Reading Hack does #LoveToRead

Practitioner Guide

This guide includes all you need to involve young people in the **BBC LovetoRead** campaign. In the two weeks leading up to the weekend (from 24 October to 6 November) we want to get young people in libraries to read and share the books they love. They can do this either as volunteers supporting existing library programming, or by taking part in three new Reading Hack activities developed with young people. We're calling this young people's activity **Reading Hack does #LoveToRead.** You and your young volunteers can join in online by tagging @ReadingHackers and using the hashtag #LoveToRead in all your twitter and instagram posts.

Reading Hack is a programme led by young people aged 13 to 24 who do reading activities and volunteering, called hacks, to gain skills and experience. A 'hack' is an activity or volunteering experience with reading at its heart.

How can you involve young people in Reading Hack Does #LoveToRead?

This is a fantastic opportunity to continue working with the young volunteers you recruited over the summer, and to attract new young people into the library during the October half-term and #LoveToRead weekend.

Reading Hack volunteering

The easiest way for you to involve young people is to include them as volunteers to support existing library programming during the fortnight – young people are always looking for volunteering opportunities to put on their CV. They might help out at a Storytime session, plan a children's event for half-term or create a spooky display for Halloween. You can create roles based on the needs of your library, or use and adapt the volunteer role descriptions in this toolkit.

Reading Hack activities

We've worked closely with young people to create three new hacks for #LoveToRead. These are to encourage young people to share the books they love within the local community and on social media using @ReadingHackers and #LovetoRead.

Hack in Six – Use six of something – words, emojis, photos – to describe the plot of a book.

SceneHack – Rewrite a scene from a book as a short film.

Recommended Reads – Recommend a book that promotes wellbeing.

You will find more information about these hacks in the hack activity sheets included in this toolkit – use them with existing groups or give them out in the library.

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Practitioner Guide (continued)

What to do now?

Now you've received this toolkit, you should start planning your activity.

- Review half-term or other activities you have already programmed for the fortnight, such as gaming days, storytime or Halloween events.
- Consider how young people could act as volunteers to organise or promote activities.
- Get in touch with Reading Hackers who volunteered for the Summer Reading Challenge, or who are part of regular library groups.
- Advertise the opportunity with local secondary schools, community groups, and on social media.
- Put up volunteer recruitment and event posters – you will find Reading Hack poster templates on www.readingagency.org.uk/resources.
- Think about how you can use the three hack activities included in this guide in your library – pass them on to your young volunteers and existing groups to try, or ask your young volunteers to organise an event based around them to attract more young people.
- Encourage young people to use the @Reading Hackers and #LovetoRead tags to tie all the activity into the national BBC campaign.

The Reading Hack website: www.readinghack.org.uk

Young people can use the Reading Hack website (www.readinghack.org.uk) to record their volunteering hours, activities and new hack ideas and download a skills letter outlining their achievements. The Reading Hack website also has funding opportunities, competitions and exclusive author interviews and blog posts. Young people should create a Reading Hack profile, then join the hacks they've taken part in. Share the website guide sheet included in this toolkit with young people to help them get started.

Where can you find more information?

Visit www.readingagency.org.uk to find out more about Reading Hack does #LoveToRead. For advice and information on working with young people, plus free downloadable posters and certificates visit: https://readingagency.org.uk/resources.

Join in the online conversation and share what young people have done in your library on social media. Tag @ReadingHackers and use the hashtag #LoveToRead in all your posts.

For more information please email megan.graham@readingagency.org.uk