World Book Night

Libraries Toolkit

Help us create a nation of readers this World Book Night.
Get involved with World Book Night

We're bringing people across the country together on 23 April for one reason—to inspire others to read more.

World Book Night is run by The Reading Agency, a UK charity with a mission to empower people of all ages to read. We want to get more people fired up about reading, because everything changes when you read.

Why is World Book Night important?

• 37% of adults in England don’t read for pleasure, and 16% of adults have literacy levels at or below those expected of an 11-year-old. For those adults, daily tasks such as reading a road sign, an energy bill or a letter from their doctor can be difficult

• 19% of readers that say that reading stops them from feeling lonely

• Adults who read for just 30 minutes a week are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction

• Reading for pleasure has a positive impact on skills needed for employment, higher earnings and an increased ability to understand online and health information

• Higher literacy skills are associated with having a stronger sense of belonging to society, and reading for pleasure enhances empathy and the ability to understand one's own and others' identities
The booklist

At the heart of World Book Night 2024 are Quick Reads, short books and great stories by bestselling authors, written in an accessible and easy-to-read style. The new 2024 series offers something for everyone, and we hope you enjoy discovering them when they’re published on 11 April.

Find out more about the books at worldbooknight.org/books

Using the booklist in your library

Quick Reads are available to purchase from library suppliers and can be used to make displays to celebrate their publication on 11 April and World Book Night on 23 April. Resources including posters and other promotional materials can be found at worldbooknight.org/resources

You can add previous Quick Reads titles to your display to provide people with lots of options of books to read.

Discussion guides are available here from 11 April for you to use Quick Reads with your book clubs.
How to celebrate

We want to create a nation of readers, so when planning your celebration, think about how you can reach new audiences who don't yet use the library.

- **Membership drive**
  Take a stall out into the local community or to a partner organisation to sign people up to the library for the first time.

- **Host an event**
  Organise a quiz night, murder mystery, storytelling session, or invite an author into your library.

- **Book clubs**
  Invite your book clubs in to meet each other and share their recommendations, creating a reading community.

- **Join in the #ReadingHour**
  Encourage people to dedicate time to reading from 7–8pm on 23 April and join in the conversation online.

Resources and materials

Download posters, bunting and digital assets from worldbooknight.org/resources to help decorate your library.
Sign up to the Road to Reading

A little reading can go a long way. It can connect us to others, spark curiosity, boost our self-esteem and support our mental health. That’s why, this World Book Night, we are inviting everyone to join the Road to Reading. Change your life, 30 minutes at a time! Sign up and pledge to read every week and see what a difference it makes.

Each week we’ll share advice, reading recommendations and more, while keeping an eye on your progress to help you along the way. Participants’ reading journeys will also form part of a national reading research project, helping us to transform the lives of more people across the UK.

The Road to Reading is for everyone to get involved with, so we invite you, your family, friends and colleagues to take part. It lasts 10 weeks, but is the start of a lifetime of regular reading.

Sign up at worldbooknight.org from 16 April.

“It’s made me realise that even though life is busy, there’s always a slither of time for reading. When you read, it helps calm your mood and put you in a brighter place.”

“I started the Road to Reading hoping to finish just 1 book - which seemed almost unachievable to me at the time...It's been such a joy, and I've actually now read 7 books since starting this and feel invigorated to start reading more.”
Let us know!

We want to hear how you celebrated! It's really important to us to hear what activity you did and who you reached. Keep an eye out for our evaluation surveys to share your story. We'd also love to share case studies of inspiring activity happening around the country.