

What's happening in the news this week?



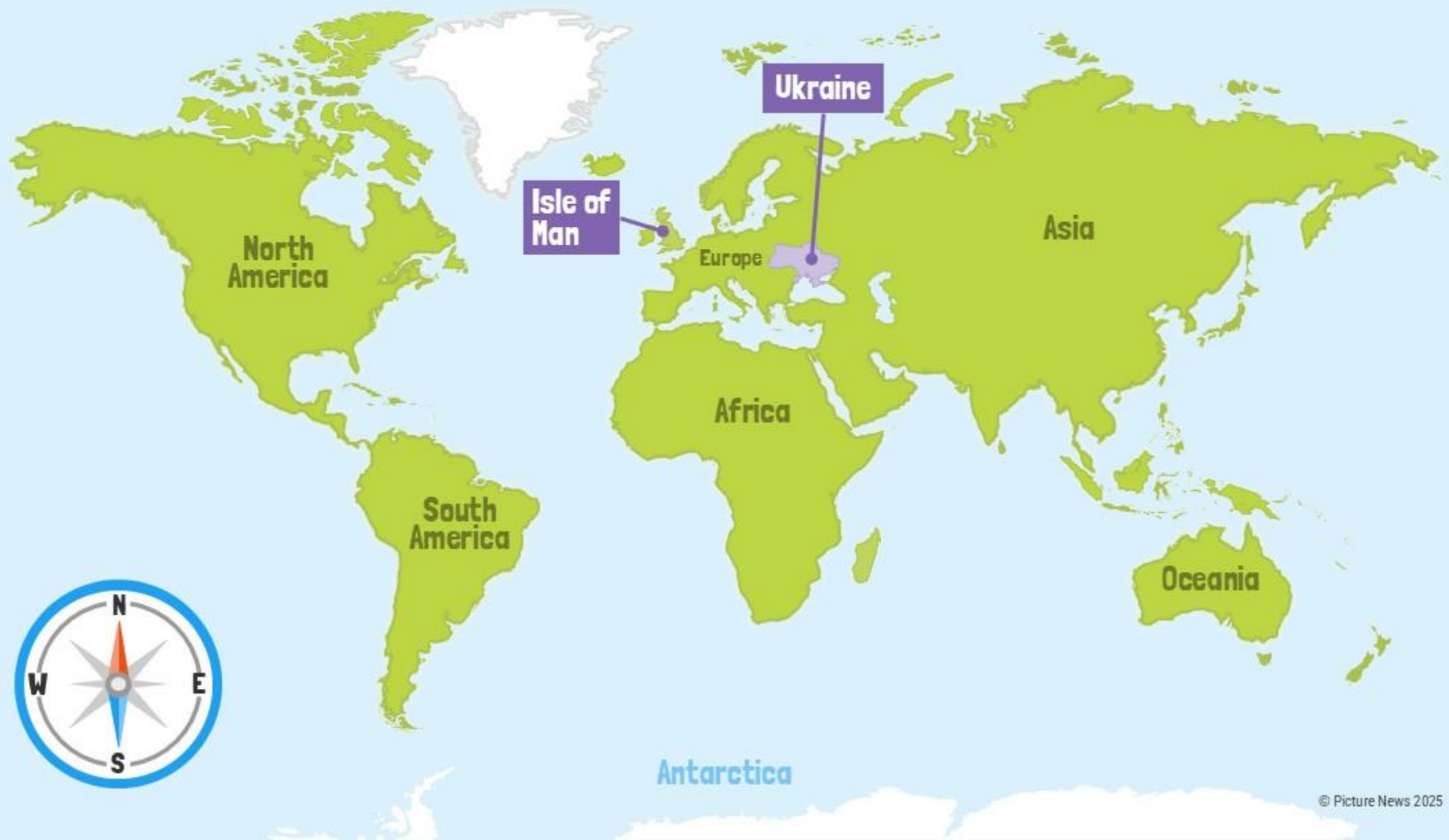
Let's have a look at this week's poster!

