



THE READING AGENCY AND LIBRARIES PRESENT

ANIMAL AGENTS

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2017



Fun, creative ideas and activities to inspire schools, children and families to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge 2017

In a library near you this summer!

Partner with your local library for this well-loved reading for pleasure programme!

Illustrations: © Tony Ross, 2017



ANIMAL AGENTS Characters created by



animal-agents.org.uk



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SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

THE READING AGENCY

What's it all about? How does it work?

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place every year in libraries over the summer holidays. This national reading for pleasure programme has been running for 18 years, and last year more than three quarters of a million children took part by borrowing, reading and talking about their favourite books.

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Each year the Challenge has a different theme.

This year we have teamed up with the UK's best-selling children's illustrator, Tony Ross, for ANIMAL AGENTS, the Summer Reading Challenge 2017.

The Animal Agents are a whole host of clever creatures, ready to solve all kinds of crimes!

This band of furry, slippery and feathered friends is specially trained to use their skills and natural instincts to unravel mysteries – with a huge helping of fun along the way.

Children who take part:

- Are more enthusiastic about reading
- Maintain their reading level over the holidays
- Boost their confidence and self-esteem



How it works

- Each child (most are aged 4 -11) signs up at their local library
- Children borrow and read at least SIX library books of their own choice during the summer, collecting special stickers and rewards along the way
- Library staff and young volunteers provide guidance and encouragement
- Children receive a certificate and/or a medal when they complete the Challenge
- Many libraries also run a pre-school Mini Challenge
- Most libraries will start the Challenge on Saturday 15 July. Regional variation will apply, so check with your local library to find out when the Challenge will start and end in your area

How do schools benefit?

There is no other free reading challenge that involves so many children, introduces families to their library, encourages children to choose books freely and independently and is endorsed by parents, teachers and the Department for Education.



“Parents, schools, libraries and others all have a vital role to play in fostering a love of reading amongst children. The government welcomes and supports the many initiatives that exist to encourage children to read widely and develop a love of books: World Book Day, the Summer Reading Challenge and Premier League Reading Stars to name but a few.”

Reading: the next steps, DfE, 2015

The Challenge is a brilliant reading initiative for your pupils which is free to your school and helps to keep up all the good work that you and your pupils have done during the academic year.



By taking part, you are supporting your local libraries and helping to keep them at the heart of the community – there to support all families.



“The Summer Reading Challenge is part of schools’ annual reading for pleasure provision. Research suggests young people who used their public library were nearly twice as likely to be reading outside the classroom every day.”

Clark, C. and Hawkins, L. (2011) Public Libraries and Literacy: Young people’s reading habits and attitudes to public libraries, and an exploration of the relationship between public library use and school attainment. National Literacy Trust

How do schools benefit?

- The Summer Reading Challenge is intrinsically **inclusive** and can contribute to the achievement of **all** your pupils, including pupils with special educational needs, disadvantaged pupils and the most able
- It enhances and supports your school's reading policy and your mission for all children to **read widely and often**
- It prevents the tendency for children's reading to **dip over the holidays** (Impact report, UKLA, 2009)
- The Challenge helps to support the **social** and **cultural** development of your pupils in a fun, creative and child-directed way, promoting **British values**
- It encourages comprehension skills such as using **imagination** and **empathy** to explore a text beyond the page
- It develops a **growth mindset** for children who take part
- The Challenge allows children to become more **independent** in their reading when choosing books
- It allows children to **master** aspects of reading through using pertinent and specific vocabulary when talking about books
- The Challenge can help to close the gap for **disadvantaged** pupils
- It takes place at **your local library** and is a brilliant opportunity for **extra curricular activity** within your local community, to foster **family literacy** and home-school links
- The Challenge supports the **successful transition** between year groups and stages



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How can you get your pupils inspired and involved?



Invite your local library staff in to talk about the Challenge in assembly or class. If you don't already have a library contact, you can get your Summer Reading Challenge Coordinator's contact details by emailing summerreadingchallenge@readingagency.org.uk



Download everything you need to inform pupils, parents and staff, including a family leaflet, a video trailer for assemblies or parents' meetings, an assembly PowerPoint and a newsletter template. www.readingagency.org.uk/schools



Encourage and help groups of pupils who would particularly benefit from continuing to read over the holidays to join their local library and sign up to the Challenge. It is great for reluctant and beginning readers of all ages, or pupils who have benefitted from literacy interventions but now need the freedom to explore books and choose freely and build their confidence. Contact your local branch to arrange a class visit to the library.



