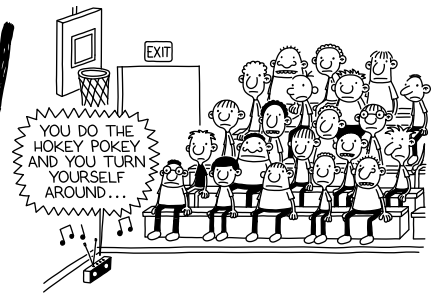


# Hold a Wimpy Kid Assembly



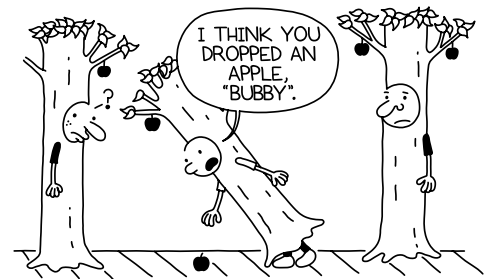
Wimpy Kid Wednesday is a great chance to tap into children's enthusiasm for Jeff Kinney's books with a Wimpy Kid-themed assembly. But don't worry if you can't arrange something on the day – the series of books provides a good springboard for talks at any time. Here are five ideas for a short assembly based on the books.

## 1 Screen some Wimpy Kid trailers.

Elsewhere in this pack you'll find some ideas to help children produce simple photo and sound-based trailers based on the Wimpy Kid books. Screening the completed trailers in assembly would give children a great sense of achievement and celebrates their creativity. Ask one or two to talk briefly about how they put the trailers together and what they found fun or difficult about the project.

## 2 Put on a Wimpy Kid sketch.

Staging a short excerpt from one of the Wimpy Kid books is a great way to bring them to life. Get one or more groups of children to choose their favourite sections of the books to dramatise, and practice it beforehand so they can allocate roles and learn their lines. Afterwards, discuss what they enjoyed about the extracts and the books in general. Does dramatising a book change the way they think about it?

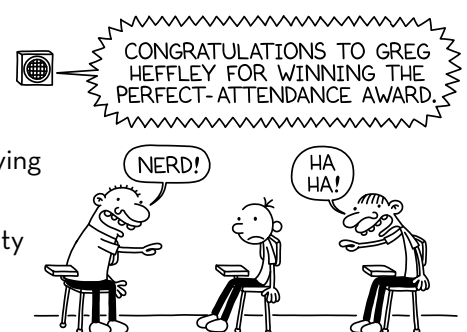


## 3 Talk about books and films.

The Wimpy Kid books are hugely popular in their own right, but they are now being turned into a series of equally successful films. Talk about the relationship between the two, and how easy or difficult it is to translate written words onto the big screen. Ask children whether they prefer books or films – both of the Wimpy Kid series and others like Harry Potter. Consider setting up a debate, by asking one child or group of children to argue why books are always better than film adaptations; and another to put the case for films.

## 4 Discuss bullying.

This pack includes some ideas for discussing these themes as part of a PSHE strand. The Wimpy Kid stories have lots of instances of borderline-bullying behaviour, so they provide a good platform for discussion. Discuss a few examples and ask what children thought of them, before taking the opportunity to run through the school's policy and procedures on bullying.



## 5 Talk about comic books and graphic novels.

The Wimpy Kid books have been very popular with children who previously found reading challenging or boring. Discuss the ways in which a mix of text and drawings can make books more accessible to children than conventional novels. How do they think the two complement each other? Discuss other forms of writing and drawing, like graphic novels and manga, and display a few examples. What other examples of the blend of text and drawing can children think of?



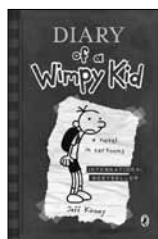
# Stage a

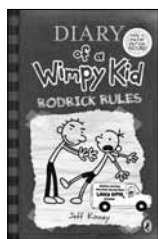
# Wimpy Kid Election

Getting children to vote for their favourite books is a great way to get them talking about their reading. So try holding a simple Wimpy Kid Election to help children decide their top title and character. Here are five tips to get you going.

- 1 Distribute voting slips.** Use the form below to canvass as many votes as you can. Hand them out to a class or year group, or leave a pile on the library counter.
- 2 Set up a voting box.** A shoebox wrapped in bright paper with a slit in the top makes a good box to store votes.
- 3 Hold a hustings.** Find children to act as advocates for each of the five Wimpy Kid titles, and ask them to speak for two minutes on why they think their book should win. They can talk about their favourite or funniest bits and read a short extract each.
- 4 Elect your winners.** Arrange a time to announce the results of the election – perhaps during an assembly, or a lunchbreak in the library. Produce a poster that shows how many votes each received, and pin it up on noticeboards.
- 5 Discuss the results.** Read out some of the reasons why people voted as they did, and ask some of those who chose the winners to expand on their thought processes.

