



READING *Newsletter*

Summer: the perfect excuse to relax, rest and read



The 6-week holidays are now only days away and for many of us, this means we will finally have the time to indulge our hobbies and passions, both new and old. And, as proud northerners, we know that the weather won't always be kind to us: days out, countryside adventures and beach fun might very well be rained off so we have to be prepared for some exciting indoor activities. Helping your young people to enjoy reading can sometimes feel like an uphill battle but we're here to give you a whole summer's worth of interesting, interactive ideas to keep your families reading, learning and smiling.

Get ready for the Summer

Reading Challenge!

Do your kids love a challenge? Can you make the most of some good, old-fashioned sibling rivalry and set some goals for brother vs sister? This year, a great website has been set up to help young people keep track of the books they've read and get fantastic recommendations from other young people on the best books to read. The website www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk allows young people to register for free and add completed books to their profile; the best bit is that everyone reviews the books they've read so you're much more likely to find books that interest you. Help your young people become part of an amazing online community and smash their reading targets over the summer holidays.



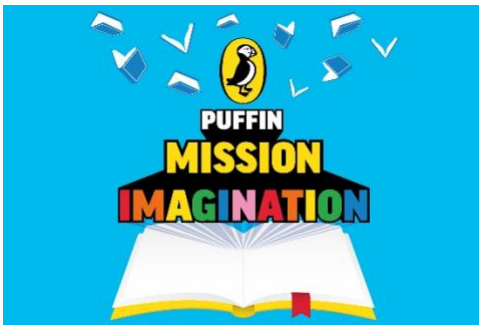
An afternoon in a literary wonderland

When the weather is kind to us, there's no better place to enjoy the outdoors than the north east. And who doesn't love a picnic? This summer, get inspired by your favourite book and plan a themed afternoon tea. Re-create the Mad Hatter's tea party with iced tea and tasty sandwiches, channel Beatrix Potter and get a bit fancy with chamomile mousse and vegetable patch sandwiches or a bunny's favourite of carrot cake. Bring

Phileas Fogg to life with snacks from around the world or pay tribute to Jane Austen with scones, cream and jam. Whatever book you pick, share your love for the story with your nearest and dearest – maybe take the book with you and enjoy some reading out loud.



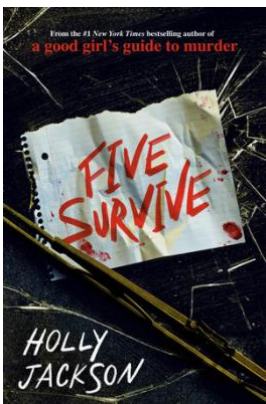
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Tip of the month – Brighten up long journeys with a podcast

Some amazing memories can be made on family trips, whether it's across counties or countries, and yet many an argument has been had when trying to choose what to listen to. Your music, their music, no music...it's a minefield! So Penguin books have launched the Puffin Podcast - www.penguin.co.uk/puffin/puffin-podcast - where young people journey to the outer realms of imagination. So, get ready for your next travel adventure with the new series of the 'Puffin Podcast: Mission Imagination' and make 'carguments' a thing of the past.

Recommended Reads



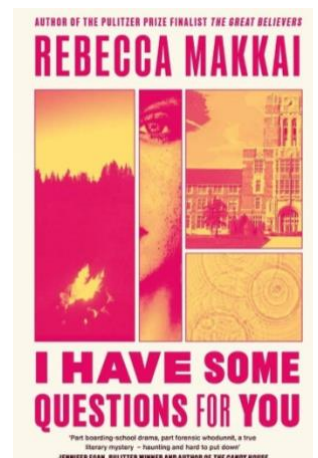
Five Survive by Holly Jackson

Red Kenny and her five friends are ready for the ultimate spring break road trip! Suddenly, their RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere, in the middle of the night, with no cell service available. Eight hours later, one of them is dead. Holly Jackson gives us another nail-biting, gripping, skillfully constructed thriller for true crime and mystery lovers.

(And for the grown-ups)

I have some questions for you by Rebecca Makkai

When a student in her class revisits the 1995 murder of Bodie's old roommate Thalia Keith for a podcast, new questions are opened about the case and the alleged wrongful conviction of Omar Evans. As well as exploring heavy topics such as the racial and class injustices of the American judicial system, cancel culture and grooming, Makkai balances the novel with teenage angst, school crushes and enduring friendships.



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