

the reading agency

Update no. 4

From: Reading Agency

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Subject: Six Book Challenge Update No. 4

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the fourth email update for this year's Six Book Challenge. We're sending this to all contacts we have been given but please be sure to pass it on to ALL staff and partner organisations who will be involved in running the Challenge with you. Anyone wishing to be added to this list should send their full details (name, job title, organization, email and tel number) to resources@readingagency.org.uk in order to receive future updates direct from The Reading Agency. We're really keen that everyone involved is kept up to date with the guidance we can provide – so get rather worried when we have stray enquiries from tutors who have been given Six Book Challenge materials but no guidance!

News on the website

Please see the website at www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk for news of the Six Book Challenge launch in Hertfordshire and stories from Kirklees, Telford and Kilkenny. Do keep your news coming so that we can share your successes and ideas. We've also got a short feature on the support for this year's Challenge from Costa.

Access to guidance for the Six Book Challenge

Remember to alert colleagues to the hidden page at <http://www.readingagency.org.uk/adults/six-book-challenge-resources/> where they will find a range of guidance and templates plus an archive of these email updates. We're also about to launch a blog so that organisations running the Challenge can exchange information directly, so please keep an eye out for this.

Please fill in our short survey by 20 February – and WIN a set of the new Quick Reads!

As last year, we found it really helpful to get an idea of the partner organisations you are working with and numbers signing up to take part in the Challenge. Plus we'd really welcome early feedback on this year's materials and case studies that we can use on the website. Please fill in the [Six Book Challenge 2009 participation survey](#) as soon as you can – it will only take you a few minutes. And you'll be in with a chance to win a set of the new Quick Reads published on World Book Day 5 March.

Use our impact evaluation forms

You'll find some headlines and a link to the full impact report on the Six Book Challenge 2008 on the News pages at www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk. We know that many of you will be setting up your own evaluation for this year's Challenge but please encourage your participants to fill in our pre- and post-Challenge surveys so that we can collect as much qualitative data as possible. We have radically simplified the forms in response to feedback and we can supply printable versions if required. Please find the surveys, including a post-Challenge survey for tutors, as follows:

[SBC09 Pre-Challenge survey for participants](#)

[SBC09 Post-Challenge survey for participants](#)

[SBC09 Post-Challenge survey for tutors](#)

We will also be setting up a quantitative survey so please be sure to keep records of numbers of participants, age, gender, ethnic background, and the progress they make, using the templates we have provided.

Launching the new Quick Reads on World Book Day

World Book Day on 5 March is fast approaching so we hope you have plans to use this as a staging post for people doing the Challenge and to draw their attention to the ten new Quick Read titles. Libraries who ordered free Quick Reads materials should be receiving them shortly and the books should also be coming through from suppliers – please chase if they don't appear or order NOW if you haven't already! Other organisations wanting to order promotional materials can do so at www.quickreads.org.uk where you will also find information about book suppliers and wholesalers. And remember that you'll need multiple copies of the Quick Reads if you are using them for the Challenge and for reading group activity.

Help us identify more books for emergent readers!

We also hope that you're using the searchable database at www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk to find more titles to use for the Six Book Challenge. We've recently added more titles which have been submitted by publishers working with The Reading Agency through our Reading Partners scheme. Now we'd like to invite library staff and tutors running the Challenge to work with us to feed through books that you find are particularly popular with participants. **Please get in touch if you would like to be involved in this process.**

A national reading group network for new adult readers

Finally we've now made our announcement about Chatabout – see <http://www.readingagency.org.uk/media/press-releases/> - so please let us know if you are running a reading group with new readers.

All good wishes with the Six Book Challenge – and keep in touch with your news.

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