Get your pupils excited about the Challenge by doing activities in class, creating a display or producing an assembly.



Get everyone involved, including children in the Early Years Foundation Stage/ Foundation Phase and children who will be starting school in September. Involve younger pre-school siblings (there's a mini challenge at many libraries!). Older siblings (13+) can become Reading Hackers – young volunteers who help run the Challenge at the library.



Remind parents about the Challenge on sports days, parents' evenings, induction days, school fetes and end of year productions and assemblies.



Set up a totaliser and aim to beat last year's number of Summer Reading Challenge completers. Celebrate after the summer and award a prize in September for the class with the highest number of Challenge participants.

Animal Agents in class

Children and families are often inspired to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge when it has been talked about at school. Below is a selection of activities that teaching staff or your local library staff can do with your pupils in class, before the start of the Challenge.

Quick and easy ideas for in class

1. Use the activity sheets in this pack and send them home for children to complete with their families.
2. Explore the Animal Agents website www.animal-agents.org.uk. Here you'll find author and illustrator videos, games, the Book Sorter and competitions. Why not watch a video in class? Go to the Reading Club section and choose between celebrities talking about their favourite books in Bringing Books to Life or author interviews in Featured Authors.
3. Explore books around the Animal Agents theme – take a look at our [themed book lists](#) for inspiration and talk to your Schools Library Service about borrowing books www.sla.org.uk
4. Have pupils interview each other in pairs about their favourite books. Confident pupils can be invited to the 'Hot Seat' and the class can interview them about their favourite book. Provide prompt questions or allow time for pupils to make up questions, e.g.: What genre is the book? Who is your favourite character and why? Can you describe the book in 3 words? Did you learn anything from it?
5. Make the book review bookmarks in this pack and swap them in class.
6. Set up an animal or mystery themed reading corner in your classroom.
7. Share the character sheet in this pack and have children create their own stories featuring the Animal Agents.
8. Make a display all about the Summer Reading Challenge for the school entrance or school library. Add to this in September with photos of the children who took part, with their certificates, collector folders and favourite books. Talk to your new class about what they read over the summer.
9. Download free Chatterbooks packs for lots more ideas for class and book club activities www.chatterbooks.org.uk



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Get digital at animal-agents.org.uk

Alongside regularly visiting the library throughout the summer to take part in activities, choose books, discuss them with others and collect rewards, there are more ways children and families can engage with the Summer Reading Challenge.

Explore the Summer Reading Challenge website before, during and after the Challenge, at school, at home and in the library. Discover more ways to keep children reading and finding new and favourite books, authors and illustrators. The website can also be found every year, all year round, at www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

WEBSITE

There are great book-related activities, games and content on our safe, child-friendly and moderated website, all relating to the Summer Reading Challenge.

There are competitions and message boards as well as the Book Sorter and author videos. Children can create a profile, review books and collect virtual badges. Head here to join our reading community!



BOOK SORTER

Choosing, recommending and reviewing books are great skills to develop as part of reading widely and for pleasure.

The Book Sorter is the largest database of children's peer-to-peer recommendations. It's safe, fun and easy to use.

COMPETITIONS

Take part in our creative competitions at school, at home or through the library to win great prizes from our publisher partners.



The website will receive an Animal Agents makeover in late May



Tell EVERYONE about it!

Get parents, carers, siblings and families involved!



Download and give out the family leaflet, available at www.readingagency.org.uk/schools
The leaflet is also available in community languages.

Show the Animal Agents video to parents. Find out about opening times and dates for the Challenge at the local libraries near your school and let parents know.

Invite your local library staff in to tell the school and parents about the Challenge in assemblies, in class, at sports day, at the school fete, parents' meetings and PTA events.

Inspire your pupils by getting school staff to join the library and read six library books themselves over the holidays. It's a great way to get to know the local library staff and for teachers to develop their knowledge of children's books and to read for pleasure themselves. School staff could even volunteer to help support running the Challenge in the library in the holidays.

We have created a template for you to use in your newsletter, class blog, or on your website. You can download the template at www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/2193/

Don't forget: Children can borrow and read any six books of their own choice to complete the Challenge – they don't have to link to the theme and they don't have to be stories or novels – non-fiction, joke books, poetry, audiobooks, eBooks – they all count! Children choose books themselves at their own individual level so it is suitable for all ages and abilities. Even little brothers and sisters can join in!

Celebrate in September with all your pupils who took part. Have a special assembly to award medals/certificates. Put photos of your completers in your school's newsletter. Send your stories, blogs and photos to summerreadingchallenge@readingagency.org.uk



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Continuing the reading journey

Keep them reading!

