

Welcome to the Lockdown Library!



Students

Why should I read in lockdown?

Escapism and distraction:

It is a great way to completely block out any worries or anxieties about the current situation, and a chance to lose yourself in a different time, world, universe or reality. Education research consistently tells us that reading regularly improves health and well-being as it reduces stress, fights depression, lowers blood pressure and heart rate as well as helps you get a good night's sleep.

Reflection:

Literature is all about what it means to be human. Books can often teach us things about ourselves, allow us to see that our worries or anxieties are not just ours, and offer us advice about the complex business of our lives. Education research consistently tells us that reading regularly empowers you to empathize with others.

To keep practising an important skill:

Like anything, the more you practise reading, the better you get at it! Reading is a crucial and important skill to help boost children's attainment. Education research consistently tells us that children who read regularly outside of school have an increased chance of achieving and succeeding in school as it increases your vocabulary and comprehension.

Brain development:

Reading literally changes your mind! Research proves that reading regularly improves brain connectivity and prevents cognitive decline.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What should I read?

Whatever you like! Old favourites, graphic novels, non-fiction – this is reading for pleasure and you just need to keep the habit going. If you want to challenge yourself and read something a little bit different, check out the reading lists – and see if it's going cheap on Kindle or Amazon! If you read something over 100 years old, it is often available on the internet as it'll be out of copyright.

I haven't got much choice at home – where can I get books from?

There are lots of online resources out there that you can access for free.

- [Audible books for children](#).
- <http://www.researchify.co.uk/audiobooks.html> – includes 6 free children's classics as PDF and word docs, with accompanying audio books: Alice in Wonderland, Wind in the Willows, The Railway Children, The Jungle Book, Peter Pan, Black Beauty
- 50,000+ free eBooks - [Manybooks](#)
- Free books from [Barrington Stoke](#). This publisher provides lots of Dyslexia friendly books.
- [Many online children's e-books](#) including non –fiction.
- David Walliams reads his stories [here](#).
- A [huge selection of comics and graphic novels](#) and also [here](#).
- Free eBooks for teens - [goodreads.com](#).
- Some free classic stories and others on Kindle App (more options if you have Amazon Prime) - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/kindle-dbs/fd/kcp>
- [Free audiobooks for teens 13+](#).
- Tom Palmer, known for his hugely popular football fiction (sometimes linked to war) has multiple free reads on his site <https://tompalmer.co.uk/free-reads/>. He also has engaging and helpful videos to support creative writing: <https://tompalmer.co.uk/writing-tips/>. In addition, he has a YouTube channel where he reads aloud extracts and offers tips. Palmer's new book, *After the War*, is about children who survived the Holocaust and who started a new life in the Lake District. It is well-researched, and he has multiple resources linked to Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January: <https://tompalmer.co.uk/holocaust-memorialday-resources-and-competition/>.
- The Oak National Academy has just started giving free access to a children's book each week: <https://library.thenational.academy/>.
- Year 7: All students in Year 7 are subscribed to [Renaissance myON® Reader](#) so they are able to access our Accelerated Reader provision this

year. Renaissance myON® Reader is a student-centered, personalized digital library that gives students access to more than 6,000 enhanced digital books.

- Year 7: Free eBook library for year 7 students - [Oxford Owl](#)

I find it hard to concentrate and get into a book!

You don't have to read it all at once. Start with 10 minutes, and give yourself a reward after. Forming a habit involves having a cue and a reward. The cue might be finding somewhere comfortable and quiet and going there specifically to read, or making yourself a drink or a snack to have while you're reading. You could set a challenge for yourself to read a certain number of pages – it's really good to feel like you've achieved a goal and it'll make you more likely to want to do it again! If you are still struggling to read, you can choose an [audiobook](#) instead.

I don't know what to choose.

There are lots of recommended reading lists on the [World Book Day](#) website. The reading lists are separated into different genres so there is something for everyone! Try one genre and if you like it then you've found a style of literature you enjoy. If you don't like it then just try a different genre until you find the one for you.

I find it hard to finish a long book.

Try these mystery shorter reads:

- [A fable](#)
- [Problem with no solution?](#)
- [A ghost story](#)
- [A grisly horror story](#)
- [A creepy twist on a lottery story](#)

I'd like to get ready for GCSE Literature – what can I read?

- [Macbeth – Shakespeare](#)
- [An Inspector Calls – JB Priestley](#)
- [Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson](#)