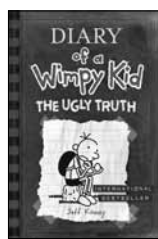
## The Wimpy Kid Election - Voting Slip












**1 Which is your favourite Wimpy Kid book?** Indicate your vote with an X.

This book is my favourite because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**2 My favourite Wimpy Kid character is** \_\_\_\_\_

because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# Make a Wimpy Kid Trailer

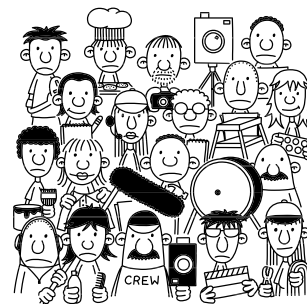


Making a trailer is a really fun way for children to get creative with their favourite books. All you need to get started is a digital camera, a software package like Microsoft Photo Story, and bags of ideas! Here's a ten step guide to producing a trailer around the Wimpy Kid books.

## TAKE ONE



## MINIMUM MOVIE REQUIREMENTS



- 1 Watch some trailers.** Lots of books have trailers nowadays, so select a few for children to look at. Visit Puffin's website at [www.puffin.co.uk](http://www.puffin.co.uk), and look up the Amazon pages of some popular authors at [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk). Some award-winning trailers can be found at [www.thebookseller.com/book-box](http://www.thebookseller.com/book-box). Also watch some of the Wimpy Kid film trailers at [www.diaryofawimpykidmovie.com](http://www.diaryofawimpykidmovie.com).
- 2 Explain the concept.** PhotoStory-based trailers are a mix of photos and narration or music – like a slideshow with sound. Discuss that a good book trailer should tempt people to go away wanting to read the book, and typically last for about one minute.
- 3 Choose a book to trail.** Ask children to select the book they would most like to make a trailer for. Any of the five Wimpy Kid books would work very well.
- 4 Talk about ideas.** What are the best ways to convey books in photos and words? Encourage children to think about ways of getting across the general atmosphere and humour of the book, as well as things like its storyline and characters.
- 5 Divide into groups.** Small teams of three or four people work well, giving children the opportunity to exchange ideas and allocate roles.
- 6 Write a script.** Writing a concise, tightly-focused script that children can narrate over their photos is a great skill to learn. It should try to convey two things: the basic story of the book without giving away too much about what happens; and why other children will like it. A script for a one-minute film should be around 100 words.
- 7 Gather some photos.** Get children to think about and take photos that will make up the 'film' of the trailer. They could involve children reading the book or recreating scenes from it – or photos of the cover and a couple of scenes.
- 8 Assemble the trailer.** Photo Story is easy to use and takes you step by step through adding photos and voiceover. You can quickly change the order of photos, so get children to think about the sequencing that works best.
- 9 Screen the trailers.** A display of all the finished films would make a great assembly or end-of-term class activity to look forward to.
- 10 Pick the best.** Ask for a show of hands to select children's favourite trailer, and consider awarding a prize to the best. A Wimpy Kid book would be ideal!



# PSHE Discussion Topics



As well as being terrific entertainment, Jeff Kinney's *Wimpy Kid* books explore some important themes around children's experiences of school and growing up. They provide an excellent springboard for discussions around bullying and friendship in particular, so use these prompts to get children talking.

## BULLYING

There are incidents of bullying throughout the *Wimpy Kid* books. Get children to talk about some of the examples of bullying behaviour. In each case, consider what has motivated the bullies and why their actions are wrong. Discuss how Greg, Rowley and other characters respond to the bullying. Ask children how they would respond to similar situations, and who they would ask for help. What should they do if they see someone else being bullied? This is a good chance to run through the school's policy on bullying and the procedures in place to deal with it.

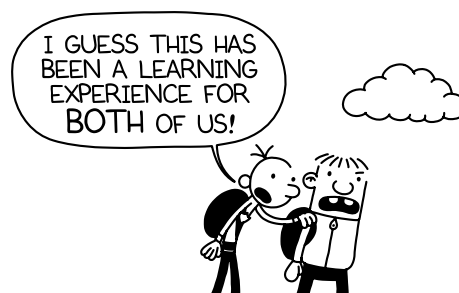
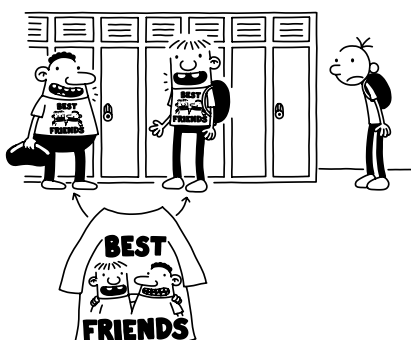
Also ask children if they can think of any other examples of bullying in books they have read. Did they think the scenes were realistic and well handled by the author? What happens next in the stories; do the children who are bullied get their own back in the end? Some books, like the *Wimpy Kid* ones, respond to bullying with humour. Is this a good way to deal with such a serious issue?

