



The National Year
of Reading 2026

GO
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2026 National Year of Reading Photography Exhibition - Tour Images

Ripon Library

In Partnership with



Introduction

Earlier this year, in anticipation of the 2026 National Year of Reading, Ripon Library invited Ripon City Photography Society (RCPS) to take part in a collaborative project: a touring exhibition of photographic prints celebrating not only the joy that books bring to our lives, but the deep love of reading itself. Books have the power to comfort, challenge, inspire and connect us, opening doors to new worlds, ideas and experiences at every stage of life. Through this collection, we hope to encourage people across the county to reconnect with reading and to rediscover its enduring importance in our lives.

The response from RCPS photographers was both enthusiastic and inspiring, resulting in a wide range of thoughtful and creative submissions. Each image reflects a personal relationship with reading—moments of quiet escape, shared stories, curiosity sparked, and imagination set free. The selection panel from North Yorkshire Council Libraries found the process both rewarding and challenging, a testament to the quality, diversity and emotional resonance of the work received.

While only twenty images could be included in the touring exhibition, this catalogue brings together all the submitted entries, each accompanied by a short narrative. It travels alongside the exhibition, offering a fuller picture of the project and celebrating the many ways reading enriches our lives. The catalogue will also be available on the Ripon City Photography Society website. In addition, a specially commissioned coffee-table

book will be held permanently at Ripon Library, serving as a lasting record of this community project and a tribute to the shared love of reading that inspired it.

Tour Details

The exhibition will visit libraries across North Yorkshire throughout 2026 and return to Ripon early in 2027.

Venue locations are noted below.

Catterick Community Library	Richmond Community Library
Colburn Community Library	Ripon Library
Eastfield Community Library	Selby Library
Great Ayton Discovery Centre	Skipton Library
Mashamshire Community Library	Stokesley Community Library
Nidderdale Plus Community Library	Tadcaster Community Library
Northallerton Library	Thirsk Community Library
Pickering Library	

Ripon Library and North Yorkshire Libraries as a whole, would like to extend heartfelt thanks to Ripon City Photography Society for their partnership in bringing this project to life, and especially to the photographers whose creativity and enthusiasm have made this exhibition possible.

**2026 National Year of Reading
Tour Images**

A Space To Enjoy

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“The warmth of the sun and a quiet space in which to enjoy the printed word.”



Author : Stuart Jackson
Camera : Nikon Z7



Absorbed

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"No matter where or when, you can pick up a book and enjoy a quiet moment to read."

And It Is Written

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"Words are important and last as long as they can be read. Here words of faith persist within a solid building to faith, while a blurred image of a person in the background shows our transience."



Author : Clive Tewitt
Camera : Fujifilm XT-5



Come On In

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"I feel that looking through the tunnel draws the person into the possibility of reading because beyond the tunnel is a world of discovery"



Find The Joy Anywhere

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“This was taken at the famous Southbank book stalls in London – not necessarily where you would expect to come across a very eclectic choice of books.”

