

A WAY TO EMPOWER OUR YOUNG

WORLD Book Day is celebrated on April 23 annually in over a hundred countries worldwide.

The date was chosen to commemorate the passing of renowned authors, such as William Shakespeare and Miguel Cervantes.

It is a day to celebrate reading, authors and everything related to books. One of its charity missions is to provide every child and young person a book of their own as a way to encourage them to explore the pleasures of books and reading.

Although World Book Day is not a major celebration in Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur has been named World Book Capital for 2020 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) which is an honour.

Kuala Lumpur is the 20th city to be awarded the title. While book lovers celebrate World Book Day all over the world, perhaps it is time for Malaysians to start joining the celebration and also time for those yet to pick up the reading habit to learn about this significant occasion.

As mentioned before, World Book



Nurturing the reading habit in children will help develop their mind, emotional intelligence and imagination.

Day aims to encourage reading among children and young persons, and as KL prepares to take the mantle of World Book Capital 2020, we need to encourage and nurture the reading habit in our children.

Reading books improves the well-being and development of children and young persons.

Empowerment of children through reading is among the focus in KL World Book Capital 2020. A good parent will always strive to inculcate in a child the love of reading.

Reading helps with the process of understanding and comprehending words and storyline, focusing attention by enhancing listening and

analytical thinking, and creating and building confidence and empathy.

By encouraging a love of reading, we can give children something even more special — a way to learn and explore while having fun.

Nurturing the reading habit in children will help develop their mind and enhance their memory, emotional intelligence and imagination.

This is why a celebration like World Book Day is important in developing a passion for reading and books in the young generation.

Activities like reading imaginatively together with children can enhance their receptive language skills and help build their imagination through the sharing of stories and exchange of information while also giving children a chance to tell their own stories.

We can organise an event where pre-schools and kindergartens can hold a dress-up event in celebration of World Book Day as a way to promote reading among children.

Children can come together to celebrate World Book Day by dressing up as their favorite book characters while enjoying a range of book-related activities.

Throughout the day, teachers can organise various book-themed activities for all the children to enjoy while nurturing their love for books.

We can also give children books as a gift in conjunction with World Book Day as a means to encourage them and celebrate this special occasion.

By entrusting children with their own books, they will develop a sense of responsibility as a way to build character as they grow older.

The celebration of World Book Day is very important to ensure that reading habits do not cease due to technology and modernisation.

It is essential for our young generation to develop a love for books and reading. It is the process of understanding which enables information retention. It also improves language skills including vocabulary.

Last but not least, reading definitely has the positive power to inspire and give more value to life.

**NUR ANWAR HILMI
MOHD ABD MALEK**

Senior publication officer, UPM Press
Universiti Putra Malaysia