If you want to produce something that children can take away from the discussion, consider working with them to draw up an anti-bullying charter based on the conversations. Agree a definition of bullying and compile a checklist of actions that children can take to deal with it. Or perhaps set groups of children to produce their own anti-bullying poster, with sketches based on the *Wimpy Kid* books to illustrate the messages, that can be pinned up on noticeboards and in the library.

## FRIENDSHIP

Greg has lots of ups and downs with his friends at school. His relationship with Rowley – a figure of fun at many points in the books, but also a loyal friend to Greg – is particularly interesting. Ask children what they think of the friendships in the books. Are Greg and Rowley good friends to one another or not? What qualities do they think make a good friend? What would they like their friends to do for them? How do good friends help each other when they are unhappy or suffering problems like bullying? Why are friendships important?

Use a scene or two from one of the books to explore the theme of friendship further. Pages 18 to 20 in *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* book encapsulate the rather complicated relationship between Greg and Rowley, who are not necessarily close friends but learn to appreciate one another. What do children think of this? Is Greg a proper friend to Rowley, or does he treat him badly? What could each boy do to be a better friend to the other?



# Read On

Read all the Wimpy Kid books and can't wait for the next one?  
Follow our tips for five wicked websites to visit and five brilliant books to try!

## FIVE WIMPYLICIOUS WEBSITES

### 1 [www.wimpykidclub.co.uk](http://www.wimpykidclub.co.uk)

The home of Puffin Books' brilliant Wimpy Kid Club. Log on for games, quizzes and a guide to Greg's Neighbourhood. Join the Reading is Fun Club here too!

### 2 [www.wimpykid.com](http://www.wimpykid.com)

The official Wimpy Kid website. Packed full of info about all the Wimpy Kid books, plus video and audio clips and news about what Jeff Kinney is up to next.

### 3 [www.diaryofawimpykid2movie.co.uk](http://www.diaryofawimpykid2movie.co.uk)

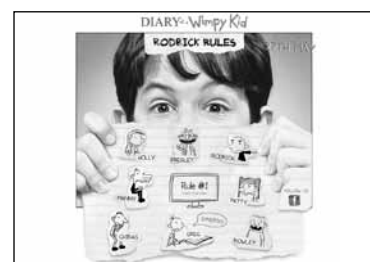
The place to go for info about the films of the Wimpy Kid books. Watch videos, play games and read about the cast and crew of the hit movies.

### 4 [www.wimpyyourself.com](http://www.wimpyyourself.com)

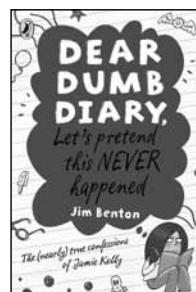
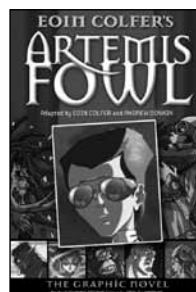
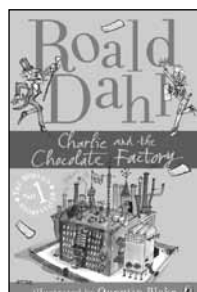
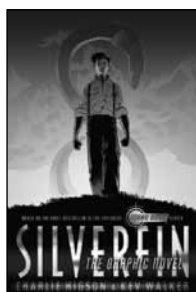
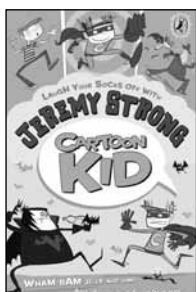
Brilliant site where you can turn yourself into a Wimpy Kid character with an easy-to-use online drawing device.

### 5 [www.puffin.co.uk](http://www.puffin.co.uk)

The home of the best children's publisher around (though we say so ourselves)! The place to find out more about all of Puffin's books – and top prizes to be won too!



## IF YOU LIKED THE WIMPY KID BOOKS, TRY THESE!



### 1 **Cartoon Kid** by Jeremy Strong

Laugh-out-loud comic book story from one of the funniest children's writers around! Casper and his friends turn into superheroes, with exciting and hilarious results!

### 2 **SilverFin: The Graphic Novel** by Charlie Higson

Thrill-a-minute story of James Bond as a boy – with lots of exciting graphics like the Wimpy Kid books. Check out all the other books in the Young Bond series too.

### 3 **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory** by Roald Dahl

Just one of the many brilliant books by Roald Dahl – gripping stories and fabulous drawings by Quentin Blake, too!

### 4 **Artemis Fowl: The Graphic Novel** by Eoin Colfer

Like Wimpy Kid, this has a young boy as the hero – but Artemis is a lot more dastardly than Greg! A rip-roaring adventure with loads of drawings along the way.

### 5 **Dear Dumb Diary: Let's Pretend This Never Happened** by Jim Benton

More funny and (nearly) true confessions – this time from the diary of Jamie Kelly. A great next read for girls.