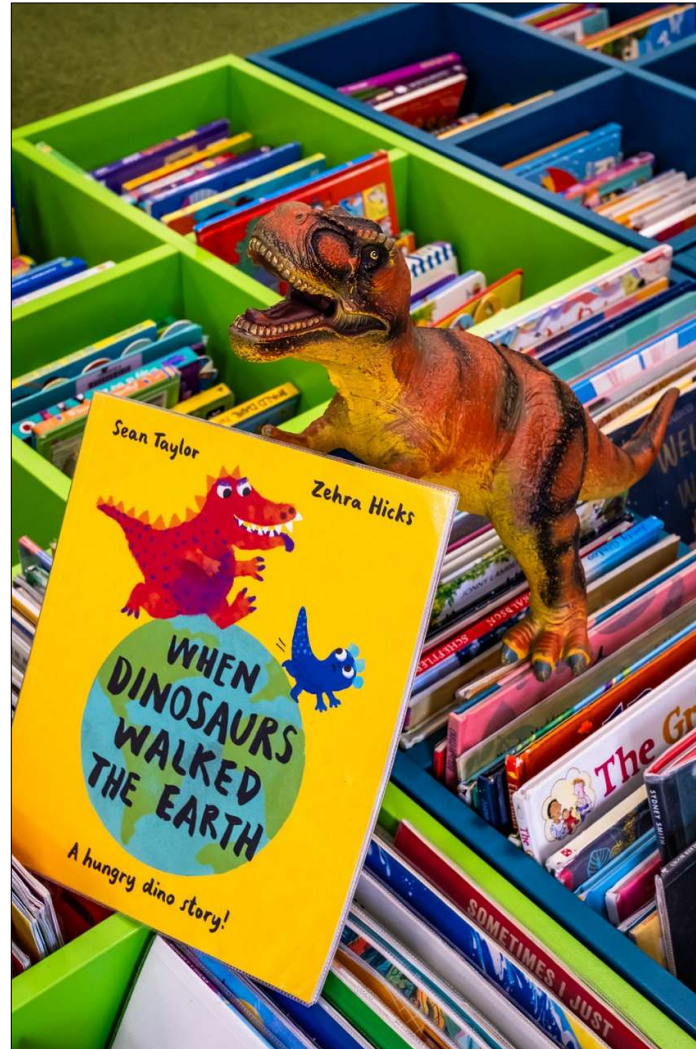


Author : Liz Marshall
Camera : FujiFilm X-T30ii 35mm F2 prime lens



Hungry For Stories

"I liked the juxtaposition of the toy dinosaur 'walking the earth' with the book title and visuals - the yellow and red colours are very joyful and there's an opportunity to use the toy while reading the book, to add sound effects and bring the story even more to life."



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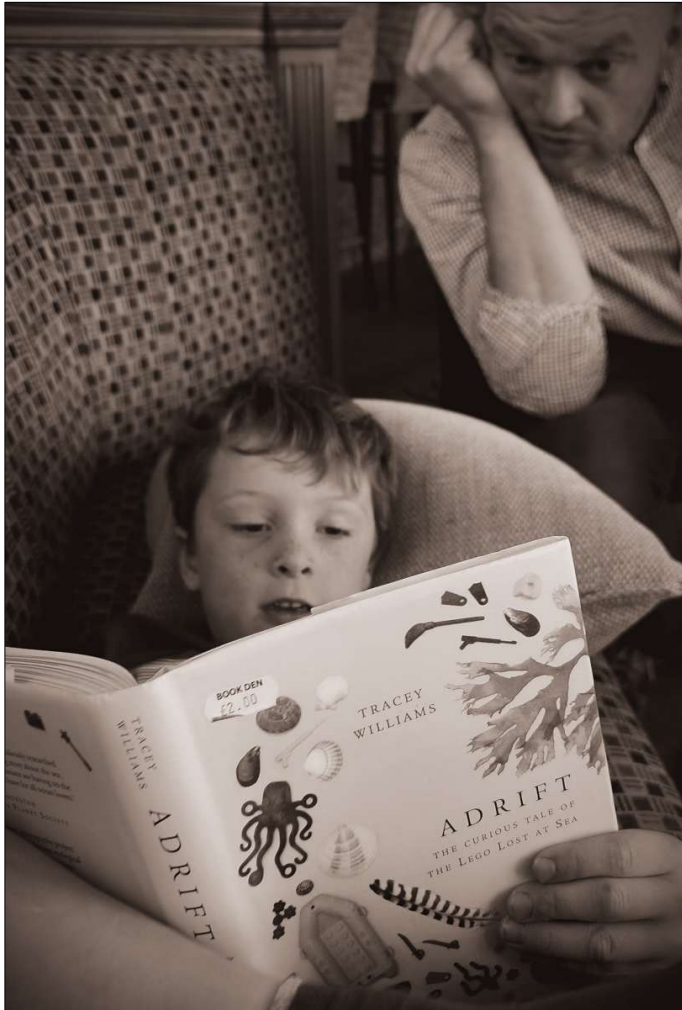
Author : Helen Tabor
Camera : Fujifilm X-T5, with 30mm macro lens



Lego Lessons

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"My son Fergus loves Lego and was delighted when he once found a Lego octopus while rock-pooling at the beach. We sourced him this book which is all about the history of the Tokio Express cargo ship which lost shipping containers of Lego into the sea off the coast of Cornwall in 1997. He was absolutely fascinated and kept telling us facts about it all and where the lego has washed up over the years."



