

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS READ TO LEAD



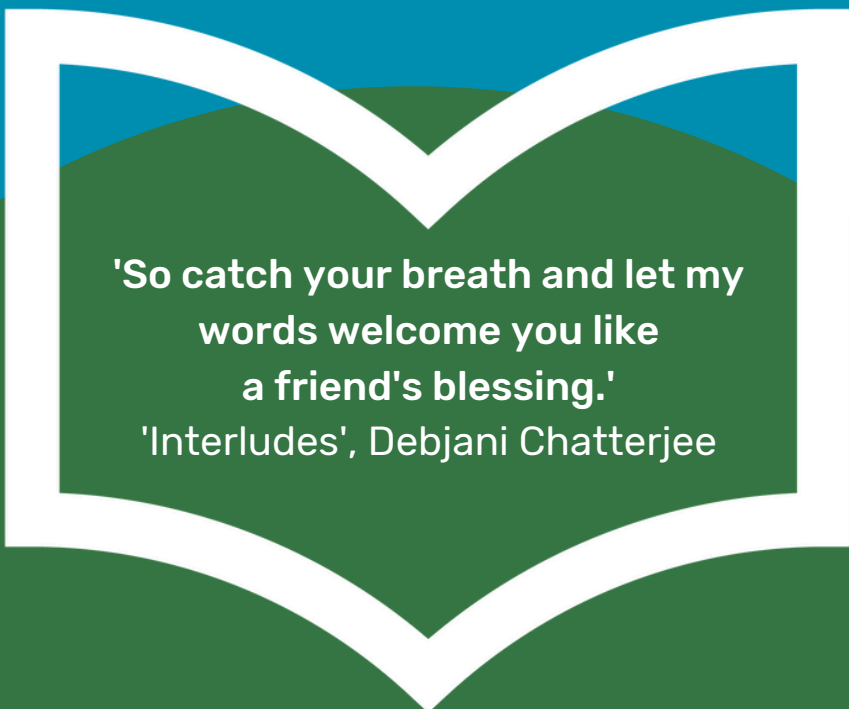
# THE READER

**The Reader is a charity that uses the power of literature and reading aloud to transform lives. Our simple, unique model trains and supports partner staff and volunteers to bring people together in small groups with their peers and community members, or one-to-one, to read great stories and poems aloud, creating powerful moments of connection. We call this Shared Reading.**

**Shared Reading inspires and supports people to connect deeply through literature via live and digital experiences. Led by trained Reader Leaders, these groups make literature accessible to all, either in-person, over the phone or digitally. There's no pressure for members to read or speak until they are ready – everyone is able to control their own level of involvement in a safe, inclusive space where people feel valued and at home.**

By reading with people at home, in community spaces, care homes, hospitals, mental health inpatient settings, addiction recovery and prison services, Shared Reading reaches some of those most at risk and most isolated. Our year-round, weekly groups offer long-term support that demonstrably improves wellbeing, strengthens mental health and creates lively, connected, warm communities.

The Reader has expanded its work beyond the UK with partnerships established in countries including Sweden, Norway, Switzerland, Denmark, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands, New Zealand and the United States. The Reader's main partnership offer is working with organisations to embed Shared Reading within their services through a programme of training and support.



**'So catch your breath and let my  
words welcome you like  
a friend's blessing.'**  
'Interludes', Debjani Chatterjee

# IMPACT

## **Impact stems from the model itself which is:**

- Weekly: offering sometimes much needed structure.
- Group based: bringing people together, building a community and belonging.
- Inclusive: everything is read aloud, no prior reading or literacy skills required.
- Safe: these are groups that move at the members' pace.
- Stimulating: we use humanly meaningful writing, explored in relaxed environments to open new thoughts and feelings, developing confidence and connection.

**'Inspiring, expertly led by caring and passionate trainers, learned lots about Shared Reading and group work...and the power of great literature.'**

Read to Lead participant



**Outcomes include improved confidence, increased social activity and improved mood and outlook for both group members and volunteers.**

**Research from the University of Liverpool, spanning over a decade, demonstrates the impact of Shared Reading on both physical and mental health:**

- An alternative activity, follow-up or adjunct to CBT for those with mental health issues.
- A significant improvement in Quality of Life for those with dementia.
- Help in the alleviation of symptoms for those with chronic pain.
- Higher levels of wellbeing, hope, agency and self-efficacy, and interpersonal trust in prison residents in Psychologically Informed Planned Environments.





# READ TO LEAD TRAINING PROGRAMME

**Read to Lead is The Reader's flagship training course and has been successfully delivered across the world since 2008. You will learn about the power of Shared Reading and come out of the course fully equipped with all of the necessary skills, knowledge and resources that you need to be able to successfully deliver your own Shared Reading groups with confidence and impact. A powerful tool for personal reflection as well as improving wellbeing, Read to Lead will not only enrich your own experience and practice of what it means to be a reader in the fullest sense of the word but will also provide you with innovative, transferable leadership and facilitation skills.**

Read to Lead begins with a series of invigorating and thought-provoking learning modules, delivered digitally over six-half days and offered all year round. During the training, participants will:

- Experience the joy of Shared Reading first-hand, developing understanding of how it can bring about positive changes in people's lives.
- Learn about the unique approach which underpins Shared Reading through supported practice and bespoke one-to-one feedback from experienced practitioners.
- Develop the facilitation and communication skills essential for Shared Reading delivery.
- Develop confidence in choosing literature for maximum impact.

After completing Read to Lead training, participants will be part of The Reader's community and ready to start their own groups whilst continuing to learn from fellow Reader Leaders via The Reader's on going membership programme.

# INVESTMENT

The per candidate cost for training as Reader Leader on our online Read to Lead course offer is £1,070 payable at the time of signing our Service Level Agreement. This offer includes:

- Access to the Online Community Hub, offering a curated suite of teaching and learning videos about Shared Reading, hints and tips on all aspects of Shared Reading development, a communication forum, quality learning resources and materials and the opportunity to connect with The Reader's wider network.
- Access to 5 essentials course for 1 year
- Access to advice and support through our annual calendar of learning workshops
- Invite to quarterly international stakeholders meetings

There is also an additional cost for ongoing membership, beyond the first year, options can be discussed at point of renewal. The partner will be responsible for copyright in their country. For more details, please see The Reader's copyright policy document.

**'The training has revealed poetry/reading out loud as an incredible coping strategy – for my own wellbeing and others in many situations in the community.'**  
Read to Lead Participant

**If you'd like to find out more, please contact:**  
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