

Winter Reads 2019

We've put together a selection of reads for **Reading Ahead 2019/20** participants with the theme 'Winter Reads.' It includes poems, short stories and books for various levels from pre-entry to level 2.

The **Winter Mini Challenge** starts on Monday 2 December 2019 and finishes on Monday 13 January 2020. If you're running this challenge in your library it could be an opportunity to promote family reading by combining it with Reading Ahead. Having a selection of reads for emergent and less confident adult readers will help to ensure everyone can get involved!

To find more books for emergent adult readers explore **Find A Read** <https://readingahead.org.uk/find-a-read> a unique database, curated for Reading Ahead, searchable by reading level.

Enjoy!

Reading levels:

Pre-entry: words and images

Entry 1-2: minimal text, short words and sentences

Entry 3: short sentences

Level 1: longer text with short and clear language

Level 2: roughly equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C. Longer text, a chance to try new genres, authors and subjects

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READING
AHEAD

Winter Reads

A Winter Morning Poem

Ogden Nash

Winter is the king of showmen,
Turning tree stumps into snow men,
And houses into birthday cakes,
And spreading sugar over lakes.

Smooth and clean and frosty white,
The world looks good enough to bite.
That's the season to be young
Catching snowflakes on your tongue.

Snow is snowy when it's snowing
I'm sorry it's slushy when it's going.

POEM

Winter Reads

Out in the Dark
Edward Thomas

Out in the dark over the snow
The fallow fawns invisible go
With the fallow doe;
And the winds blow
Fast as the stars are slow.

Stealthily the dark haunts round
And, when the lamp goes, without sound
At a swifter bound
Than the swiftest hound,
Arrives, and all else is drowned;



Winter Reads

(cont.)

And star and I and wind and deer,
Are in the dark together, - near,
Yet far, - and fear
Drums on my ear
In that sage company drear.

How weak and little is the light,
All the universe of sight,
Love and delight,
Before the might,
If you love it not, of night.

Winter Reads

Little Tree

E. E. Cummings

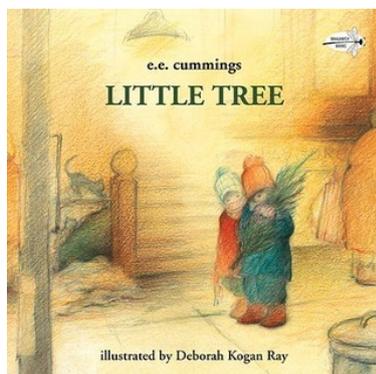


little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower
who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly
i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid
look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to
shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy
threads,

Winter Reads

(cont.)

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place dark or un-
happy
then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud
and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel Noel"



Little Tree

E E Cummings

Illustrated by Deborah Kogan
Ray

Winter Reads

The Shortest Day

Susan Cooper



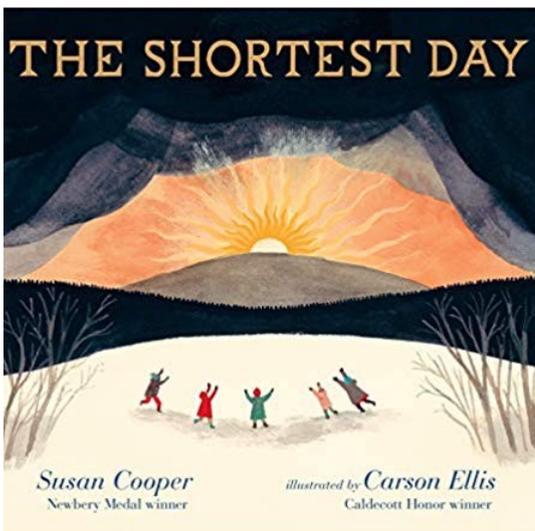
POEM

So the shortest day came, and the year
died,
And everywhere down the centuries of the
snow-white world
Came people singing, dancing,
To drive the dark away.
They lighted candles in the winter trees;
They hung their homes with evergreen;
They burned beseeching fires all night long
To keep the year alive,
And when the new year's sunshine blazed
awake
They shouted, revelling.
Through all the frosty ages you can hear
them
Echoing behind us – Listen!!
All the long echoes sing the same delight,
This shortest day,

Winter Reads

(cont.)

