



Hold a book sale for Book Aid International

It costs Book Aid International just £2 to send a book to readers in the developing world. Why not hold a book sale at your school and donate the proceeds to Book Aid International? It's a fun way to work together, learn some new skills, and raise money for an excellent cause!

Over the past 54 years, Book Aid International has sent over 25 million books to our partners in developing countries, providing opportunities for millions of people all over the world to access them. Working with a range of partners – including schools, community libraries and refugee camps - we supply up-to-date, relevant information to those in greatest need - helping people realise their potential and contribute to the development of their communities.

We've all got books that we haven't read for ages sitting gathering dust – so why not sell them and help Book Aid International send more books to the developing world? Then fill those gaps by buying something new at your sale!

Collecting books

Once you know where you'd like to hold your book sale, you need something to sell! When you've rummaged through your own bookshelves, where can you go to find extra stock for your sale? Why not ask a local shop or business if they can be the drop off point for books? It's really useful if you can arrange for someone to collect books, but do take sensible precautions when meeting strangers.

Friends, family and staff

Ask everyone you know to ask their friends and contacts for book donations and help to spread the word about your event.

Libraries

Speak to your local library – they may have surplus stock they need to get rid of and that they would be willing to donate to you. Alternatively, you could suggest that you hold a joint event and split the profits.

Schools, colleges and universities

Local schools colleges or university libraries might have books that need a new home! If not, you might be able to put up posters, or put an advert in their newsletter for donations from students.

Advertise

Speak to your local newspaper and see if they will give you some space to advertise for books.

Getting ready!

Sort your books



When you've collected together all of the books for your sale, it's likely that you'll have some sorting to do! Your very first step should be to sort out what can and can't be sold. Although no-one likes to throw books away, damaged or outdated books are unlikely to sell, and make your stall look less appealing to customers. If books have any signs of mould, they must be disposed of, as this poses a risk to health. You should take any books that you can't sell to your local recycling depot.

Once the initial sorting has taken place, you can start to categorise. A good starting point is to separate the books into paperback fiction, hardback fiction, paperback non-fiction and hardback non-fiction.

Depending on the number of books you have (and the space available) you could consider separating categories further – for example, adult and children's fiction, poetry, romance, crime, thriller, arts and crafts, sports and hobbies and educational.

Pricing

With just one event to sell as many books as you can, it's important that you price the books at an attractive level. Try to make things as easy possible for both you and your customers by pricing simply – for instance all paperback fiction £1 or £1.50, and all hardbacks £2. If you have any higher value books – like sets of encyclopaedias or high quality hardbacks, indicate prices with bookmarks – and keep them separate.

To attract customers later in the day, you might consider having a half price sale – this might help to get those last books out of the door! You could give special discounts to people buying in bulk, or run special offers – we all love a 3-for-the-price-of-2 deal!



What you need

For the sale itself the following are extremely useful:

Lots of helpers!

Boxes – for storage and display.

A supply of carrier bags

A secure cash box and calculator

Plenty of change – from your local bank

Stickers, card and pens – to indicate prices on books or boxes

Extra poster shells (download them at www.bookaid.org/schools)

You could also decorate the venue with posters, friezes, flags and masks. Have a look at the African art and craft activity sheet in the Class activities section at www.bookaid.org/schools for some ideas!

Other things to sell

As well as selling books at your book sale you could also make some African crafts to sell like wrapping paper, cards and beads. Have a look at the African art and craft activity sheet in the Class activities section at www.bookaid.org/schools for some ideas!



Holding a book swap

Instead of a book sale you could hold a book swap.

Ask people to bring along books that they don't want anymore. For every book that they bring, they receive a token which they swap for another book. Instead of charging per book, each person is charged to take part. You could charge somewhere between £2 and £5. Adults could be asked to pay slightly more than young people.

For a bookswap you will need some tokens (made from card) to hand out.

Download posters and guidance on promoting your event at www.bookaid.org/schools
We would also be delighted to provide you with Book Aid International literature and newsletters for your sale. Please contact us for further information by e-mailing lesley.pinder@bookaid.org