14th - 20th July 2025



How can stories help us understand others?

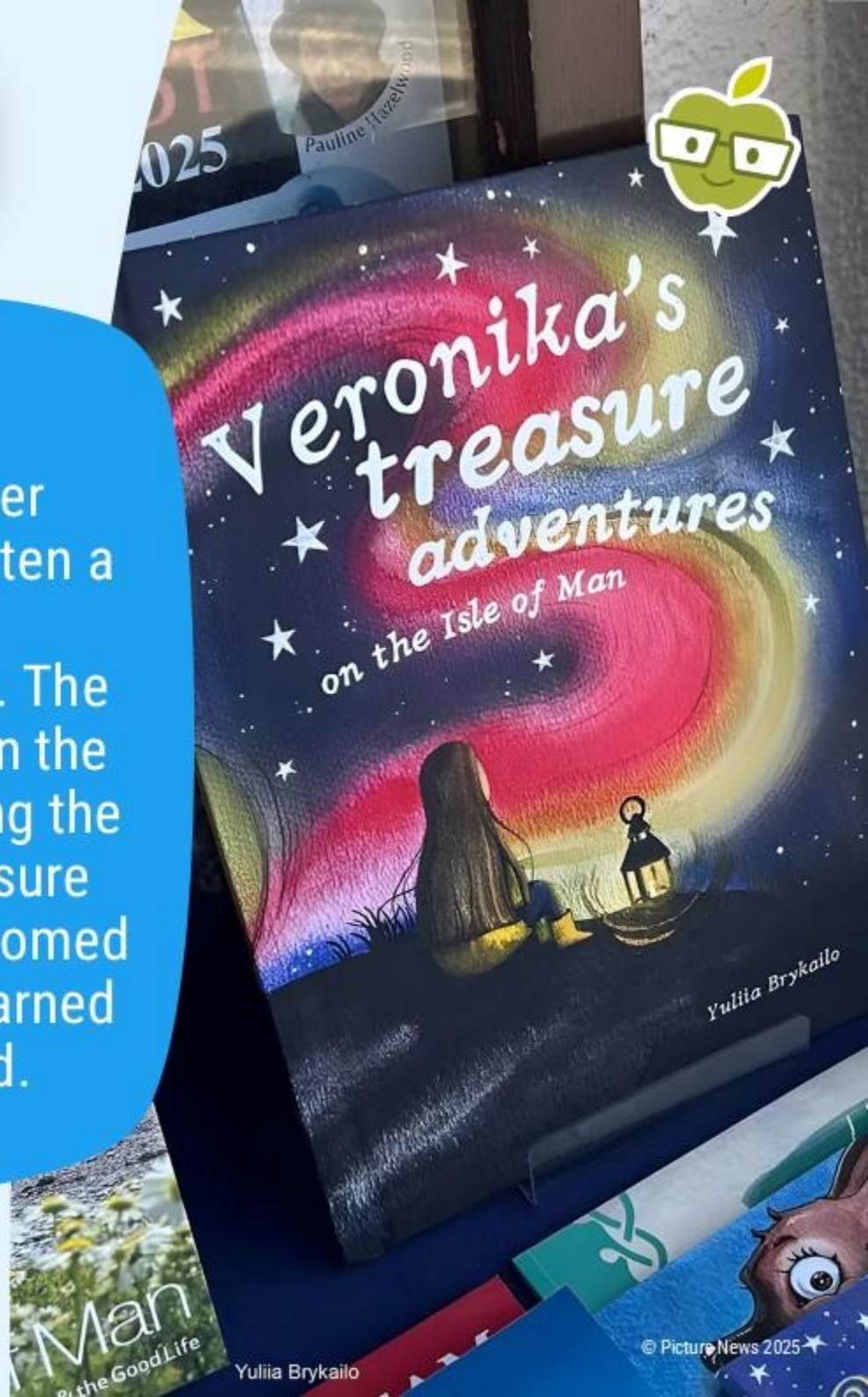
This week's story looks at events related to ...



