



READING THING'S NATIONAL YEAR OF READING CHALLENGE!



Say hello to the Doncaster Reading Thing — a curious, book-loving character on a mission to help families across Doncaster discover just how fun reading can be as part of the National Year of Reading for 2026!

Can you complete all ten of the Reading Thing's activities before the end of the year?

- 1** BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY (OR FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK)
- 2** READ SOMEWHERE UNEXPECTED OR CREATE A COSY READING NOOK AT HOME
- 3** READ THE WORLD AROUND YOU - GO TO A LOCAL CULTURE OR HERITAGE ATTRACTION NEAR YOU IN DONCASTER AND READ THE SIGNS AND DISPLAYS
- 4** DO THE 'DONCASTER READING THING'S 7-DAY CHALLENGE!'
(More info on the reverse of this sheet)
- 5** READ A STORY ABOUT DONCASTER'S MOST FAMOUS BOOK CHARACTER — PADDINGTON THE BEAR!
- 6** TAKE PART IN READING THING'S 'STORYBOOK SCAVENGER HUNT'
(More info on the reverse of this sheet)
- 7** READ A COMIC/GRAPHIC NOVEL AND THEN DESIGN YOUR OWN SUPERHERO CHARACTER
- 8** DESIGN A NEW BOOK COVER FOR YOUR FAVOURITE STORY!
- 9** FIND A LARGE STONE. PAINT/DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER ONTO IT AND THEN GO AND LEAVE IT IN YOUR LOCAL GREEN SPACE
- 10** CHOOSE A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND OF YOUR CHOICE AND HAVE A PLAY DATE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

FIND OUT MORE ABOUT EACH OF THE ACTIVITIES ON THE REVERSE OF THIS SHEET OR SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW!

SCAN QR CODE



**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026



City of
Doncaster
Council



READING THING'S NATIONAL YEAR OF READING CHALLENGE!

1 BECOME A MEMBER OF YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY (OR FIND YOUR NEXT FAVOURITE BOOK)

If you're not already a member, search 'Doncaster libraries' to find your nearest one.

Already a member? Challenge yourself to pick something new based on what you love!

2 READ SOMEWHERE UNEXPECTED OR CREATE A COSY READING NOOK AT HOME

Reading can occur anywhere, not just at a desk or before bed—try a picnic in the park, during a car ride, or on the bus!

Or, create your own cosy reading nook with blankets, cushions and your favourite book.

3 READ THE WORLD AROUND YOU

Head out to a local museum, gallery or heritage spot and start reading what's around you – signs, displays, labels and stories about the place.

Why not try out the latest trail at Cusworth Hall?

4 DO THE 'DONCASTER READING THING'S 7-DAY CHALLENGE!'

Join the Reading Thing's challenge! Read daily for a week—whether it's a full book, a chapter, or just a few pages.

Mix it up with:

- A fiction story
- A non-fiction book
- Something different like a comic, magazine or newspaper

5 READ A STORY ABOUT DONCASTER'S MOST FAMOUS BOOK CHARACTER, PADDINGTON BEAR!

Did you know that Paddington Bear, a famous storybook character, has connections to Doncaster? It's time to explore his adventures.

Not got a Paddington book at home Pop into your local library – you're sure to find one there.

6 TAKE PART IN READING THING'S 'STORYBOOK SCAVENGER HUNT'

Turn reading into a game! Can you find books that include:

- A book inside a book
- An adventure
- A mythical creature
- Someone who flies
- Something green
- A cat
- A character wearing a hat
- A word that appears three times

7 READ A COMIC OR GRAPHIC NOVEL AND THEN DESIGN YOUR OWN SUPERHERO CHARACTER

Read a comic or graphic novel, then let your imagination run wild! Design your own superhero:

- What powers do they have?
- What is their story?
- Are they saving the world or causing mischief?

8 DESIGN A NEW BOOK COVER FOR YOUR FAVOURITE STORY!

Pick your favourite book and give it a brand new look! You can:

Redesign the cover completely OR recreate it in your own style

9 FIND A LARGE STONE, DECORATE IT WITH YOUR FAVOURITE CHARACTER THEN LEAVE IT IN YOUR LOCAL GREEN SPACE

Find a stone, decorate it with your favourite book character, then hide it in a local green space for someone else to discover.

You can find a full list of local green spaces by searching 'Doncaster green spaces' online

10 CHOOSE A FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND OF YOUR CHOICE AND HAVE A PLAY DATE AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY

Make your library visit a mini adventure by inviting a friend or family member to explore, browse books, share stories, or participate in group activities or storytime.

All of our libraries in Doncaster host community sessions for all ages!

