



the reader
organisation

Join the Reading Revolution



Who We Are

The Reader Organisation aims to bring about a **Reading Revolution** – making it possible for people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to enjoy and engage with books on a deep and personal level. We are a national charity, aiming to improve well-being and build community through shared reading. Our work is driven by the heartfelt belief that ‘literacy’ is not just the ability to read, but the state of being a reader – our Reading Revolution exists to make great books accessible to all.

What We Do

Get Into Reading is our innovative social outreach project, which delivers over 190 community *read aloud* weekly reading groups, mainly in Merseyside and London. With the development of **Read to Lead Training** it’s spreading across the UK, with groups in Durham, East Lancashire, Essex, Salford and the South West. Groups meet in community centres, libraries, homeless shelters, schools, hospitals, offices, doctors’ surgeries, drug rehab units and care homes to enjoy reading together.

“It’s like a door has opened and the light has come in” GIR member

What’s different about these groups is that short stories, novels and poems are *read aloud* by one of our trained facilitators (members can choose to join in, but there’s no pressure to). This provides immediate engagement with the text, which is enriched by the spontaneous sharing of life stories and experiences as confidence builds over time. The groups meet week-in-week-out, providing valuable structure and support. Both of these elements are integral to the success of **Get Into Reading**.

“I read about other people, but learn about myself.” GIR member

“Before I started this group, I can honestly say I’d only read the stuff on the back of sauce bottles.” GIR member

“Reading aloud, or listening to someone read aloud, is a relationship-building shared experience.” Professor Louis Appleby, NHS Director for Mental Health

Research is a growing area of our work that supports our outreach programmes and helps build a sound basis for our belief that reading can be beneficial for everyone. We are currently working with the Schools of English and Medicine at the University of Liverpool, Mersey Care NHS Trust, Liverpool Primary Care Trust and Liverpool City Council to formally evaluate the increasing anecdotal evidence of its therapeutic efficacy.

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