



Changing life stories

# Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Magical Reading Tour

## Ideas for a Chitty-themed celebration event



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Our Autumn 2014 competition, *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang's Magical Reading Tour*, provided a great opportunity for schools to instil a love of reading in their pupils and engage parents and carers with their child's reading. As your pupils begin to complete the reading challenge, why not plan a Chitty-inspired event to celebrate their achievement and invite their families along to enjoy the festivities. Use the tips and activities in this resource to help you plan an event to remember.

## Before the event

### Engaging parents in the build up to the event

- **Breakfast readers:** Throughout the reading challenge you could run a breakfast readers group for half an hour before school starts and encourage parents/carers to come along and read with their child. It might be an idea to have other members of staff available to read with any pupils who want to attend but whose parents can't make it. If you can manage to squeeze enough budget to provide healthy breakfast snacks it might help to draw the crowds in!
- **Displays in reception:** Create a *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang's Magical Reading Tour* display in a prominent area where parents/carers are likely to see it. Your display could include the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang poster and examples of the Driver's Log and certificate, as well as photos of your pupils and their parents/carers reading. You might like to add to this with lists of recommended reads and tips for parents on reading with their child. You could even add an interactive area where parents can leave their own tips and recommendations.

### Invitations

Task your pupils with creating special invitations to the event for their own parents/carers. The personal touch could make all the difference when it comes to enticing the harder-to-reach parents.

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## During the event

### Certificate ceremony

Celebrate the achievements of those children who have completed the reading challenge by ceremoniously awarding them their certificates in front of their peers and family.

You could run a prize draw of your own in school, and announce the winners and present their prizes at this event.

### Chitty readings

Draw everyone in to the world of Chitty by reading an extract from the book. Even better, if any of your children have taken part in the bonus writing category *Chitty's next adventure* you could ask some of them to read out their stories for everyone to hear.

### Fun activities

Set up stations around the room and assign groups of children and their parents/carers to each station, where they can complete a variety of engaging activities before rotating on to the next station. Stations could include...

- **Commander Pott's workshop:** Get parents and children to channel Commander Pott and work together to build their own inventions. You could do activities such as the Egg Drop (a fun – and sometimes messy – activity in which the teams must design and build a package that will prevent an egg from breaking when dropped from a height) or something as simple as making and decorating paper aeroplanes and testing to see which one will travel the furthest.
- **Monsieur Bon Bon's sweet shop:** Given that “Monsieur Bon Bon's secret fooj” recipe at the end of the book – with boiling sugar – might not be very child-friendly, instead get children and parents to decorate car-shaped biscuits (that you have made earlier!), with fruit and/or sweets and icing, creating their very own edible Chitty.
- **Chitty treasure hunt:** Hold a treasure hunt that takes children and parents to the different locations in the book (these could be different locations in the hall or the school grounds with signs saying “Hotel Splendide” or “Joe the Monster's cave” etc).

Better still – recruit some of your pupils to form a “Chitty Committee”, and challenge them to come up with their own activity ideas.

## Alternative idea: The Big Bedtime Story

As you may know, Ian Fleming wrote Chitty Chitty Bang Bang as a bedtime story for his son Caspar, making the book the perfect inspiration for a Big Bedtime Story event.

If you have the resources, make some “campfires” from cardboard and use bicycle lights or torches to light them up. On the day of the event, set up the campfires and lots of books in the school hall and close the blinds.

Invite the children and their families to come along after school wearing their pyjamas and armed with blankets, pillows, rugs...and of course their favourite teddies. Invite them to find

a space on the floor to set up camp, and provide some appropriate activities such as writing their own bed time stories, storytelling round the “camp fire”, singing campfire or lullaby songs, or just quietly reading together. You may even like to project the Chitty Chitty Bang Bang film onto a wall.

It’s a lovely way of offering a warm and inviting environment for children and parents to enjoy sharing stories together...and don’t forget the hot chocolate with marshmallows!