



## Volunteer Role Description

### Reader Leader, South West: Region of Readers

<b>Purpose</b>	<p>To enable people to benefit from a quality <i>Shared Reading</i> experience which seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve well-being</li> <li>• Build community</li> <li>• Reduce social isolation</li> </ul>
<b>Key activities</b>	<p>You will be responsible for delivering a <i>Shared Reading</i> session on a weekly basis in a group of up to 12 adults. A group session will last for up to 1.5 hours. Activities will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choosing and preparing texts in advance of each reading session</li> <li>• Creating a safe and welcoming environment</li> <li>• Leading shared reading sessions</li> <li>• Sharing Welcome Packs with new readers</li> <li>• Maintaining records about each reading session</li> <li>• Collecting monitoring and evaluation data, as required</li> </ul> <p>Full training will be provided.</p>
<b>What you will get out of it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An opportunity to become part of the <i>Shared Reading</i> community</li> <li>• Develop confidence</li> <li>• Enhance your CV</li> <li>• Enabling other people to benefit from <i>Shared Reading</i></li> <li>• Training that will enable you to deliver <i>Shared Reading</i></li> <li>• Opportunities for you to enrich the lives of other people</li> <li>• Regular and ongoing support from a friendly and supportive team</li> </ul>
<b>What we expect from you</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Able to volunteer with the support of The Reader and Library Contact</li> <li>• Reliability and flexibility</li> <li>• Good organisational and time management skills</li> <li>• Patience with those who are unable to communicate clearly and/or are less confident</li> <li>• Able to ask for help when needed</li> <li>• Have a warm, calm and friendly manner that reflects The Reader's ethos and values</li> <li>• Feedback to The Reader staff or Library Contact if you have particular concerns or difficulties</li> <li>• Ability to remain resilient and show compassion to members of the community</li> <li>• Have a responsible approach to health and safety</li> </ul>
<b>Commitment</b>	<p>Time commitment per week: minimum three to four hours (includes time preparing for each session).</p>

	<p>Length of role: minimum six months (to ensure continuity and consistency for session members) with the opportunity to continue.</p> <p>Training commitment: one full-day and three half-day sessions.</p>
<b>Skills/experiences/personal qualities required</b>	<p>You must be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appreciate, engage with and enjoy good literature</li> <li>• Be able to read aloud clearly and loudly (training provided)</li> <li>• Be sensitive and patient with people's needs</li> <li>• Be curious about literature and excited by the prospect of selecting a wide range of quality texts for your <i>Shared Reading</i> group</li> <li>• Manage dynamics in a reading session</li> <li>• Be with people in an open and human way</li> <li>• Put the needs of the participants and literature first</li> <li>• Facilitate conversation with people that is related to the text</li> <li>• Commit to working within the unique ethos and values of The Reader</li> <li>• Commit to ongoing opportunities to develop your practice</li> <li>• Work according to all volunteer policies and procedures of both The Reader and the Library Service</li> <li>• Work independently</li> <li>• Attention to detail</li> <li>• Able to use e-mail and Internet or a willingness to take part in FREE training within your local library.</li> </ul>
<b>DBS required?</b>	A DBS may be required for this role. A criminal record does not necessarily disqualify a person from volunteering with us.
<b>Application Process</b>	The Reader has a strong track record in delivering high quality services. Making sure that we have the right people in the right roles is an organisational priority and extends to our volunteering community. As part of the recruitment process for this role we'll invite you to a shared reading group/information session, to complete an application form and attend a one-to-one meeting to explore the role. We'll also request references.
<b>Support and Supervision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Wiltshire – Sammy Weaver</li> <li>• For Dorset, Poole and Bournemouth – Emma Crago</li> </ul>
<b>Training required</b>	Induction and training sessions will be provided and must be completed before starting the placement. The training will comprise one full day in advance of your introduction to any reading with participants followed by three half-day sessions throughout the first three months of your practice. Training expenses will be reimbursed (for example travel to training venue).
<b>Volunteer expenses</b>	Travel expenses will be provided as per volunteer expenses policy.
<b>Further information</b>	<p>For further information, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sammy Weaver for Bristol/Wiltshire/South Gloucestershire 07812 238532 <a href="mailto:samanthaweaver@thereader.org.uk">samanthaweaver@thereader.org.uk</a></li> <li>• Emma Crago for Bournemouth, Dorset, Poole 07970 247410 <a href="mailto:emmacrago@thereader.org.uk">emmacrago@thereader.org.uk</a></li> </ul>