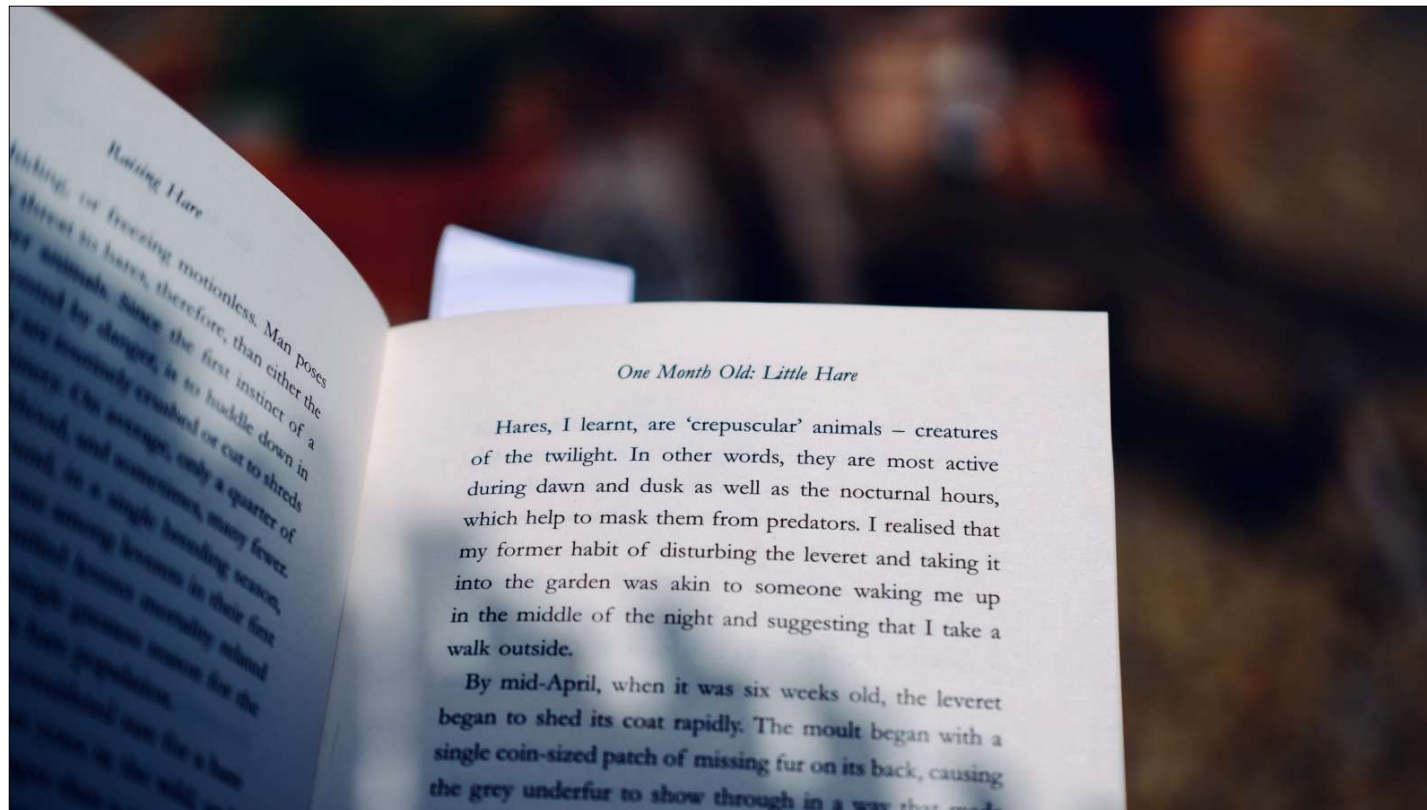
Author : Heather Eastham
Camera : Samsung Galaxy smartphone



Pick A Sunny Spot

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"There is nothing more joyful than sitting with the sun on your face and reading a book – this was taken in my back garden which has a secluded spot perfect for this very thing."



Author : Liz Marshall
Camera : FujiFilm X-T30ii 35mm F2 prime lens



Print To Pixel

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"I took this photo when visiting Manchester and happened to call in at the amazing John Rylands Library. The building itself was fantastic - but so was the realisation of how easy it has become to access a wealth of books, magazines and articles - simply by tapping a screen."



Reading Do Not Disturb

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"How you can be enclosed and safe within a book with the rest of the world blocked out as you live the words"



Searching For My Roots

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“My intention in taking this photograph is to show how family history can really come to life, and connections can be made with the past by using maps, records and local knowledge from the local library to uncover a whole new and fascinating family story.”

