

## Application Process: Director of Literature

There is a three-stage application process:

Stage One: Application form and written submission, closing date 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

1. Application form

Please give special attention to the question about Reader Values.

2. Your application form should be accompanied by some writing. Please put together two written pieces:

(a) Article/Essay/Manifesto

Please write a thought-piece/essay/manifesto with the title:

‘What is Shared Reading?’ and/or ‘Why Literature Matters’

Please imagine this piece of writing on our website/in the Guardian /in The Lancet/in Prison Reform Today/ or any other place you think such a piece of writing might be relevant, making it clear who your readership is. We are quite happy with invented content e.g., case stories, quotations from group members that back up your case. The point is to see that you can make a written argument for Shared Reading and that you can translate The Reader’s own sense of its purpose (e.g. shared meaning making through reading) in relation to the outside world (e.g. societal loneliness is growing). What is The Reader’s offer and how does it connect with need in the wider world?

2000 words maximum. Please feel free to use quotations from literature, The Reader’s research, and from your Inner Anthology, to illustrate. It’s not an academic essay but your chance to explain what you think to an interested audience.

(b) Inner Anthology

Please curate an anthology of ten pieces of literature which speak to you in ways that are important to you. Collate your pieces into a document either present it with notes about your choices, or simply be ready to speak about them at interview. They do not necessarily all have to be pieces that you would take to a Shared Reading group.

Candidates will be assessed against the skills and competencies listed in the Person Specification, on the basis of application form and written submissions.

Stage Two: Interview and written submission discussion: w/c 14<sup>th</sup> February 2022

We will be looking for further evidence of the skills and competencies above as well as creative thinking and values fit. We will ask you to present and discuss your written submissions.

Stage Three: Second Interview: A Day at The Reader: w/c 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022

For the final round, candidates will be asked to spend a day at The Reader at Calderstones (Covid-19 regulations permitting) and to take part in a conversation with Director's Group/Trustees, have lunch with some staff members and volunteers, and to join a Shared Reading group with volunteers/staff/trustees. Colleagues at The Reader will have read your written submissions and will be keen to discuss them with you.