

The Reading Agency September booklist for Adults **The Power of Reading (National Literacy Day 8th September 2021)**

To celebrate National Literacy Day on 8th September 2021, we have created a list of books perfect for less confident readers, people developing their literacy skills, and those looking for something short and sweet! There is a mix of fantastic fiction, engaging non-fiction, and snappy short stories, plus cookbooks and graphic novels.

***Boys Don't Cry* by Fiona Scarlett (Faber & Faber)**

ISBN: 9780571366071

They say boys don't cry. But Finn's seen his Da do it when he thinks no one's looking, so that's not true. And isn't it OK to be sad, when bad things happen? They say boys don't cry, but you might...

'I can't remember ever reading anything so moving . . . It's so beautiful.' Marian Keyes

***Would I Lie To You?* by Ali Aliya-Afzal (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781800245662

Tackling themes of class, race and social expectation with a wicked wit and warm heart, *Would I Lie to You?* finds a wife and mother prepared to do almost anything to preserve the lifestyle she has painstakingly built up.

***The Baby is Mine* by Oyinkan Braithwaite (Atlantic Books)**

ISBN: 9781838952563

When Bambi returns to his Uncle's house in lock-down Lagos, he is surprised to find his Auntie Bidemi sitting in a candlelit room with another woman. They both claim to be the mother of the baby boy, fast asleep in his crib. At night Bambi is kept awake by the baby's cries, and during the days he is disturbed by a cockerel that stalks the garden. There is sand in the rice. A blood stain appears on the wall. Someone scores tribal markings into the baby's cheeks. Who is lying and who is telling the truth?

***Beneath a Starless Sky* by Tessa Harris (HQ Stories)**

ISBN: 9780008400378

Lilli Sternberg longs to be a ballet dancer. But outside the sanctuary of the theatre, her beloved city is in chaos; the Nazi party are gaining in popularity and the threats to those who deviate from the party line are increasing. When Lilli meets Captain Marco Zeiller during a chance encounter, her heart soars. He is the perfect gentleman and her love for him feels like a bright hope under a bleak sky. But battle lines are being drawn, and Marco has been spotted by the Reich as an officer with great potential. Will Lilli be able to escape the threats facing her family, and how much is she willing to risk for the man she loves?

***Ruthless Women* by Melanie Blake (Head of Zeus)**

ISBN: 9781800243040

On a beautiful private island off the coast of the UK, the cast and crew of glamorous TV show *Falcon Bay* are at breaking point. Director Farrah, lead actress Catherine and producer Amanda are the passionate, ambitious women holding the show together. With so much at stake, they will stop at nothing to stay in the jobs they love and on the island they call home. Can these women team up to bring down their rivals? Or will scandal, betrayal and ambition tear them apart?

***The Handmaid's Tale: The Graphic Novel* by Margaret Atwood, illustrated by Renée Nault (Penguin Press)
ISBN: 9780224101936**

Provocative, startling, prophetic, and more relevant than ever, *The Handmaid's Tale* has become a global phenomenon. Now, in this stunning graphic novel edition of Margaret Atwood's modern classic, the terrifying reality of Gilead is brought to vivid life like never before.

***The Split* by Laura Kay (Quercus)
ISBN: 9781529409826**

Brutally dumped by her girlfriend, Ally is homeless, friendless and jobless. Back at her dad's in Sheffield, Ally is reunited with her friend of old, Jeremy. He too is broken-hearted and living at home again. In an inspired effort to hold each other up, the pair decide to sign up for the local half marathon in a bid to impress their exes. Given neither of them can run, they enlist the support of athletic, not to mention beautiful, Jo. But will she have them running for the hills... or will their ridiculous plan pay off...?

***How To Be a Woman (Quick Reads 2021)* by Caitlin Moran (Ebury)
ISBN: 9781529109092**

It's a good time to be a woman: we have the vote and the Pill, and we haven't been burnt as witches since 1727. But a few nagging questions remain... Why are we supposed to get Brazilians? Should we use Botox? Do men secretly hate us? And why does everyone ask you when you're going to have a baby? Part memoir, part protest, Caitlin answers the questions that every modern woman is asking.

***The Comfort Book* by Matt Haig (Canongate)
ISBN: 9781786898296**

The Comfort Book is a collection of consolations learned in hard times and suggestions for making the bad days better. Drawing on maxims, memoir and the inspirational lives of others, these meditations celebrate the ever-changing wonder of living. This is for when we need the wisdom of a friend or a reminder we can always nurture inner strength and hope, even in our busy world.