Shhhh!

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"Edinburgh - an image taken by the door to one of the rooms at the library. I was amused by the concentration and the level of dress within the room."



Author : Richard Egan
Camera : Fujifilm xt5 with a 16-55mm Fuji lens



Ski Break Reading

"I was unable to ski during a ski holiday with my family this year so brought a pile of books (mainly about the mountains) and enjoyed walking in the snow and finding a quiet cafe or bar to get a drink, look at the mountains and read my books in peace."



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Author : Heather Eastham
Camera : Samsung Galaxy smartphone



Something For Everyone

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“This conjures up wandering through a library and finding an incredible array of titles. Indeed, something for everyone”



Author : Stuart Ward
Camera : Canon 5D mk4



Sowing The Seeds For Life

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"Philip is totally and sweetly absorbed in reading the instructions so he can plant the Sweet Pea seeds!"



Take Your Imagination On A Walk

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"I liked the progression of this open book, set against all the other books waiting to be discovered. Reading a book from start to finish is always a journey in your mind, and this spread literally portrays a journey, with lovely, cheerful visuals to spark"



Author : Helen Tabor
Camera : Fujifilm X-T5, with 30mm macro lens



Talk To The Animals

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"My son Fergus regularly reads to the dog. And sometimes to the cats. This weekend he was joined by our tortoise who is just out of hibernation and our dog to listen to Julia Donaldson's 'Gozzle'. The pets don't care if he skips a few pages or feel the need to incessantly correct his pronunciation and I think it helps his confidence in reading aloud."

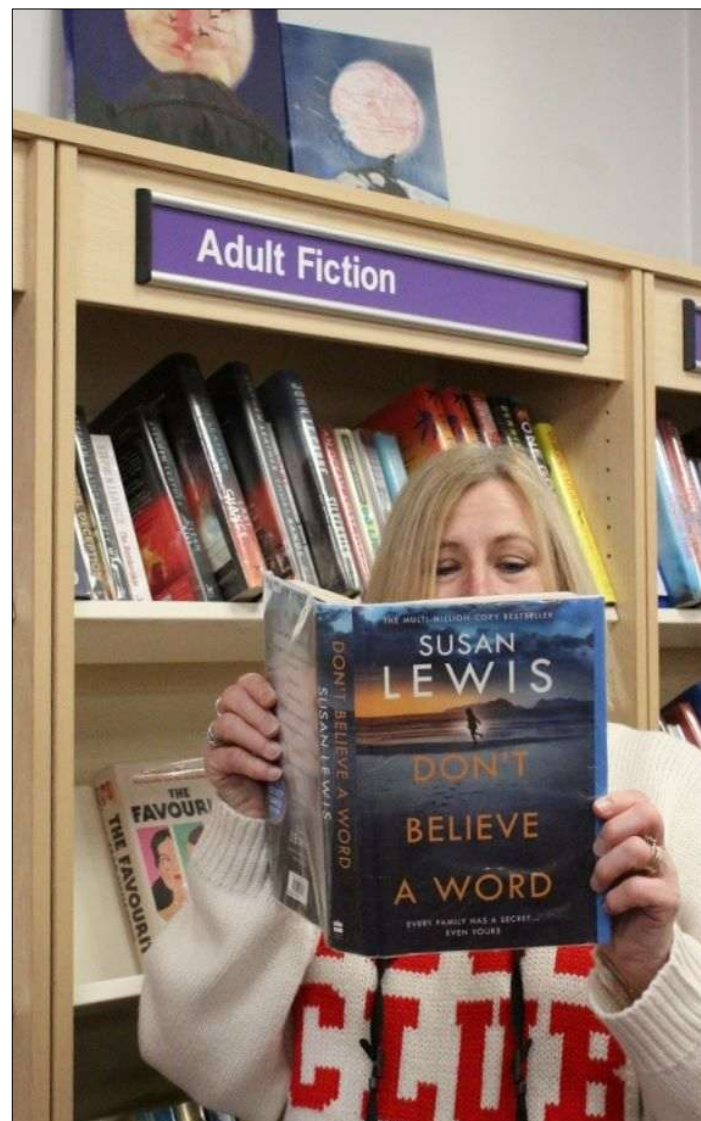


Author : Heather Eastham
Camera : Samsung Galaxy smartphone



True Joy

*"See the amusement
in her eyes"*



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Young Readers Corner

"An area just for younger readers. Annuals and comics - paradise"



