

May 2025

Story Garden – Summer Reading Challenge 2025

The **Summer Reading Challenge** is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year's Challenge is called **Story Garden – Adventures in Nature and the Great Outdoors**. This exciting new theme will inspire children to tap into a world of imagination through reading, exploring the magical connection between storytelling and nature.

The challenge will run from **Friday 18th July until Saturday 6th September**.

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about nature and the Great Outdoors. From planting seeds, encouraging outdoor play, and exploring wildlife - children will be able to find books linked to all of these wonderful themes and more.



The Challenge:

- Children must be members of the library service. **Join the library** [here](#) or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read any six library books or more during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our Libby and BorrowBox apps. [More about e-resources](#)
- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer, from **Friday 18th July**.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books; there are also some other prizes to collect along the way!
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £50 voucher for The Works, to buy arts, crafts and books.



Struggle with reading?

We can help!

- For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- The Libby app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size, we also have children's large print books available in some of our libraries.
- Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of [older picture books](#) for young readers.
- Get hooked on [graphic novels](#) (comic style books). Learning to read?
- Select from beginning to read (green spots) or short chapter books (red spots).
- Booklists with lots of ideas available on our Virtual Library [Books and Reading - Children and Teenagers Pages](#)
- Some children prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with Libby or BorrowBox apps.

Contact your library...

Ampthill Library: 0300 300 8053 Ampthill.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Arlesey Resource Centre: 01462 731469 enquiries@arleseyresourcecentre.org.uk

Barton Library: 0300 300 8054 Barton.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Biggleswade Library: 0300 300 8055 Biggleswade.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Dunstable Library: 0300 300 8056 Dunstable.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Flitwick Library: 0300 300 8057 Flitwick.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Houghton Regis Library: 0300 300 5058 HoughtonRegis.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Leighton Buzzard Library: 0300 300 8059 LeightonBuzzard.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Potton Library: 0300 300 8063 Potton.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Sandy Library: 0300 300 8065 Sandy.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Shefford Library: 0300 300 8067 Shefford.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Stotfold Library: 0300 300 8068 Stotfold.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Toddington Library: 0300 300 8069 Toddington.Library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk