

News from The Reading Agency



Summer Reading Challenge conference

We are in countdown to the Summer Reading Challenge conference on 13 November at the British Library. If you are a senior librarian, literacy adviser or have a strategic role for children within a local authority please come along to help shape the Challenge's future. We are delighted that Alan Yentob, Creative Director of the BBC, will round off the conference by exploring the importance of the Challenge as a flagship national model of creative activity for children. Look forward to seeing you there. [Please book here.](#)



Six Book Challenge

Through the Six Book Challenge we can change people's lives by helping adults tackle their literacy problems. Libraries, workplaces, prisons and adult literacy tutors are signing up to help the adults they work with to take up the Six Book Challenge 2010. Join our new interactive blogging [website](#) and sign up now at our [Shop](#).

"Once I had finished the Six Book Challenge, I felt great and I was ready to try reading different kinds of books. I feel I can understand people better now and I can express myself more easily because I know more words. Being able to read has really boosted my confidence and I feel good about myself." **Luke Brazil** is a student at Treloar College, which supports students with complex physical disabilities. Luke did the Six Book Challenge in 2009.

Chatterbooks

At a vibrant event last week the British Council launched Connecting Classrooms: Chatterbooks. This is our new partnership which will take Chatterbooks reading groups for children aged four to twelve overseas. Through this partnership in 2009 to 2010 Chatterbooks will be used in 14 schools in the UK and in Ghana, China, Egypt and Pakistan. We are also encouraging libraries and schools library services to use Chatterbooks in UK schools to help children explore the world through reading. This is particularly relevant to the national curriculum's new emphasis on



global issues. [Read more](#) or [buy](#) Chatterbooks packs and resources.

Booktrust Teenage Prize reading guides

The new reading guides we have produced to support the Booktrust Teenage Prize are now available to [download](#) for FREE. We will also have blogs and features on the shortlisted authors on www.grouphing.org. If you're not yet a grouphing subscriber, try it! Look on our [Shop](#).

More4/Channel 4 promotional materials

We are pleased to announce an exciting new promotion for the New More4/Channel 4 Book Club (official title TBA). From the team behind the hugely successful Richard & Judy Book Club comes a brand-new book show which will be broadcast on More4 and Channel 4 from January 2010. The series will run for 10 weeks and each episode will be 30-minutes long. Libraries can order promotional materials from our [Shop](#). **Order deadline 23 November 2009.**

Reading for pleasure with Entry Level learners

We're delighted that we have funding from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation to do a study into using reading for pleasure with Entry Level learners. Our aim is to involve tutors, library staff and learners and come up with a model for injecting new approaches and materials into regular teaching practice for this audience. This will involve action research in three locations (Warrington, Hampshire and the London Borough of Brent), followed by two expert seminars. Let genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk know what materials, printed and online, have worked for you when working in this field.

Festival of Learning

Throughout October we've been supporting, in partnership with the MLA, the government's Festival of Learning to showcase how important libraries, museums and archives are to informal adult learning. We running writing workshops called Celebrating Real Lives that link to the BBC's My Story campaign and encourage people to contribute true stories to www.bbc.co.uk/mystory. Some of our [Reading Detectives](#) events have been filmed for the Festival and employees at Fox's Biscuits met Accent Press's Quick Reads author Lindsay Ashford at the opening of their new learning centre.



The Big Secret

In partnership with the National and the North West Youth Libraries Board and based on the National Libraries Youth Offer, we have been getting young people to set out what libraries have to offer and how young people can get involved. They have called this campaign The Big Secret and have been developing its visual identity and making web videos. Find The Big Secret on grouphing from January 2010 at www.grouphing.org/thebigsecret.

Geekcamp

We ran our first Geekcamp event at Free Word on 28 October. People from different backgrounds gathered together to talk about 'geek' things. Conversations covered everything from what makes people use a network to whether we are more or less liberated by online personas. We are hoping to arrange more events in the future. In the meantime the [twitter](#) hashtag is #geekcamp1

Nominated for a Children's Book Circle award

We are very happy to have been nominated for Eleanor Farjeon Award by the [Children's Book Circle](#). Winners announced on 17 November at an event at Penguin.

Training

Our autumn training programme delivers a mixture of strategic support and support to run specific projects. [Book now](#) to secure a place.

Championing reading - involving volunteers in reading groups

Thursday 5 November CILIP, London and Thursday 11 February 2010, York Central Library

Running the Six Book Challenge

Tuesday 10 November, CILIP, London and Tuesday 24 November, Priory Street Centre, York

Chatterbooks training for schools library services

Tuesday 17 November, FreeWord, London

Chatterbooks training for public library services

Thursday 19 November, RIBA, London

Jobs at The Reading Agency

We are currently looking for a [part-time PA](#) for our director, 18 hours a week based in FreeWord or at home in Winchester area.

Look out for...

Our new reading groups project for adult learners **Chatabout**. More information in next month's newsletter.

Keeping in touch

For information about all our projects and resources visit the [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and tell us what you think at the [discussion forum](#).

To unsubscribe [click here](#) or send an email to reading.agency@readingagency.org.uk

read - The Reading Agency Ltd PO Box 96, St. Albans, Hertfordshire AL1 3WP

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Registered Office c/o CW Fellowes, Templars House, Lulworth Close, Chandlers Ford, Hampshire SO53 3TL