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Author : Stuart Ward
Camera : Canon 5D mk4



**Turn the page to see more
images in this collection . . .**

A Quiet Garden Read

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"Reading can be enjoyed in any setting, but especially in a quiet corner of your garden"



Author : Bill Pilkington
Camera : Canon EOS 5D Mark III



Books Light Up Your World

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"I saw this lady one grey damp autumn evening, sitting on a bench reading. She seemed at one with her book — transported from the miserable weather to a place of calm and peace, where the words on the page demanded total attention."

Cosy Corner

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"A comfy, cosy hobbit-hole where little ones can snuggle up with a great variety of books"



Definitely Me, Said The Lion!

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"I wanted young children to see how they could combine reading a colourful book with role play, using the lion toy, and then use their inspiration to colour in the elephant afterwards. The library isn't just a quiet place to read books, it's somewhere to have fun and be creative, too!"



NORTH
YORKSHIRE
COUNCIL

Author :
Camera :

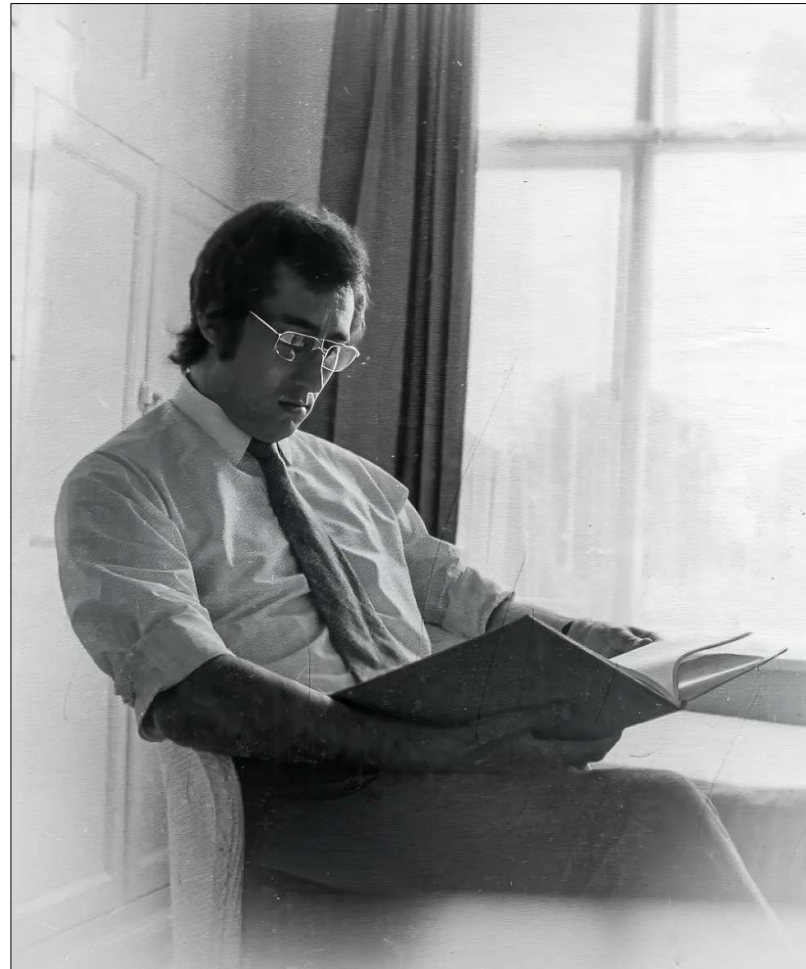
Helen Tabor
Fujifilm X-T5, with 30mm macro lens