How can stories help us understand others?

After fleeing the war in Ukraine, Yuliia Brykailo moved to the Isle of Man with her daughter, Veronika. Yuliia has since written a children's book inspired by Veronika's experience of settling into a new school. The story, *Veronika's Treasure Adventures on the Isle of Man*, follows a young girl exploring the island and discovering that the real treasure is friendship. Veronika was warmly welcomed by her new school, where pupils even learned Ukrainian words to help her feel included.

Learn more about this week's story [here](#).
Watch this week's useful video [here](#).





- Read through this week's story and share your own thoughts on how stories can help us understand others.
- Think about a time when you read a story about someone very different from you, maybe someone from another country, a different time, or with a different background. How did it make you feel about their experiences? What impact does seeing the world through a character or other person's eyes have on you as an individual? Why?





- Even if a story is set in a fantastical world or a very different time, do you ever find shared feelings or experiences in the characters? What are some of these universal feelings? How can finding similarities between yourself and characters who are different from you, help you better understand people in your own life?
- Stories often show us what life is like in different places, or for people with other beliefs. What have you learned about another culture or way of life from a story? Why is it important to learn about differing perspectives through stories? Can this broaden or expand your view of the world? How?



Vital statistics

Research from Stanford Graduate School of Business indicates that stories are remembered up to 22 times more than facts presented without a narrative. Thinking about your own experience, do you agree or disagree? Why?



According to a study published by Cerebrum, when a story is recounted, the human brain releases cortisol, dopamine, and oxytocin. Oxytocin is associated with empathy and trust, helping people retain knowledge and connect with characters. Can you think of a time when you have felt empathy towards a character? How did it make you feel? Did it help you understand something in a new way?



What others think

Read through and share your responses to the two quotes below.

"Maybe stories are just data with a soul." Brené Brown, American academic and podcaster.

"After nourishment, shelter and companionship, stories are the thing we need most in the world." Philip Pullman, British writer.

Further questions for discussion



- The oldest known written story is The Epic of Gilgamesh, from ancient Mesopotamia. It's considered the oldest narrative work of literature, originating back over 4,000 years. Why do you think storytelling has been so important to humans for thousands of years? How does sharing stories help us connect and find common ground?
- If you wanted to help someone understand a difficult experience you or someone you know went through, why might telling a story be more powerful than just stating facts?





How can stories help us understand others?

Reflection



Stories can do lots of things, from entertaining us to helping us grow and learn. They can help make us more aware of the world around us and understand the lives of others.





Mutual Respect and Tolerance

We all have the right to feel safe, happy and to be ourselves. When we help others settle in and make new friends, we support their freedom to take part and enjoy school.

Protected Characteristics



We are all different with our own backgrounds, families and cultures. When we welcome people from other places, we help everyone feel respected, valued and part of our community.



Sex



Sexual
Orientation



Age



Disability



Gender
Reassignment



Marriage and
Civil Partnership



Pregnancy
and Maternity



Race



Religion
or Belief



UN Rights of the Child



All children have the right to feel safe, be included and treated fairly, regardless of where they come from. Schools play an important role in creating welcoming communities where every child feels they belong.





Who Does This Work?



Job of the Week

Publisher

A publisher selects, produces, markets, and distributes content e.g., books, magazines, or digital media, to bring ideas, stories, and information to the public.



Pathways into this Career

- An undergraduate degree in almost any subject can be valuable, especially if you want to work in a specialist area of publishing.
- Internships at publishing houses, literary agents or with book reviewers.
- Entry level positions such as an editorial assistant.



Skills Needed

- Strong written and verbal communication skills
- Project management and organisational skills
- Attention to detail
- Commercial awareness



Discussion Prompt

Do publishers have a responsibility to share certain stories? Which stories are important to share? Why?

LET'S DISCUSS



14th
- 20th
July

This week's news story

www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4gd088jeyyo

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vyZMSZG2Dmk



In the news this week

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Notes

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss



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Questions

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 **Listen**

 **Think**

 **Share**

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