiple applications that allow flexibility of use to meet the diverse and individual needs of your students. With a little creativity, uses of SBL across your classroom, school and students' homes are endless.

WHAT MAKES SBL A GOOD RESOURCE FOR YOUR SCHOOL?

OTHER KEY FEATURES

Digital platform:
Digital delivery means students can access quality stories from any place and device with internet access.

Our digital stories provide multiple exposures, enabling children with diverse abilities, needs and backgrounds to access and engage with stories using an alternative format. They also help children develop their multi-modal literacy skills, conveying meaning through combinations of written and spoken language, visual images, and audio, gestural and spatial modes of language and communication.

Professional quality:
With the aim of creating an immersive storytelling experience, we pair each book with a complimentary storyteller and location, and maintain a strong focus on quality video, sound and image.

Free access for families:
Provide your families with the school's viewer log-in details ensure all students from diverse linguistic, cultural and socio-economic backgrounds can access quality Australian literature at home. SBL makes a great read-aloud model for parents, too. Families can also download the StoryBox app, available for Apple and Android devices.

Advertisement free:
Easy to navigate responsibly and free of advertisements, SBL reassuringly is a safe and trusted storytelling platform.

We love stories:
Our resource keeps traditional storytelling alive in a digital world, with storytellers modelling audio and visual aspects of reading and storytelling, including volume, tone, pace, facial expressions and body language and the addition of music, sound effects and closed captions to offer visual and audio support.

SBL is committed to showcasing the power of stories as tools to help us communicate, connect, learn, empathise, analyse, evaluate and grow, and to provoke curiosity, discussion, imagination, play and inspiration.

We support our creators by licensing rights to feature the books in our collection, with a significant portion of subscription fees used to pay ongoing copyright fees that support creators and the ANZ publishing industry.

PLANNING GUIDE

Consider the following details when preparing your proposal for resource selection, choosing the options most applicable to your school.

What school needs can be addressed by using SBL as a resource?
- [ ] Catering for individual student needs
- [ ] Developing literacy and language skills
- [ ] Supporting whole-school programs (e.g. Literacy, STEM, Peer Support)
- [ ] Engaging students in learning and literature
- [ ] Engaging parents/carers in learning
- [ ] Providing safe online resources
- [ ] Assisting in the participation of whole school (e.g. Story Film Festivals) and national literary events (e.g. Book Week, NSS)
- [ ] Other

Who do we want using SBL as a resource in our school?
- [ ] Lower Primary (Foundation, 1 & 2)
- [ ] Middle Primary (3 & 4)
- [ ] Upper Primary (5 & 6)

Which tools will we use to help us plan and implement effective teaching and learning programs?
- [ ] Classroom Ideas for planning
- [ ] Student Task Sheets
- [ ] Activity Time for classroom or home use
- [ ] Theme filter for selecting relevant stories
- [ ] Playlists
- [ ] Closed captions for learning support
- [ ] Home access for homework program or parent engagement in reading and learning
- [ ] Printed material provided by SBL (posters, letters to parents, log-in posters and fridge cards)
- [ ] Digital images and files provided by SBL
- [ ] Other

How will SBL be used as a resource across the school?
- [ ] Used across the whole school
- [ ] Assigned year levels only
- [ ] Individual classes (for shared and modelled reading, viewing and listening)
- [ ] Small groups (e.g. literacy groups for reciprocal teaching and guided reading, viewing and listening)
- [ ] Independently as part of reading, viewing and listening posts.
- [ ] At home for homework program and parent engagement
- [ ] English and literacy programs
- [ ] Specialist Learning Areas other than English
- [ ] Learning support programs
- [ ] Whole- school programs (e.g. STEM/Wellbeing/Peer Support)
- [ ] For entertainment (e.g. wet weather lunch times)
- [ ] Other

PLANNING GUIDE

What locations and devices will we use to access SBL?
- ☐ Generalist classrooms
- ☐ Specialist classrooms
- ☐ Multi-purpose room
- ☐ At home
- ☐ On student devices
- ☐ Laptops
- ☐ Computers
- ☐ Interactive whiteboards

Who will ensure SBL is implemented as a resource across the school?
- ☐ Leading teachers
- ☐ Year level team leaders
- ☐ Year level teaching teams
- ☐ English/literacy coordinator
- ☐ SBL account holder
- ☐ Other

How will SBL information and resources be shared with the school community?
- ☐ Email
- ☐ School newsletter
- ☐ Classroom blogs
- ☐ Other

How does SBL differ to other school resources (i.e. what gaps does it fill)?
- ☐ Digital platform
- ☐ Professional quality
- ☐ Australian and NZ Content
- ☐ Additional content (e.g. short films and blog)
- ☐ Reliable and trustworthy
- ☐ Flexible use
- ☐ Teacher and classroom resources
- ☐ At home access and resources
- ☐ Search filters
- ☐ Closed captions
- ☐ Playlists
- ☐ Communication with the SBL team
- ☐ Other