



# FAQs

## What is the Summer Reading Challenge?

The Summer Reading Challenge is a yearly initiative delivered by the library service in partnership with [The Reading Agency](#). The aim of the challenge is to encourage children to get excited about reading, and to keep reading over the summer holidays.

## Is there a theme?

Yes! The theme of the challenge this year is called “**Story Garden**”! It’s all about nature, the outside and the wonderful things you can find in your garden. However, children do not have to stick to a specific theme with their reading. From story books to audiobooks books to non-fiction to graphic novels, **all kinds of books are accepted!** The aim of the challenge is to get kids excited about reading.

## How does a child participate?

- **First, they’ll need to sign up!** This can be done in person at their local library. They can just pop into the library with their library card and their grownup, ask to join the Summer Reading Challenge and fill out a registration card. **This will be kept safely at their library, so they will need to keep coming back to the same library each time to update their challenge!**
- **To win the challenge**, challengers must read at *least* **6 books** over the summer holidays (about 1 a week), and for each book they finish they will be given a **Story Garden sticker**, which will be kept in their **special reading logs**.
- **To earn stickers** challengers must read a book, come to the library they registered at, and answer a few easy questions about what they have read.
- **Once they have read 6 books** and collected their 6 stickers, they will be invited to a very special Summer Reading Challenge ceremony in September, where they will be awarded **a medal and certificate!**



### **Can they join online?**

To get their reading log, stickers, medal and certificate children must register **in person** at their local library. There is an [online version](#) of the challenge, but it is **separate** from the in-person version held in libraries. The online challengers do **not** get stickers or medals, but challengers can always do both!

### **Do they need their own library card to join?**

**Yes!** Every challenger needs to have their own library membership to join the challenge. If they don't have one, they can register on the day so long as they have their grownup with them to act as a guarantor. **It's completely free and takes less than 5 minutes!**

[They can also register online for free!](#)

### **Can they only read library books?**

We heavily encourage challengers to borrow books from the library with their library cards, but we will *never* turn away an excited reader!

### **What if a challenger is on holiday over the summer?**

That's fine! They can keep reading over the holidays and collect their stickers from the library when they get back.

Some libraries will also keep a small stock of “**Holiday Packs**”, which provide families with everything they need to do the challenge remotely.

However, families still need to **register at a library** and **visit when they come back to update their challenge record** to receive their award ceremony invitation!