



Volunteer Opportunities in Wigan and Leigh (ongoing recruitment 2016 - 2018)

The Reader is looking for **Reader Leader** volunteers who would like to deliver a weekly *Shared Reading* session for people living with dementia in Wigan and Leigh.

Shared Reading connects people with great literature and each other. We bring books to life by creating welcoming environments in which personal feeling is recognised and valued, forming vital connections between people and literature through which we hope everyone can feel more alive. Typically group members report developing social connections, greater confidence, improved concentration and feeling happier.

People come together in weekly groups to listen to poems read aloud. Thoughts and experiences are shared; personal and social connections are made. It's an extraordinary mix of individuality and togetherness.

Becoming and a Volunteer Reader Leader takes time and commitment. Would it suit you? Here's a short questionnaire to help you decide.

We'd like to invite you to consider the following statements to help to you clarify your suitability for this role:

- I enjoy literature and I am committed to expanding my own reading
- I am inclusive and respect the reality of the lives and experiences of others
- I am available for three hours a week for a minimum of six months
- I care about detail and enjoy doing things well
- I am not afraid to ask for help when I need it
- I have a spirit of enquiry and am open to listening, hearing and valuing the opinions of others
- I enjoy making connections and collaborating with people
- I have experience of managing group dynamics
- I value positive and constructive feedback to support my ongoing development as a practitioner
- I would appreciate an assessment of my delivery style to see if I am suited to the role
- I am able to commit time to ongoing opportunities that would develop my practice

The Reader offers a training course which will help you

- Find out about *Shared Reading*
- Read aloud with confidence
- Facilitate discussion
- Practice *Shared Reading*
- Get started as a practitioner

'Really personal approach to training, supportive feedback, useful resources, thorough course'

Key activities

You will be responsible for delivering a shared reading aloud session on a weekly basis to a group of up to 10 adults. Each session will last for 1 hour. Activities will include:

- Preparing texts in advance of each reading group
- Greeting group members in a kind and welcoming manner
- Leading shared reading sessions
- Helping us to maintain records from each of our reading groups
- Collecting monitoring and evaluation data as needed

What you will get out of it

- Opportunities for you to enrich the lives of people who attend a *Shared Reading* group
- Training that will enable you to deliver *Shared Reading*
- Regular and ongoing support from friendly and supportive staff
- Develop in confidence and in reading aloud
- Enhance your CV
- Improvements in your own well-being
- Opportunity to develop your own group leadership skills and managing group dynamics.

What we expect from you

- Able to volunteer under the supervision and support of The Reader and reflect our ethos and values
- Able to ask for help when needed
- Reliability and flexibility
- Good organisational, time management and interpersonal skills
- Patience with those who are unable to communicate clearly and/or are less confident and/or unwell.
- Have a warm, inclusive, calm and friendly manner that reflects The Reader's ethos
- Feedback to The Reader if you have particular concerns or difficulties
- Resilient with the ability to show compassion to group members
- Have a responsible approach to health and safety
- You will be paired with another volunteer and will support one another in delivering sessions

Commitment

Time commitment per week: minimum three hours (includes time preparing for each session)

Length of role: minimum six months (to ensure continuity and consistency for our beneficiaries)

Location

Placement within Wigan and Leigh

Skills/experiences/personal qualities required

You must be able to:

- Appreciate and enjoy good literature
- Be curious about literature
- Commit to working within the unique ethos and values of The Reader
- Be able to read aloud (training and support provided)
- Be sensitive and patient with people's needs
- Work according to all volunteer policies and procedure
- Work independently
- Have attention to detail

DBS required?

A DBS is required for this role. A criminal record does not necessarily disqualify a person from volunteering with us. The cost will be covered by the Reader.

If you are interested, then get in touch and be part of the story. Contact Christopher Lynn:

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