This shortest day,
As promise awakens in the sleeping land:
They carol, feast, give thanks,
And dearly love their friends,
And hope for peace.
And so do we, here, now,
This year and every year.
Welcome Yule!!



The Shortest Day

Susan Cooper

Illustrated by Carson Ellis

Based on Cooper's poem by the same name, this book has been illustrated for children. Ages 4-8.

Great resource for family reading!

**SHORT
STORY**

**READING
AHEAD**

Winter Reads

PHOTOS & SHORT TEXT

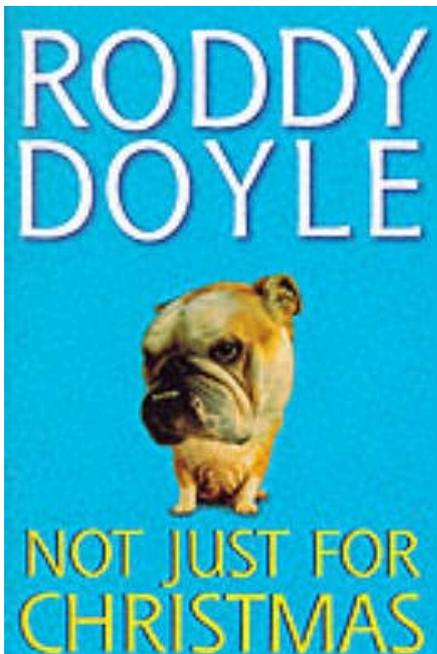


Shopping in Pictures (Pictures to Share)

Helen Bate

Entry level

Range of beautiful and powerful pictures and short texts.



Not Just for Christmas

Roddy Doyle

Entry 3

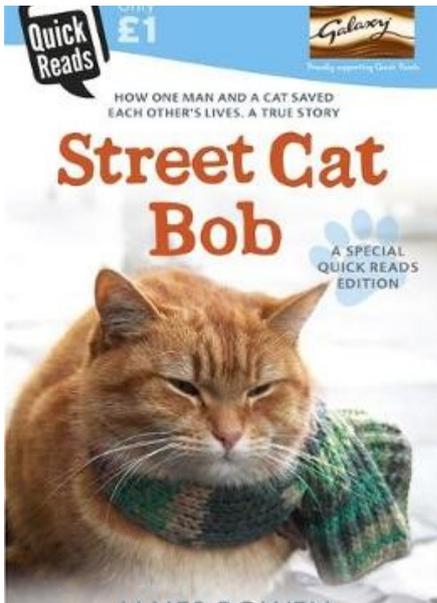
Two brothers look back on their lives, the good and the bad times. A heart-warming read, with a twist!

BOOK

**READING
AHEAD**

Winter Reads

BOOK

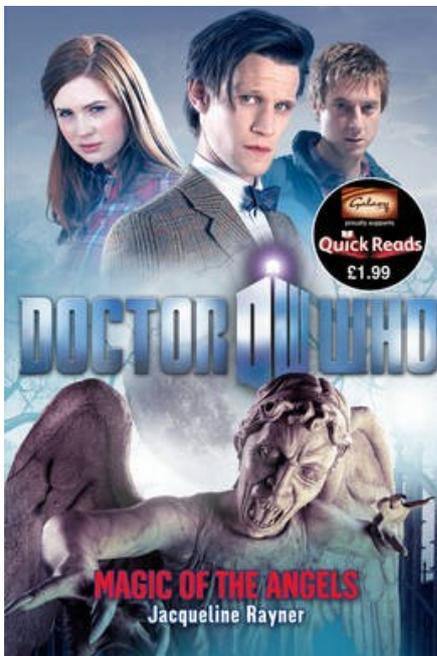


Street Cat Bob: How one man and a cat saved each other's lives. A true story. (Quick Reads)

James Bowen

Level 1

The uplifting true story of a man on the streets and his ginger tom cat. A special Quick Reads edition of A Street Cat Named Bob.



Doctor Who: Magic of the Angels (Quick Reads)

Jacqueline Rayner

Level 1

The Doctor, Amy and Rory round off a sight-seeing tour round London with a trip to the theatre. That's when things start to go wrong.

