

# INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS TRAIN THE TRAINER



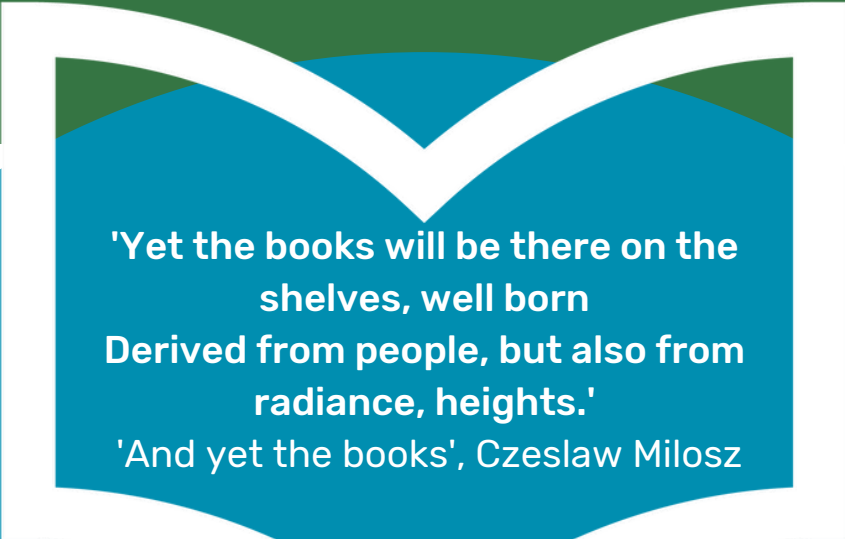
# THE READER

**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.



**'Yet the books will be there on the shelves, well born  
Derived from people, but also from radiance, heights.'  
'And yet the books', Czeslaw Milosz**

# 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.

'I think the Train the Trainer course has been wonderful. It's been really intense, but I have learnt so much! My knowledge of Shared Reading is so much deeper after this course and I really feel confident that I can now deliver Read to Lead courses.'

Train the Trainer participant, Sweden

'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

**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.





# TRAIN THE TRAINER PROGRAMME

**In line with our vision to bring the Reading Revolution to new geographies, we want to enable our international partners to build on their own Shared Reading experiences and become equipped to develop Shared Reading in their own countries. You can apply to become an officially approved course leader of the Read to Lead programme, enabling you to roll out the training according to your own Shared Reading vision.**

**An advanced follow-on from Read to Lead, our bespoke Train the Trainer programme enables experienced Reader Leaders to progress to the next stage of the journey, as you will learn how to be successful Course Leaders of the Read to Lead course itself. You will be equipped with all of the necessary skills and knowledge that you need to teach the wonderful gift of Shared Reading to others.**

## THE FOUR KEY STAGES

### **STAGE ONE: MENTORING WORKSHOPS IN THE FIVE ESSENTIALS**

Here you will have the opportunity to think deeply about how the Five Essentials work in your own practice as a Reader Leader and with further opportunity to think about what else you might need to learn for teaching these essentials to others. You will be provided with The Reader's Quality Practice Guide for this part of the course – a rich and diverse collection of materials to help Reader Leaders think in depth about their own practice. This part of the course will involve three two-hour live digital workshops.

### **STAGE TWO: TEACHING SHARED READING ON READ TO LEAD**

Here you will learn about The Reader's unique approach on how to best teach the craft of Shared Reading to others and understand how the Read to Lead programme is designed to meet this need through a wide range of practical workshops. You will have the opportunity to learn about the course in detail and also be able to practice delivering a selection of the course activities yourself, all underpinned by our latest teaching and learning resources as provided in our Read to Lead Course Handbook. In addition to the Read to Lead Course Handbook, you will have access to all of the Read to Lead course materials that The Reader currently uses during training and that you will also be able to use and access when you go on to teach Shared Reading yourself. This part of the course will involve four three-hour live digital workshops.

## STAGE THREE: PUTTING LEARNING INTO PRACTICE

Here you will be allocated a mentor who will support you in putting your learning into practice. You will participate in a live Read to Lead course with opportunity to practice key activities with the support of your mentor. You will be required to attend at least one full Read to Lead course, picking out at least three key course activities to practice and receive feedback on. Successful practice will result in official recognition of your Course Leader status and after successful completion, you will be able to deliver your own Read to Lead courses.



## STAGE FOUR: ONGOING SUPPORT

Quality is at the heart of our Shared Reading model. Not only does it make our work stronger but helps us reach a wider audience. We believe in strong and continued communication with our partners to help stay true to this and anchor a sustainable model of delivery in the long term. Here you will have access to three specially tailored ongoing support sessions during your first year of delivering Read to Lead. You will also be given access to our quarterly Course Leader Reflection sessions which shine a spotlight on key learnings and challenges in the teaching of Shared Reading and provide opportunity for connection with your peers.

### Our partnership package also 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.
- Unlimited access to our rich programme of learning and support workshops.
- Access to our support line for one-to-one advice and support.
- Access to our online Five Essentials course.
- Access to The Reader's International Stakeholder's Meeting; a networking event which takes place quarterly to bring our international partners together for advice, guidance and collaboration.
- The Reader quality certificate (renewable annually as part of membership).
- Use of The Reader logo and status as an officially approved trainer of The Reader's Read to Lead course.

With its in-depth programme of training and support, The Reader will work with the partner organisation to engage the nominated members of their staff to participate in our Read to Lead and/or Train the Trainer programmes and further connect to The Reader's ethos-driven, high-quality Shared Reading practice. Our partnership will provide the partner organisation an opportunity to become a recognised International Partner of The Reader. The partner package costs and options for training are provided on request.

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

[international@thereader.org.uk](mailto:international@thereader.org.uk)



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