After the Summer Reading Challenge, keep your pupils reading widely and for pleasure by continuing your partnership with your local public library and your Schools Library Service. Visit the School Library Association for more ideas and contact details. www.sla.org.uk



Chatterbooks children's reading groups

A Chatterbooks group is a great way to enthuse children about books and to encourage them to read widely for pleasure.

We estimate that nearly 10,000 children belong to Chatterbooks groups which can be run by librarians, teachers, teaching assistants or volunteers - anyone with a passion for reading.

You can find out more and [read the latest impact report here](#).

At each session, children talk about what they are reading, take part in fun activities inspired by the best children's books and choose new books to take home and read.

It's FREE to join our network where you will find plenty of free downloadable resources to start your own Chatterbooks group. www.chatterbooks.org.uk

Do contact your local schools library service; many offer support for Chatterbooks groups, including training and loan collections of books to fit your session plans.

READING

HACK

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.

The programme inspires young people to become advocates for reading and to lead the way in engaging their peers - particularly those who struggle with reading, don't like it or don't see its value.

For more information visit www.readinghack.org.uk or email readinghack@readingagency.org.uk



The Summer Reading Challenge and Chatterbooks are suitable for Arts Award Discover and Explore. Please contact your local library or Bridge organisation. www.artsaward.org.uk/regions



The Summer Reading Challenge and Chatterbooks are nationally validated learning activities for the Children's University. www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/630/



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The amazing Book Sorter



Go to animal-agents.org.uk

Click on the **BOOK SORTER** and get a recommendation

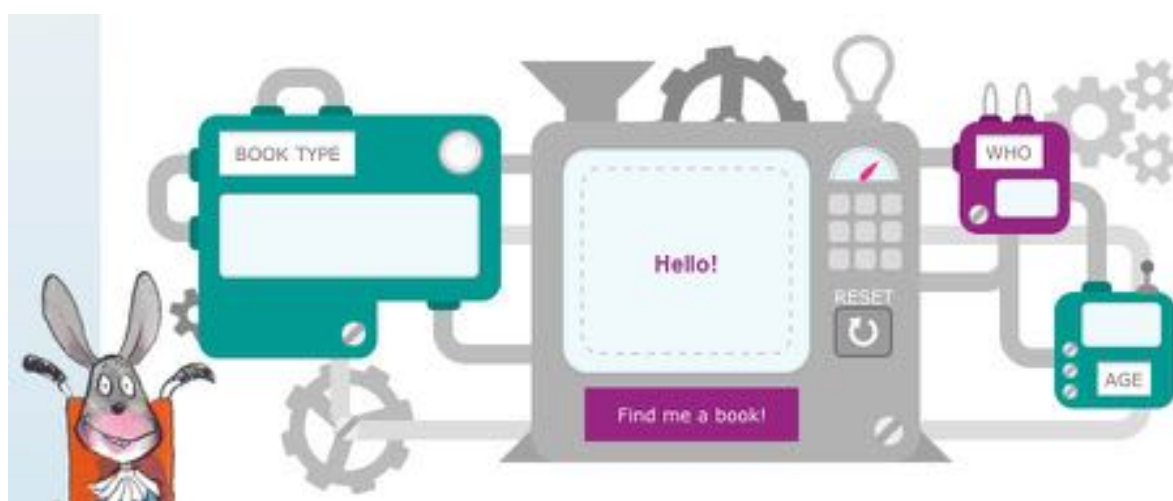
Click on the **READING CLUB** and watch an author video

Click on **GAMES** and try and beat your friends!

Click on **COMPETITION** and enter to win great prizes

Click on **JOIN IN** to create a profile (ask an adult to help you with this). Rate and review books, create a reading wishlist, and unlock special online badges.

Show your family the Animal Agents video at home and visit your local library to start the Challenge!



Meet the Animal Agents!

The Animal Agency is staffed by all kinds of clever creatures and this summer they're out to solve a mystery at the library. Get to know this team of top detectives, then join the Summer Reading Challenge at your local library to help them crack their biggest case yet...



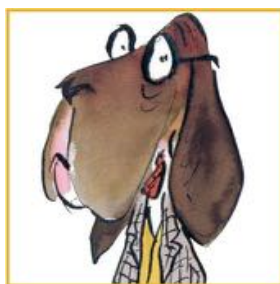
Bernice the brown bear is in charge of the Animal Agency. She loves solving mysteries – and eating honey!



