



The Future of Books and Reading

Professor Sarah McGeown & Dr Patrick Errington

Literacy Lab, University of Edinburgh

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Declines in reading enjoyment and engagement

Research highlights continued declines in children and young people's reading enjoyment and engagement (Clark et al., 2025), with low levels of reading engagement among adults too (Reading Agency, 2025).

The Future of Books and Reading paper set out five themes to frame future thinking and discussion: Enjoy, Engage, Empower, Enrich and Expand.

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CILIPS webinar

- To reflect on these themes within the context of libraries and/or being a library professional
- To reflect on these themes within the context of your own reading practices

ENJOY

There are many ways to enjoy books and reading and readers seek different types of reading experiences.

Nurturing reading enjoyment is about promoting reading in personally meaningful ways by understanding and supporting individual motives for reading.



ENGAGE

Reading engagement is central to supporting positive reading experiences and outcomes.

Often regarded simply as frequency or time spent reading, reading engagement is a much more complex phenomenon, encompassing not just how much one reads but *why* and *how*. It thus has the capacity to be shaped significantly by reader expectations and goals, situations/environments, skills, and cognitive capacities, as well as the books themselves.



EMPOWER

Books and reading can be a source of empowerment, when readers see their lives, experiences or identities reflected in what they read.

Access to information is also a source of empowerment – supporting lives and learning.



ENRICH

Reading can enrich lives through its potential to support academic, intellectual, social and emotional development.

To support these capacities, reading practices themselves may be enriched by providing readers with the skills and opportunities to engage positively with a rich variety text types (e.g., novels, poetry, graphic forms), formats (e.g., digital, audio, paper, etc.), reading environments (e.g., book clubs, festivals) and more.



EXPAND

Reading practices and how we define ‘reading’ is continuing to evolve, and libraries and library professionals have a key role to play in shaping contemporary and future reading practices.

Libraries and librarians are also essential from a social equity perspective, though supporting and providing more equitable access to books, texts and information.



Resources for librarians to support reading enjoyment/engagement

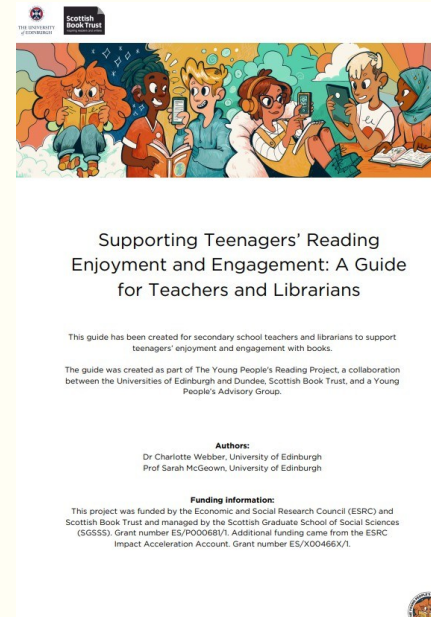
Children



Love to Read Libraries

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/lovetoread/libraries/>

Young People



Young People's Reading Project

<https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/literacylab/>



Young People's Reading Project

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/reading-and-stories/story-deck>

Book Week Scotland events

The Power and Pleasures of Reading with.....

Graeme Macrae Burnet

20th November, 7-8.30pm

In person and online tickets available



<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-pleasures-and-power-of-reading-with-graeme-macrae-burnet-tickets-1544433455039?aff=Web>

Peter Mackay

23rd November,
2.30-3.30pm

In person and
online tickets
available



**THE PLEASURES AND POWER OF
READING, WITH PETER MACKAY**

Sunday 23rd Nov
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Pleasance Theatre

<https://pushtheboatout.org/>

Questions, reflections and discussion

Did any of these themes align your own interests/priorities?

Did any themes feel particularly important?

Literacy Lab: <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/literacylab/>
Rewriting Wor(l)ds: <https://rewriting-worlds.ed.ac.uk/>

A copy of these slides are available in the 'talks' tab

Prof Sarah McGeown: s.mcgeown@ed.ac.uk
Dr Patrick Errington: p.errington@ed.ac.uk