RIPON CITY
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY

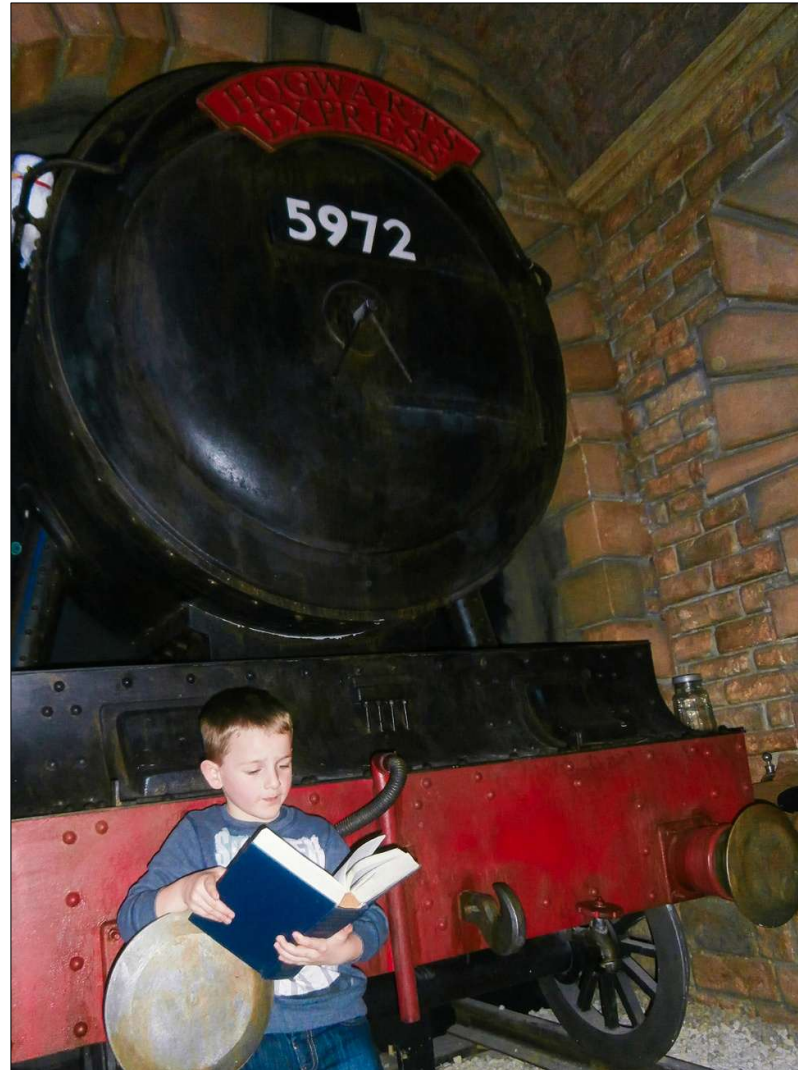
Dissertation Today - Publication tomorrow?

“Dissertations require research including reading of relevant academic works before writing a unique, personal report on a particular subject, hopefully describing new and varied ways of dealing with the subject of the dissertation.”



Express Reader

"An absorbed youngster enjoying one of his favourite books in front of the very train he imagines himself in control of."



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Exquisite Places

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“Libraries are often the most beautiful and interesting buildings. This is inside the University of Copenhagen’s library – a small but perfectly symmetrical arrangement of floors and bays”



Author : Liz Marshall
Camera : FujiFilm X-T30ii 35mm F2 prime lens



Have A Good Read

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“The joy of reading is in the range of reading with some books worthy of a second read”



Author : Judith Hooper
Camera : Nikon z8



Local Knowledge

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“Two people looking at old and new maps in the reference section of the library comparing the changes that have taken place over the years”

New Genres

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“We inevitably reach for the kind of books we enjoy be that novels, biographies etc but libraries allow us to explore many other types of books that push outside our comfort zone.”

Refreshing Reading

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"I was unable to ski on a ski holiday this year due to an injury so enjoyed getting the lift as high as I could and then walking as far as I could to find a café (or bar) to get a drink and read my book instead. This was outside an icebar on a very cold snowy day in Austria."



Author : Heather Eastham
Camera : Samsung Galaxy smartphone



Researching Ideas

“Taken in Ripon Library:
A man reading a book on
Garden Design who looks
thoroughly engrossed in the
book looking for inspiration for
his garden.”



The Joy Of Reading With Grandma

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"My image, I believe, demonstrates the experience and joy of reading across the generations."

The Reading Ladder

"This is one of the book bays at the University of Copenhagen library.