Daisy the rabbit is super speedy in her turbo-charged chair. She's the perfect furry friend to keep tabs on a suspect!



Slip and Slide, also known as the Snake Twins, are a charming pair. They can stun a suspect into submission with their hypnotic stares!



Bart the bloodhound is brilliant at sniffing out trouble and collecting clues!



Read the books, catch the crook!

The Summer Reading Challenge takes place in libraries in the summer holidays. It's FREE, FUN and LOCAL! Borrow library books and collect rewards along the way. Everyone can join in! Ask at your local library.

BOOK REVIEW BOOKMARKS

Have you read a book so good you simply can't keep it to yourself?
Colour in this bookmark, cut it out (you can stick it on card if you like) then fold it in half.
Now hand it to a friend who you think may love the book just as much as you!

← Fold along this line

<p>Hey.....</p> <p>I think you would love to read</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>by</p> <p>.....</p> <p>It was (tick box):</p> <p>Awesome <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Amazing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Astonishing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>See you at the library!</p> <p>Signed</p> <p>.....</p>	<h1>ANIMAL AGENTS</h1>   <p>animal-agents.org.uk</p>
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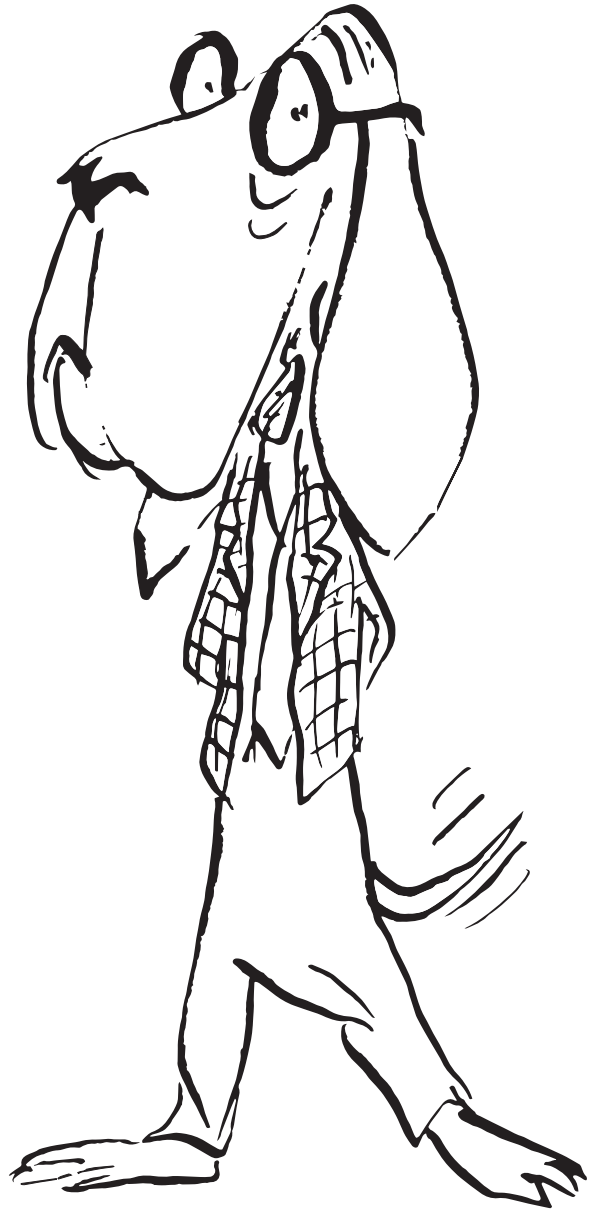
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Colour this in at school or take this home to colour in with a younger brother, sister or friend.



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Thank you!

Thank you for promoting Animal Agents,
the Summer Reading Challenge 2017

Please continue to partner with your local public library staff and your schools library service all year round for enhanced reading for pleasure activities and expertise from children's librarians.

Useful links:

For information about The Summer Reading Challenge, Book Sorter, competitions, videos and games all year, every year: www.summerreadingchallenge.org.uk

For all downloadable schools resources: www.readingagency.org.uk/schools

To set up a Chatterbooks reading club, run by teachers, parents or volunteers: www.chatterbooks.org.uk

For information about young people volunteering to help run the Challenge in libraries: www.readinghack.org.uk

For more information about The Reading Agency: www.readingagency.org.uk

For information about Arts Award: www.artsaward.org.uk

For information about Children's University: www.readingagency.org.uk/resources/630/

For information and contact details for Schools Library Services: www.sla.org.uk



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