

## Local ▶ Literacy

# WE Read Together



Be an advocate for literacy by organising a book collection or becoming a reading mentor.

**Skills:**  Leadership Skills  Critical Thinking  Reflection

**Theme:** Knowledge is Power

**Impact:** Local

AN INITIATIVE OF



# Literacy Advocate + Reading Mentor = Impact

The largest barrier to children's literacy in low-income communities is a lack of books. Without access to books, children don't build critical reading skills and are less likely to reach their academic potential. This jeopardises their future success. Help the next generation of young leaders become empowered through reading, by organising a book collection or reading with a younger child in your community.

## Fact:

One survey found that 1 in 10 respondents had less than 10 books in their home, and 3% had none at all.



# Ways to Take Action

Be a literacy advocate and increase childrens' access to books by organising a book collection.



## At School:

- Become a reading mentor to a younger child in your school to help improve their reading and inspire them to discover a book they love.
- Join or start a book club to promote the importance of reading and share the books that have inspired you.



## At Home:

- As a family, donate used books to your local community centre, charity shop or library.



## As a Community:

- Find a book exchange point in your community where you can take a book and leave a book—or start your own to get more people reading.

## Connect With Other Campaigns:

### **WE** Are Silent

Read and share stories of inspirational figures who've created change.

### **WE** Volunteer Now

Set up a mentorship scheme with younger students in your school.



### **WE** Take Charge

Hold a book swap in your community to reduce waste.

### **WE** Are Rafikis

Share stories of the amazing mamas who make Rafiki bracelets.

## Checklist:

- Investigate and learn with the Literacy Issue Card.
- Assign Club Cards to all members.
- Action plan with your Local Yearbook.
- Put up campaign posters.
- Print and fill out the Bookmarks for Thought. Then, distribute them inside books in your school library.
- Share on social media with [#WEreadTogether](#).
- Complete your Campaign Impact Survey.
- Plan your WE DayX.

## WE Day App Challenge!

With access to books, you have the power to change the world and influence future generations of young leaders! Challenge fellow change-makers to read for an hour each day. Track your progress and share the books that have inspired you on the WE Day app!

[#WEreadTogether](#)



Check out other resources for this campaign on your USB!

48% of people  
aged  
16 to 34  
have poor  
literacy.



Learn more about the issues at [WE.org/exploringissues](https://www.wereadtogether.org/exploringissues).  
Learn how to take action at [WE.org/wereadtogether](https://www.wereadtogether.org).

[#WEreadTogether](https://www.wereadtogether.org)

# Step 1: Investigate and Learn

Before you start reading, take some time to learn about the importance of literacy.

1. 17% of teenagers are functionally illiterate, putting their skills below that of an average 11 year-old.

2. 33% of women with poor literacy are economically inactive while for men it is only 19%.

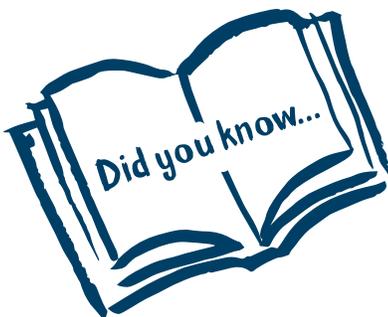
Discuss with your group what country you think these stats are referring to. Write your guess here:

See the key at the bottom of the page for the answer.

Next, go through the Exploring Issues activity with your group to find out more about how literacy impacts your life.

Write down anything that surprises you or inspires you to take action in the space below.

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- Twice as many boys aged 8 to 11 said that they enjoy reading compared with boys aged 14 to 16. Voluntary readers are better readers and writers than non-readers.
- Young people who enjoy reading are more likely to do well on reading and writing tests than those who do not enjoy reading.
- In 2016, more girls than boys said that they enjoy reading, with 64.9% of girls enjoying reading either very much or quite a lot compared with 52.4% of boys.

# Set Your Goal

To promote literacy in your school, organise a book club for students to come together and share their favourite books.

When and where will your book club meet?

When you come together to read and discuss, you have the opportunity to share the books that have inspired you with others in your group.

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Learn more about which genres other people in your school enjoy.

