

Secondary library network meeting

Professional updates for Spring Term 2025

Interesting articles

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jan/06/of-mice-and-men-steinbeck-syllabus-gcse-wales-culture-war>

Would you drop Of Mice and Men from the exam syllabus? The book will no longer be studied at GCSE in Wales because many find the racial slurs upsetting.

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/694586/New-report-highlights-the-broken-eBook-market-and-makes-a-series-of-recommendations-to-fix-it.htm>

Research unveils restrictive eBook access is limiting the transformative potential of libraries, cutting off access to scientific knowledge, research, innovation, and opportunity for economic growth.

https://ukla.org/reading-for-pleasure/reading-for-pleasure-quality-mark/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=reading_for_pleasure_news_january&utm_term=2025-01-26

Each year, the Reading for Pleasure Quality Mark has an introductory launch event, where schools can find out more about what the QM entails and receive guidance on whether it is something they would like to be part of. The next launch event is on the 25 March 2025.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2025/feb/25/audiobooks-england-new-schools-curriculum-reading-national-literacy-trust-poll>

The government has been urged to include audiobooks in the new schools curriculum in England, after research showed fewer children were reading books for pleasure and more were listening to them instead.

<https://ourfp.org/publications/blog/verse-for-the-voracious-reader/>

Verse for the Voracious Reader – OU RFP blog post by Alison King

<https://readingagency.org.uk/what-reading-animal-are-you/>

Have you ever wondered what animal you would be as a reader? Take our reading quiz to give you an idea.

Resources and booklists

<https://empathylab.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Read-for-Empathy-12-16-Guide-2025.pdf>

EmpathyLab has produced a #ReadforEmpathy book collection, with accompanying book guides, annually since 2017. Each title in the collection has been chosen by a panel of judges to do a specific empathy-building job.

Events and webinars

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/events/webinar-empathy-day-festival-jump-someone-elses-story>

In 2025 Empathy Day is changing. This year there will be a 10 day festival from 2 June, culminating on Empathy Day itself on 12 June. Public libraries and schools are invited to join in in as much or as little as capacity allows. Join this webinar on Tuesday 8 April to find out more and start planning library service participation in Empathy Day Festival 2025.

https://www.sla.org.uk/Public/Event_Display.aspx?EventKey=FWEB260325 Free SLA Empathy Day Webinar 26 March 2025.

<https://readingagency.org.uk/the-summer-reading-challenge-2025-story-garden-takes-reading-to-the-great-outdoors/>

The Story Garden Summer Reading Challenge launches on Saturday 5 July 2025 in England and Wales. It's free to take part and children can sign up at their local library or online.

Awards and shortlists

<https://foyleyoungpoets.org/>

The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2025 is now open for entries and this year will be judged by the fantastic Colette Bryce and Will Harris.

<https://www.sla.org.uk/Services/Public/About-Us/Awards-Pages/Information-Book-Award.aspx>

The Information Book Award is an annual event, now in its fourteenth year, and was a major development for information books. It has been designed to support school libraries and to reinforce the importance of non-fiction whilst highlighting the high standard of resources available.

Applications for this year's book club will open on 24th April 2025.

<https://www.klausfluggeprize.co.uk/longlist-2025/>

The longlist has been announced for the 2025 Klaus Flugge Prize. The tenth anniversary of the prize celebrating the most exciting newcomers to picture book illustration.

<https://www.thebookseller.com/the-british-book-awards/the-british-book-awards/the-british-book-awards-2025>

The 2025 British Book Awards Books of the Year shortlists have been announced. Now in its 35th year, the 'Nibbies' showcases the very finest fiction, non-fiction and children's literature, from compelling page-turners to insightful memoir and beyond.

The winners will be announced on Monday 12 May.

<https://www.waterstones.com/the-waterstones-childrens-book-prize#older>

The category winners and overall winner will be announced at a special ceremony on the evening of Thursday 27 March.

With thanks to ASCEL for many of the news articles