***Saving the Day (Quick Reads 2021)* by Katie Fforde (Cornerstone)
ISBN: 9781787466241**

Allie is bored with her job and starting to wonder whether she even likes her boyfriend, Ryan. The high point in her day is passing a cafe on her walk home from work. It is the sort of place where she'd really like to work. Then one day she sees an advert on the door: assistant wanted. But before she can land her dream job, Allie knows she must 1. Learn to cook and 2. End her relationship with Ryan, especially as through the window of the cafe, she spies a waiter who looks much more like her type of man...

***The Island Home* by Libby Page (Orion)
ISBN: 9781409188261**

Lorna's world is small but safe. She loves her daughter, and the two of them is all that matters. But after nearly twenty years, she and Ella are suddenly leaving London for the Isle of Kip, the tiny remote Scottish island where Lorna grew up. Alice's world is tiny but full. She loves the community on Kip, her yoga classes drawing women across the tiny island together. Now Lorna's arrival might help their family finally mend itself – even if forgiveness means returning to the past...

***The Motive (Quick Reads 2021)* by Khurrum Rahman (HQ Stories)**

ISBN: 9780008404444

A student house party means quick easy cash for small-time dope-dealer, Jay Qasim, but it also means breaking his own rules. But desperate times lead him there - and Jay finds himself in the middle of a crime scene. Idris Zaidi, a Police Constable and Jay's best friend, is having a quiet night when he gets a call. Fed up with the lack of excitement in his job, he visits the scene and quickly realises that people are in danger after a stabbing. Someone will stop at nothing to get revenge...

***An Extra Pair of Hands* by Kate Mosse (Wellcome Collection/Profile Books)**

ISBN: 9781788162616

As our population ages, more and more of us find ourselves caring for parents and loved ones. Here Kate Mosse tells her personal story of finding herself as a carer in middle age: first helping her mother look after her beloved father through Parkinson's, then supporting her mother in widowhood, and finally as "an extra pair of hands" for her 90-year-old mother-in-law. This is a story about the gentle heroism of our carers, about small everyday acts of tenderness, and finding joy in times of crisis. But most of all, it's a story about love.

***Wish You Were Dead (Quick Reads 2021)* by Peter James (Pan Macmillan)**

ISBN: 9781529041002

Roy Grace and his family have left Sussex behind for a week's holiday in France. But once they arrive, it soon becomes clear that their holiday nightmare is only just beginning. An old enemy of Roy, a lowlife criminal he had put behind bars, is now out of jail - and out for revenge. He knows where Roy and his family have gone on holiday. Of course he does. He's been hacking their emails - and they are in the perfect spot for him to pay Roy back...

***Second Helpings* by Liam Charles (Hodder & Stoughton)**

ISBN: 9781529303629 (e-book)

In this second helping of recipes from Channel 4's breakout star, Liam Charles shares 70 brand-new sweet and savoury recipes that are guaranteed to get you cooking! Whether you're having a cosy night in, going to a family get-together or hanging out with your mates, Liam has a taste-bud-tingling recipe for you.

***The Skylight (Quick Reads 2021)* by Louise Candlish (Simon & Schuster)**

ISBN: 9781471198410

Simone has a secret. She likes to stand at her bathroom window and spy on the couple downstairs through their kitchen skylight. She knows what they eat for breakfast and who they've got over for dinner. She knows what mood they're in before they even step out the door. There's nothing wrong with looking, is there? Until one day Simone sees something through the skylight she is not expecting. Something that upsets her so much she begins to plot a terrible crime...

***Voices: An Open Door Book of Stories* edited by Patricia Scanlan (New Island Books)**

ISBN: 9781848407824

Since 1998, Open Door has been introducing readers new and old to some of Ireland's finest writers. In this collection of stories, they have gathered a range of voices to suit every taste. With themes ranging from family and friendship to ageing, love and childhood, there is something for everyone.



***Sorry For Your Trouble* by Richard Ford (Bloomsbury)**

ISBN: 9781526620057

A woman and man, parted a quarter of a century, reunite in a bar as the St Patrick's Day parade goes by. A group of friends reunite for dinner when one of their number loses her husband, but the gathering splinters when bitter revelations about their shared past emerge. Two teenage boys sit in a drive-in, the air thick with the scent of gin and popcorn and longing. A visionary collection of luminous stories, imprinting landscape, and great moments in small lives – and of the people we carry with us long after they are.