

The Reading Agency presents

**World  
Book Night**  
**23 April 2020**

## Libraries Toolkit

- Get involved in World Book Night
- The booklist
- How to celebrate
- Social media

# Get involved in World Book Night

We're so excited that you want to join in with World Book Night 2020! This toolkit has lots of ideas to help you and your library users to get involved at home.

## ● What is World Book Night?

World Book Night is the annual celebration of books and reading that takes place on 23 April. People from all backgrounds are brought together for one reason – to inspire others to read more. The best part about it is that everyone can get involved! Whether you read a lot or don't know when you last picked a book up, you can join in the celebration in so many different ways!

## ● Why is World Book Night important?

World Book Night is run by The Reading Agency, a UK-wide charity that tackles life's big challenges through the proven power of reading. In England, 31% of adults don't read for pleasure, rising to 46% of young people (aged 16 to 24). We know that reading for pleasure is linked to fewer feelings of stress and depression, better sleeping patterns and improved literacy.

While many of us are working from home, self-isolating and social distancing, reading has an important role to play in keeping us connected to others and looking after our mental health. 19% of readers say that reading stops them from feeling lonely, and adults who read for just 30 minutes a week are 20% more likely to report greater life satisfaction.

# The Booklist

- Every year, we work closely with publishers to put together a list of books that encourage and inspire everyone to read. What we look for is simple – good, enjoyable and engaging books. We include a variety of genres: fiction and non-fiction as well as books aimed at young adults.
- All books are in-print and available to borrow from public libraries or buy from retailers. Most titles are also available in digital format, as e-books or audiobooks, so make sure that you have copies of the books available on your digital platforms to encourage people to sign up and borrow.
- Find out more about the booklist at [worldbooknight.org](http://worldbooknight.org)

**“When I was a little girl reading by torchlight under the bedcovers, I couldn’t possibly have imagined how books would change my life. So to have *The Salt Path* chosen for World Book Night is quite magical, I’m very proud to add my written words to the millions of others tonight and watch their transformative power change more lives.”**

Raynor Winn, World Book Night 2020 author



# How to celebrate

There are so many different ways that you can celebrate World Book Night from your home. We've provided some ideas here, but you can do anything you want to celebrate books. Share your ideas with us on social media or by email, we'd love to hear from you!

If your library's plans for World Book Night have changed, select the options that you think would work best for your users and send them in an email or on social media.

We love seeing how people are celebrating World Book Night, so make sure you post photos on social media using #WorldBookNight.

## ● #ReadingHour

Join us for our Reading Hour from 7-8pm on 23 April. What do you need to do to participate? Just read a book! Whether you're reading to yourself, reading to children before going to bed, or listening to an audiobook as you prepare your dinner, we want you to spend this hour with a book. Take a photo and share it on social media using #ReadingHour to see what others are reading and join in the celebration.

You can also spend this time sharing the joy of reading with others – why not call a friend and ask what they've been reading, or hold your reading group meeting at this time?



## ● Sign up new members

Your library users already know about all the wonderful things you offer, so encourage them to use World Book Night to introduce someone else to the library. Share your sign-up page online, ask your users to share it and tag friends who aren't library members.

## ● Hold a virtual party

Who doesn't like a book-themed event? You may not be able to celebrate in-person, but there are lots of ways that you can come together online.

Use apps like Zoom, Houseparty, Google Hangouts, Skype and Facetime to set up a video chat with other people for a virtual party.



- Ask everyone who joins in to share their top book recommendation
- If any of your guests are budding writers, ask them to bring an extract of their work along for a storytelling session
- Everyone loves a pub quiz, so host a quiz with some special bookish rounds
- Organise a murder mystery and find out if any of your guests are better than Miss Marple or Poirot
- Ask everyone to dress up as their favourite character from a book

## ● Celebrate with your reading groups

Did you know that being part of a reading group is linked to relaxation, better quality of life and feelings of shared community and common purpose? Many people find that being part of a reading group gives them more motivation to read, as well as a perfect reason to regularly see friends.

If you want to join a reading group near you or a virtual group online, you can find one on [Reading Groups for Everyone](#). Get your group together on 23 April using our [suggestions](#) of different online methods to have a special World Book Night meeting.

## ● Run a competition in your organisation

Encourage your users to get creative and competitive by running a competition! We have a few ideas for you, but be as imaginative as you like:

- Provide the first part of a story for people to continue in 500 words
- Get artistic by redesigning the cover of one of the books on the World Book Night booklist – through drawing, using digital methods, or using items from around the house
- Ask everyone to write a poem
- Create a book nook or reading space.

## ● Social media

There will be lots happening on World Book Night and The Reading Agency social media on 23 April. Tag us in your posts using @WorldBookNight, @readingagency and #WorldBookNight, we'd love to see what you're doing!

Social media assets are available in our [Dropbox folder](#).

Make sure you also check out more ideas in [The Reading Agency Stay Connected toolkit](#) and hub for lots of free resources for adults and children!

**“Our own world can be so many things in a day. From perfect to terrifying to undeniably impossible to understand. Escaping that, to tuck your mind into other worlds is a luxury everyone deserves. And sometimes, if we’re lucky, we can pull some more sense back into ours.”**

Sophia Thakur, World Book Night 2020 author