**What is a book?**

“a group of sheets of paper bound or fastened together between covers for a particular purpose”.

Heinemann English Dictionary

**Is that all?**

- **Certainly not!**

“A book is the purest essence of the human soul”
Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881)

“Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body.”
Richard Steel (1672-1729)

“Men of power have not time to read; yet men who do not read are unfit for power.”
Michael Foot (1913- )

“A lonesome man on a rainy day [is one] who does not know how to read.”
Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

“A good book is the best of friends, the same today and for ever.”
Martin Tupper (1818-1889)

**QUESTIONS**

1. a) Copy out Richard Steel’s description.
   b) Why do you think he says reading is like exercise?

2. Why (as Benjamin Franklin says) would you be a ‘lonesome’ man on a rainy day if you don’t know how to read?

3. Martin Tupper says a book is like a best friend - how is this possible?

4. a) Is the dictionary definition of ‘book’ correct? Does it miss anything out?
   b) Write your own, better definition of ‘book’. Use your previous answers to help you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>purpose</th>
<th>reason</th>
<th>essence</th>
<th>heart / real meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>lonesome</td>
<td>lonely</td>
<td>definition</td>
<td>meaning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>