Winter Reads

Colin Jackson

Life's New Hurdles

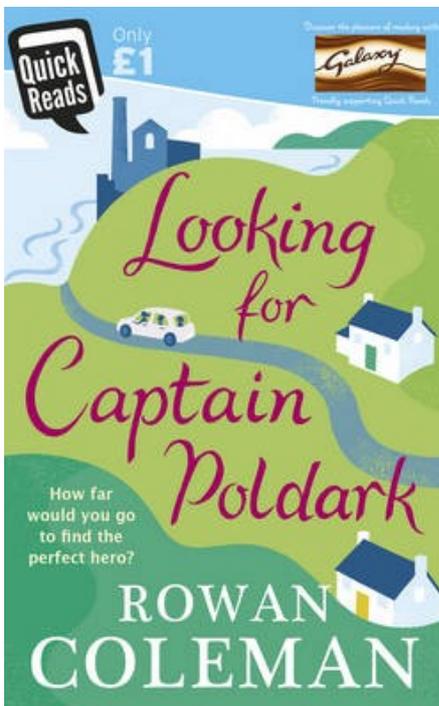


Life's New Hurdles (Quick Reads)

Colin Jackson, CBE

Level 1

Colin describes the shock of adjusting to the sudden change of retiring from athletics and the challenges and joys of starting a whole new life.



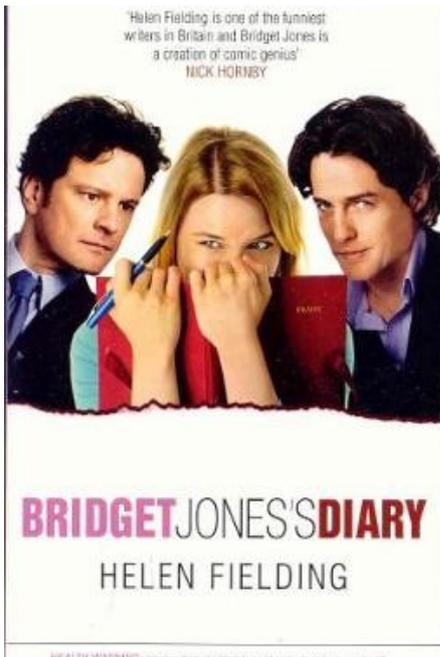
Looking for Captain Poldark (Quick Reads)

Rowan Coleman

Level 1

Four strangers, united by their shared love of POLDARK, come together on a trip to Cornwall in search of their hero...

Winter Reads

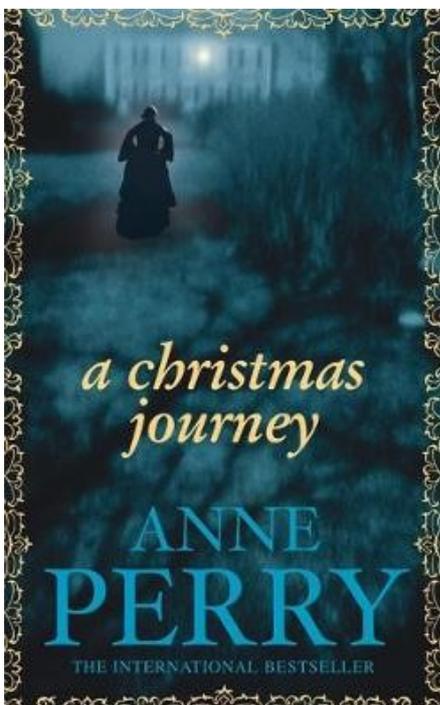


Bridget Jones's Diary: A Novel

Helen Fielding

Level 2

The world's most famous single woman - accompanied by a major film set at Christmas.



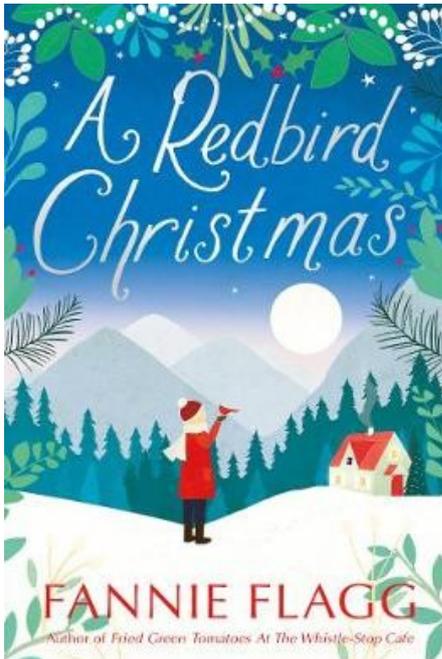
A Christmas Journey

Anne Perry

Level 2

A tranquil weekend party in early December at a magnificent country house is shattered by a mysterious death.