I just love a library with a ladder and was particularly struck by way the books are sorted by colour, which somehow makes them very appealing"



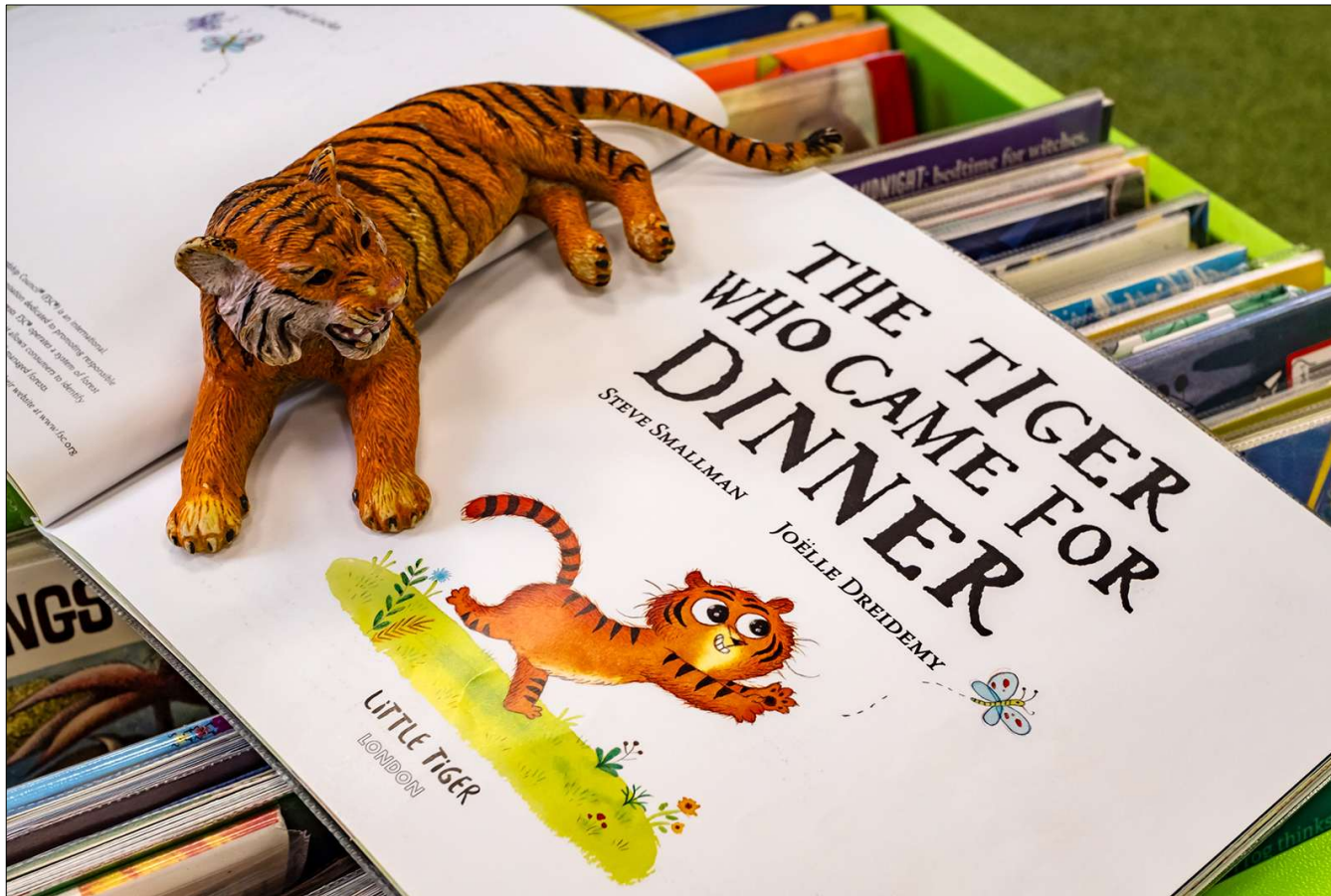
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Tiger Tiger

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"The toy tiger looks like he's settled in to listen to a good story and is ready and relaxed to find out all about his tiger friend who came for dinner. I enjoyed matching the toys in the box to the books to see what story I could create myself."



Author : Helen Tabor
Camera : Fujifilm X-T5, with 30mm macro lens



Up In Smoke

"An author reading his own published textbook for senior school and college students, illustrating the importance of thorough reading and research before developing educational materials. The textbook is crafted to engage and inspire the intended audience"



Yorkshire History

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"A selection of books to inspire people to look at Yorkshire's varied and rich past"



Author : Peter Rushton
Camera : Camera Om System OM1Mark ii

