**Volunteer Role Description**

**Reader Leader**

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| **Purpose** | To enable people to benefit from a quality shared reading experience which seeks to * Improve wellbeing
* Build community
* Reduce social isolation
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| **Key activities** | You will be responsible for delivering a shared reading session on a weekly basis either one to one or in a group of 2-12 adults. One to one sessions typically last one hour and group session will last for up to 1.5 hours. Activities will include:* Choosing and preparing texts in advance of each reading session
* Creating a safe and welcoming environment
* Leading shared reading sessions
* Sharing Welcome Packs with new readers
* Maintaining records about each reading session
* Collecting monitoring and evaluation data, as required
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| **What you will get out of it** | * An opportunity to become part of the shared reading community
* Gain first-hand experience of working with an award winning nationally recognised social enterprise
* Enabling other people to benefit from shared reading
* Training that will enable you to deliver shared reading
* Opportunities for you to enrich the lives of other people
* Regular and ongoing support from a friendly and supportive team
* Develop confidence
* Enhance your CV
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| **What we expect from you** | * Able to volunteer under the supervision and support of The Reader/ your Local Organiser
* Reliability and flexibility
* Good organisational, time management and interpersonal skills
* Patience with those who are unable to communicate clearly and/or are less confident
* Able to ask for help when needed
* Have a warm, calm and friendly manner that reflects The Reader’s ethos and values
* Feedback to The Reader staff/your Local Organiser if you have particular concerns or difficulties
* Ability to remain resilient and show compassion to members of the community
* Have a responsible approach to health and safety
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| **Commitment** | Time commitment per week: minimum three to four hours (includes time preparing for each session)Length of role: minimum six months (to ensure continuity and consistency for session members) |
| **Location** |  |
| **Skills/experiences/personal qualities required** | You must be able to:* Appreciate, engage with and enjoy good literature
* Be curious about literature and excited by the prospect of selecting a wide range of quality texts for your shared reading group
* Manage dynamics in a reading session
* Be with people in an open and human way
* Put the needs of the participants and literature first
* Facilitate conversation with people that is related to the text
* Commit to working within the unique ethos and values of The Reader
* Be able to read aloud clearly and loudly (training provided)
* Be sensitive and patient with people’s needs
* Commit to ongoing opportunities to develop your practice
* Work according to all volunteer policies and procedure
* Work independently
* Attention to detail
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| **DBS required?** | A DBS may be required for this role. A criminal record does not necessarily disqualify a person from volunteering with us. |
| **Application Process** | 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. We’ll also request references. As we would with any role, paid or unpaid, we will talk to you openly about any reservations we identify that result in our decision not to offer you a placement with a Reading Group. |
| **Support and Supervision** | * The Reader and your Local Organiser
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| **Training required** | 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. |
| **Volunteer expenses** | Travel expenses will be provided as per volunteer expenses policy. |
| **Further information** | For further information, please contact volunteer@thereader.org.uk  |