

EMPATHY SHORTS GUIDE

USING THE EMPATHY SHORTS IN YOUR CLASS/AT SCHOOL

Empathy Shorts are fantastic and **FREE** empathy-boosting short stories, available for **EVERYONE** to access and share, to improve young people's wellbeing, reading for pleasure and active citizenship.

Written by lots of favourite authors, our library of over 40 exclusive stories can be read and enjoyed by children and young people in KS 2 and 3

Discover short stories by



When children identify with book characters, they learn to see things from *other people's point of view* so, as they read, they **build their empathy skills**. And in fact, the more books children read where they can relate to the characters and their choices, the more books they want to read.

To get the most out of this approach, focus on the **CHARACTERS**, rather than the **PLOT** of the story. Use these questions to help you look at stories in a different way:

- If you could jump into the story, is there a character you would like as your friend?
- Can you say why?
- Was there a character in the story who really helped the other characters?
- What words would you use to describe the emotions the characters felt in the story?
- If you were introducing one of the characters to your friends, what would you say about them?
- I was wondering why (name character) behaved in the way they did, what do you think?
- Were there any moments in the story when you wanted to step in and stop a character making a mistake/wrong decision?

Fun ways to use the shorts

- Print them out and gift them to pupils on Empathy Day
- Stick them around the school – including on toilet cubicle doors
- Make a display with your favourites
- Older pupils sharing the stories with younger pupils – as cooler, grown up friends
- Read aloud as an empathy story of the day/week or in assembly
- Encourage pupil librarians to read and advocate for them

Download your **FREE** shorts at
www.empathylab.uk/empathy-shorts