



Professional updates: Summer 2025

Interesting articles and reports

[HCCB Farshore Insight Paper](#) This paper from Farshore shows that children need a lot of help, both at home and at school, to get a reading habit and that reading aloud very effectively encourages children to read independently through positive associations and no pressure.

[Social-Reading-Spaces-2025.pdf](#) Discover the findings from a book club trial for disengaged readers.

[OpenAI's metafictional short story about grief is beautiful and moving | Books | The Guardian](#) Jeanette Winterson on AI as Alternative Intelligence and why we should embrace reading fiction created by AI.

Internet Resources and webinars

[Empathy Day Festival 2025 – EmpathyLabUK](#) Empathy Day webinars and author interviews will be available until 12 July 2025

[Free Summer Reading with First News - First News](#) award-winning newspaper written specifically for young people aged 7-14 comes with a FREE digital subscription for every pupil over the summer holidays. Subscribe before the end of term to take advantage of the First News Summer Reading Scheme to help combat the summer reading dip.

[CILIP-If it's worth doing, it's worth doing badly](#) Extracts and highlights from the book [Practical Tips for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in Libraries](#) by Beth Montague-Hellen. Full book, designed as a practical handbook of small wins, is available from Amazon for £40.07 or Kindle version for £32.

[Joining a TRG in 2025-26](#) would you like to join one of the 110+ OU/ UKLA Teachers' Reading Groups in 2025-26? If so, [complete the contact form](#) and a member of the OU RfP team will connect you with your local leader. Teachers, leaders, librarians and others with a keen interest in RfP are always welcome.

[The World of Graphic Novels](#), the National Literacy Trust's autumn Reading Champions Challenge for pupils aged 7-14. Free resources to support the challenge.

Books and resources for transition

[Books for Topics](#) Find recommended reads for preparing for the transition to secondary school from primary book recommendation site Books for Topics.

[Book Trust](#) has a list of recommended reads to prepare young people for the transition to secondary school.

Librarian and Just Imagine book reviewer Roy James shares his [top transition texts](#) to help Year 6 pupils navigate the ups and downs of moving up to secondary school with more recommendations available in the [Secondary Transition](#) collection.

[Mentally Healthy Schools](#) is a mental health information and resource hub for primary and secondary schools. It offers access to a range of resources to support transition across all ages.

[Five top tips](#) for pupils moving up to secondary schools from Christian Foley, former teacher, poet and author of *Moving Up: How to Ace Secondary School*.

LGBT+ charity Just Like Us offers free resources to support LGBT+ pupils through transition as part of [School Diversity Week](#). All resources are free to download with registration.

[Moving Up!](#) provides a short animation and free teacher toolkit that explores common fears and potential solutions for pupils about to move or newly arrived at secondary school.

The BBC, in partnership with mental health charity Young Minds, has created a series of films and 'Find your Feet' activity packs to help schools support pupils as they [transition from primary to secondary school](#).

Get advice on how to support pupils through the change from primary to secondary schools with this free [Find Your Feet webinar](#) for teachers from Young Minds. You can also download packs of transition activities for pupils and find tips and resources to share with parents

Books and reviews

[Books For Keeps](#) The latest edition of this online children's book magazine has an interview with Matt Goodfellow, insights into the art of illustration, new thoughts on reading for pleasure and reviews of the best new children's and teens books

[Children's and teens roundup – Books | The Guardian](#) Latest selection of best new titles from Imogen Russell Williams, children's book critic.

<https://glenthornelrc.blogspot.com/2025/06/the-10-minute-book-club.html>

Look out for: Lucas Maxwell and Gráinne O'Brien are starting a new podcast entitled The 10 Minute Book Club. In ten minutes or less, they will be reviewing children's books to help busy kids and adults find stories young readers will love.

Book Awards and shortlists

[Information Book Award: Announcing the 2025 Shortlist](#) - Registrations for the IBA Book Club have now opened and the shortlist of titles has been announced. There are 12 outstanding titles within three age categories.

[Books Are My Bag - Shortlist 2025](#) - These awards are curated exclusively by independent bookshops and there are four categories to choose from: Fiction, Non-Fiction, Children's Fiction and Picture Book.

[KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards 2025](#) Kelly McCaughrain's Little Bang wins the Honour Award for Fiction & KPMG Junior Juries' Award in this annual award celebrating Irish artists familiar and new.

[The Little Rebels Award 2025 Longlist](#) Founded in 2010 this award is designed to recognise the rich tradition of radical publishing for children aged 0 -12, in the UK. While the genre-spanning submissions touched on social justice issues in a variety of ways, the 13 longlisted titles are those where the radical content formed the very bones of the story.

[Young Quills shortlist for 2025](#) – Run by the Historical Association this award is for historical fiction published in the preceding year and in four age categories from 5-8 to 14+. Copies of the books are sent out to a number of schools where pupils read and review them to guide the shortlisting process. Some of the young people's reviews will be made available on the website. Winners will be announced in July.

[Jhalak Children's & YA Prize Winner](#) was King of Nothing by Nathanael Lessore.

[The Bookseller - Awards - The YA Book Prize 2025](#) 10 amazing books shortlisted for the YA Book Prize 2025.

Events

[Home - Schools of Sanctuary](#)

The Schools of Sanctuary Day of Welcome (13 June) aims to build a culture of welcome and understanding for refugees in schools. You can join up to become an awarded school of sanctuary and the website has resources and many links to other guides and CPD opportunities. [Schools-of-Sanctuary-Resource-Pack.pdf](#) and [Teaching about Refugees | UNHCR UK](#)