

# the reading agency

## Update no. 5

**From:** Reading Agency  
**Sent:** 12 March 2009 10:19  
**Subject:** Six Book Challenge Update No. 5

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to the fifth email update for this year's Six Book Challenge. Here's hoping that World Book Day worked well for you – an opportunity to launch the scheme for those just starting or to spur on participants by introducing them to the ten new Quick Reads titles. Please see the News and Features pages at [www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/](http://www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/) for more about World Book Day and Quick Reads activity and [www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk](http://www.firstchoicebooks.org.uk) for more about the new books. And do send us your own stories so that we can share them.

### **Access to guidance and previous email updates 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 – especially important if you have just joined the scheme. We've got new organisations coming on board all the time – in particular a large group of workplaces in the North West supported by unionlearn and food manufacturing companies across the UK through support from the Bakers' Union.

### **Got questions? Use our new blog!**

We've started a blog so that you can get some answers to your queries from other people running the Challenge. See [www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/forum](http://www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/forum) for a couple of starter threads about working with partners and finding the right books. You just need to register and then you can join in to add to these discussions or to start your own. The whole idea is for people to swap thoughts about what is working (or not) for them. Please give it a go!

### **Northampton College wins a set of the new Quick Reads**

Lynn Goodman, Librarian at Northampton College, has won the prize draw for responding to our [Six Book Challenge 2009 participation survey](#) and will receive a set of the new Quick Reads. Having had great success with the Six Book Challenge last year, she hopes that well over 100 students will be taking part this year across their two centres in Northampton and one in Daventry. Lynn and her library colleagues take books out to groups of supported learning and ESOL students and helps them find books when they visit the library. The college offers prizes for the first person to finish the Challenge, the best review and the best diary and Lynn will get the principal to sign certificates for all Challenge completers. 'We really enjoy running the Challenge. The tutors incorporate it into their lessons and we encourage students to come and swap books. It increases use of the library among these groups because they get to know the staff.'

As last year the survey has proved a useful way to get an idea of the partner organisations you are working with and numbers signing up to take part in the Challenge. The chance to win some Quick Reads has passed but please keep using the [Six Book Challenge 2009 participation survey](#) to feed back your progress or email me direct at [genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk)

### **Entry forms for national prize draws sponsored by Costa Coffee**

We know that a few people have completed the Challenge already so I'm attaching the prize draw entry forms to this email and they'll also be available to download at <http://www.readingagency.org.uk/adults/six-book-challenge-resources/> As last year, Costa is offering a generous prize of a trip to London for the winner and a guest including tickets to a West End show,

overnight accommodation at a London hotel, travel expenses and spending money of £150. There is a separate entry form for Challenge completers in offender institutions and a prize of at least £500 worth of shortlisted titles from the 2008 Costa Book Awards. We will leave it to the discretion of the prison involved to arrange how the offender concerned will benefit as best suits their regime.

You'll see that both entry forms stress the requirement that all prize draw entrants fall within the main target audience for the Six Book Challenge, ie adults who are improving their literacy skills or are just getting into reading for pleasure.

### **Please make use of our impact evaluation forms**

We're glad to see that some Challenge participants have completed the pre-Challenge survey form but only very few so far – although some of you may be using the hard copy version. Please encourage people just starting the Challenge to do this – it's a much shorter form than last year! Please find all 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](#)

### **And take note of the data we will need ...**

The final evaluation surveys for 2009 are now available so please have a look and make sure that you are keeping records of numbers of participants, age, gender, ethnic background, and the progress they make, using the templates we have provided. There are four surveys as follows:

[Public libraries 2009 SBC Evaluation](#)

[Prisons and YOIs 2009 SBC Evaluation](#)

[Learning providers 2009 SBC Evaluation](#) (ie colleges, adult education organisations, schools and other providers)

[Workplaces 2009 SBC Evaluation](#)

### **Have you got all the incentives you need?**

We're delighted that so many organisations are making use of the incentives we've created for this year's Challenge – branded pens, key rings and mugs. We've just replenished stocks of all three items so there's plenty available if you need them for award ceremonies or events during Adult Learners' Week (9 – 15 May). There are also top-ups available of all print materials for the Challenge – see

[www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/shop](http://www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk/shop) or email [resources@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:resources@readingagency.org.uk) if you have any queries about making an order.

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 are 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](mailto: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.

### **A national reading group network for new adult readers**

New mapping data released in 2008 by The Reading Agency revealed that the number of reading groups in England and Wales linked to libraries has more than doubled to around 10,000 in the last four years. It also showed that there is a growing number of reading groups for adult literacy learners. We are now planning to develop a new network called Chatabout for those running reading group activity with adults who are just getting into reading. This will build on work we are currently doing in the West Midlands to support new reading groups with a range of partners which is funded by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. Please do get in touch if you are already running a reading group of this kind as we're keen to hear about the support you need. And watch this space for developments!

Finally, good luck with the Challenge and do get in contact if you have any questions or news to tell us about. We're keen to share your ideas and reports on the website at [www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk](http://www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk)

Genevieve

Genevieve Clarke  
National Coordinator, The Vital Link  
[genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk](mailto:genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk)  
Tel: 0871 750 2104  
Mob: 0772 959 7680