Take a tally using the chart below:

<i>Fiction</i>	<i>Non-fiction</i>	<i>Fantasy</i>	<i>Mystery</i>	<i>Other: _____</i>

Below, write your goal for how many books your group hopes to read this school year.

<i>Group Member</i>	<i>Book Goal</i>



## Step 2: Action Plan

Start a reading mentorship programme in your school. Mentor a younger student or simply pair up with someone who shares similar book interests to you. Record the names of partners below.

<i>WE Schools Group Member</i>	<i>Reading Mentee/Partner</i>

Ready to take your reading initiatives one step further? Plan a book collection at your school and ask students to donate books so that everyone can access books and share the love of reading!

**How will you promote the book collection?**

- ▶ E.g. School announcements
- ▶ E.g. Social media posts
- ▶ E.g. Posters around the school

**When will you hold your book collection?**

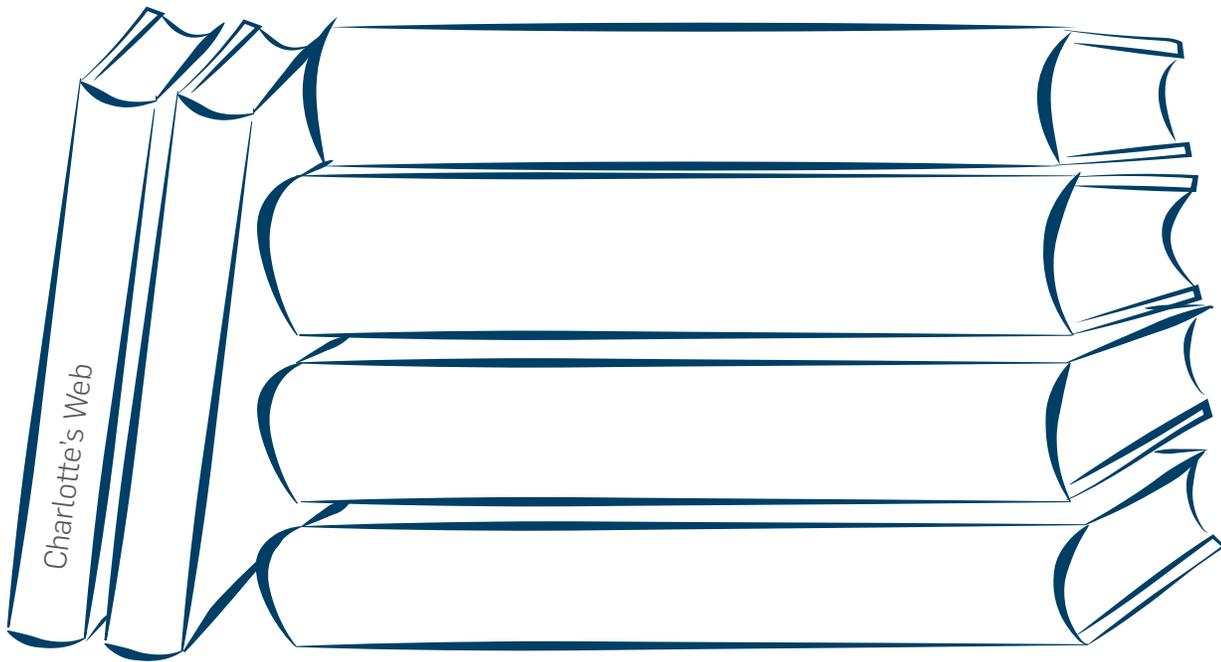
Use the space below to assign tasks to group members.

## Step 3: Take Action

Through your enlightened literary project(s), you are empowering yourself and others!

Create a list of inspirational books that have had an impact on each member of your group. Share your list with others to spread the power of reading around your school and community!

