

Reading Round:

Free, accessible, unique.

30 sessions, reading with a writer

You will:

- Discover all manner of writing from all corners of the world
- Explore how writing works
- Read with a writer but think for yourself
- Listen, share, discuss with others in your group.

You won't:

- Have any homework
- Be told what to think
- Be expected to read aloud or choose what to read – the writer does that
- Have to be an expert or experienced reader – but you might become one

You will:

- Travel deep into a text
- Understand the choices a writer makes along the way: to write a character, achieve an effect, make the text sing.
- Go on an amazing journey with a close-knit group, over 30 weeks.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How is Reading Round different from other reading groups?

A. There's no homework or any kind of preparation. The writer (or Lector, as the group leader is called) will supply all the texts – you don't have to buy them. You will read two new texts every week, a poem and a short story (or other piece of prose).

Q. What happens during a typical Reading Round session?

A. The text will be read out loud to you by the writer, and then you will discuss how the writing works, what it's about, what choices the writer has made when writing it.

Q. What are the benefits of Reading Round?

A. You will gain experience in reading, thinking and talking about all kinds of writing; you will read and discuss a wide variety of texts; you will become more aware of language and how it's used. And you will become part of a close-knit group intent on exploring fine literature together.

Q. What skills do I need to attend a group?

A. No skills or qualifications are necessary. All you need is a willingness to listen to others and be receptive to new ideas, to be open-minded and appreciate that different people have different points of view. And you need to be curious to know how great writing works.

Q. Can I join if I have sight-loss or am blind? What about deafness or other disability?

A. All the texts are read aloud, and you will have a copy to read for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

Q. How many sessions are there and do I need to attend them all?

A. There are thirty sessions in a year, each 90 minutes long. You will find that the group really bonds over the weeks, and that your presence matters, but of course everyone will understand if you have to miss the odd session.

Q. Who leads the sessions?

A. Sessions are led by a published, experienced writer, selected by The Royal Literary Fund, Britain's oldest literary organization.

Q. I'm shy and not confident about speaking in a group - can I still join?

A. Certainly you can. There's no pressure to speak but you'll probably find you want to join in sooner or later.

Q. How do I go about joining?

A. Reading Round is funded by the Royal Literary Fund so it's FREE.
Email Michelle.Lovric@rlfeducation.org.uk to find out if there's a place.

What other people have said:

Thank you one and all for the journey which has been a delight to share with you.

I have found our Reading Round sessions stimulating and informative in so many ways.... I have loved learning about new authors and poets and hearing a variety of views about the pieces we have read.

I've so loved being part of Reading Round and the friendships and thoughtful discussions that have come out of our time together - it's been one of the highlights of my week.

I have loved this group not least because it's an hour and a half with no prep, no homework and a complete guilt free escape into literature and ideas. There have been so many times bells have chimed when one of you has said something I hadn't thought which suddenly becomes an 'of course' moment.