Winter Reads

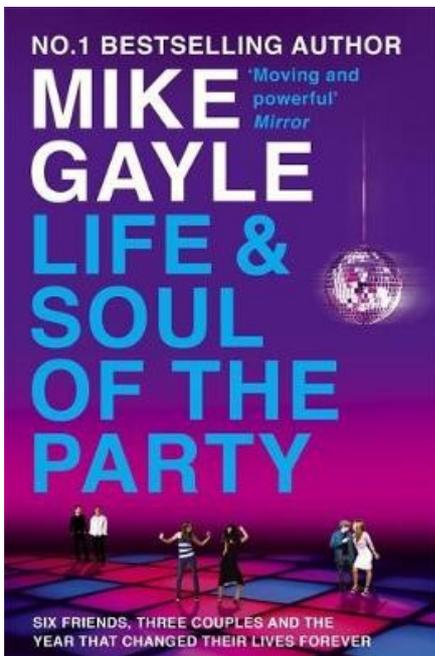


A Redbird Christmas

Fannie Flagg

Level 2

When Oswald finds out he hasn't long to live he moves South to Lost River, Alabama. There he meets a group of eccentric small town residents who become a big part of his life.



The Life and Soul of the Party

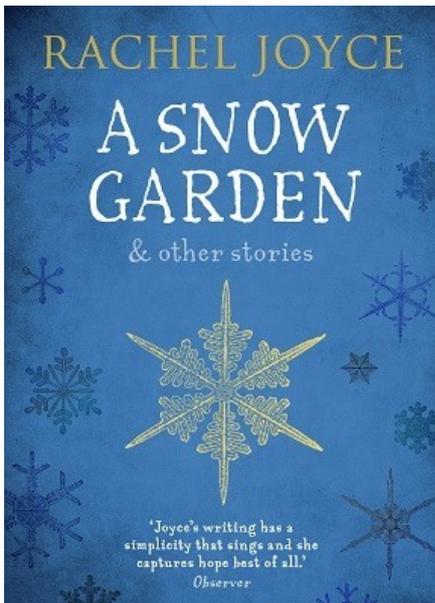
Mike Gayle

Level 2

A brilliant romantic comedy about a year in the lives of three couples.

Winter Reads

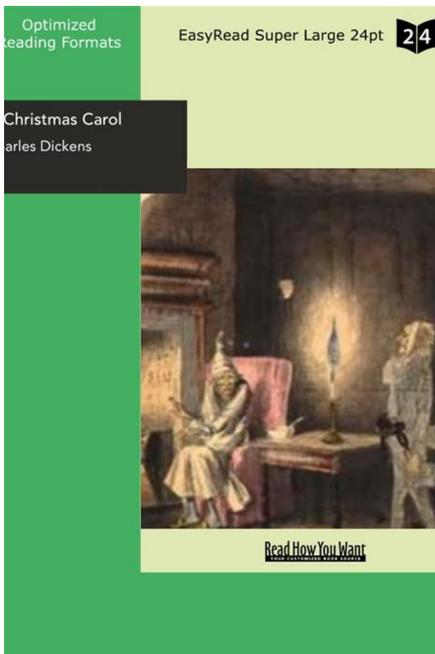
SHORT STORIES



A Snow Garden and Other Stories

Rachel Joyce
Short stories

Seven linked stories set in the Christmas holidays - all as funny, joyous, poignant and memorable as Christmas should be.



A Christmas Carol: [EasyRead Edition]

Charles Dickens
ReadHowYouWant.com
Paperback – Large Print

Classic English novel in an easy read format.

BOOK

**READING
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Winter Reads

Christmas ghost stories: Dark Christmas by Jeanette Winterson

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2013/dec/24/christmas-ghost-stories-dark-jeanette-winterson>



**SHORT
STORY**

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