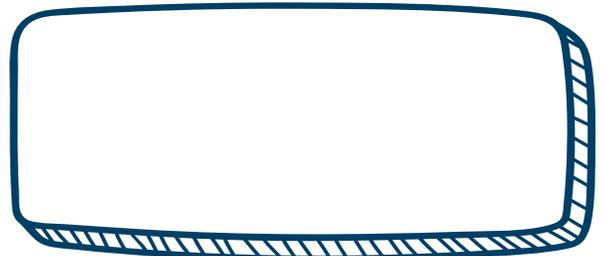
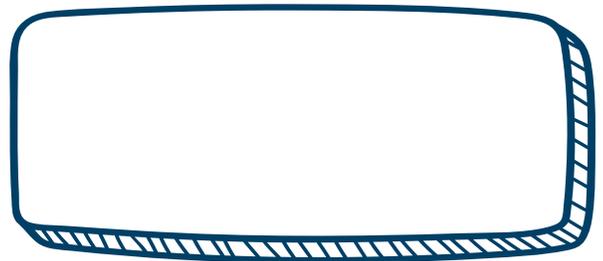
**Ready, set, READ! Write a few of the books from your list below.**



## Reflect

How was the turn out for your book collection? Or how many people joined your book club? Do you think you inspired more people to read? How will your actions impact future generations of young leaders?

**Reflect on your campaign by drawing or writing some of the highlights and/or challenges.**



# Step 4: Report and Celebrate

## Report

- ▶ How many people participated in your WE Read Together campaign?

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- ▶ If you hosted a book collection, how many books were swapped or donated?

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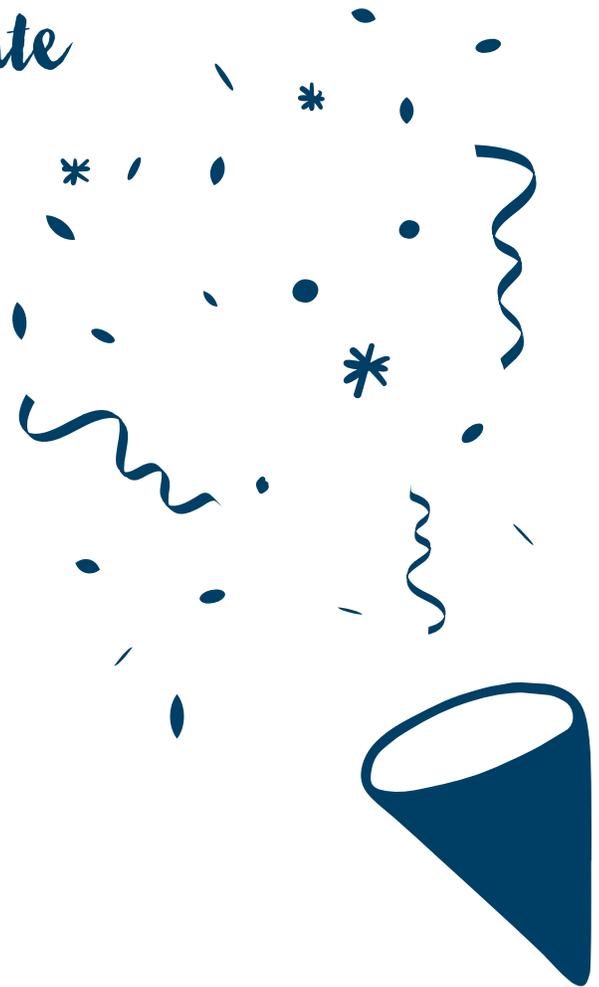
- ▶ If you started a book club, how many people joined?

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- ▶ What impact did your inspirational book list have?

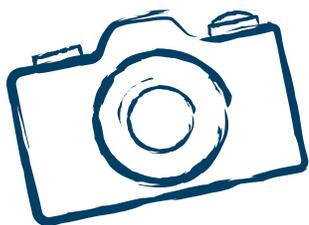
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- ▶ Has your teacher contacted your WE Schools Coordinator about filling out an Impact Survey?  Yes /  No



## Celebrate!

It's important to celebrate and share the success and impact of your campaign, and to reward yourselves for all your hard work.



- ▶ Share photos of your actions with your school, community and WE Schools Coordinator.
- ▶ Record the highlights of your event day and create a video.
- ▶ Celebrate impacts through a class party, assembly or WE DayX.



Share your success with WE Read Together by posting photos to social media using [#WEreadTogether](#).

**!** Don't forget to ask a parent or guardian to sign the Media Release Form found on your USB so WE can share your photos too.