

Read for Empathy Collection 2022

Empathy Day is on Tuesday 9 June. The theme this year is empathy, our human superpower – a special skill you can develop to transform your life, your relationships and the world itself.

The 2022 Read for Empathy collection features 60 books for 4-16 year-olds, each chosen to empower an empathy-educated generation.

All can be reserved for no charge, either on line or in person, to be collected at your local library:

capitadiscovery.co.uk/islington

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Ages 4-11

Can bears ski?

Raymond Antrobus and Polly Dunbar

A little bear is worried that people keep asking him a question he can't answer but he visits a doctor, who gives him hearing aids and he begins to hear the whole world properly at last.

A different sort of normal

Abigail Balfe

The true story of one girl's journey growing up autistic - and the challenges she faced in the 'normal' world.

The shark caller

Zillah Bethell

On the island of Papua New Guinea, where tradition and modernity clash, a young girl strives to become a shark caller to avenge the death of her parents, while helping a newcomer overcome the grief of losing her own mother to cancer.

Stars with flaming tails

Valerie Bloom and Ken Wilson-Max

A collection of poems on many subjects and with many moods.

A shelter for sadness

Anne Booth and David Litchfield

A young boy builds a shelter for his sadness where they can both do what they need to do and, in doing so, discovers a way to accept it.

Bumble & Snug and the angry pirates

Mark Bradley

Two monsters find themselves in big trouble when they find and take treasure that belongs to some short-tempered pirates.

Swallow's kiss

Sita Brahmachari and Jane Ray

A little refugee girl finds hope and friendship when she discovers a group of other refugees who make hope and wish birds out of paper.

Being me

Liz Brownlee and Victoria Jane Wheeler

A collection of poems for children about emotions and how to manage them.

What happened to you?

James Catchpole and Karen George

A one-legged little boy tires of being asked the same question repeatedly and his angry outburst makes his new friends realise that he's so much more than the number of limbs he has.

Danny Chung does not do maths

Maisie Chan and Anh Cao

An eleven-year-old boy of Chinese parents finally gets to do what he really wants to do, through the unexpected influence of his aged grandmother who comes to live with the family.

Narwhal's otter friend

Ben Clanton

Jelly gets jealous when Narwhal finds a new friend, Otty.

My beautiful voice

Joseph Coelho and Allison Colpoys

With the help of a very special teacher, a shy boy finds the courage to read the poem he wrote out loud in front of his class.

Luna loves art

Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers

A little girl on a school trip helps a lonely classmate to discover a love of art.

The house on the edge

Alex Cotter and Kathrin Honesta

A young girl struggling to deal with the loss of her father puts all her energies into keeping the family home safe from her uncle's machinations.

Last

Nicola Davies

Based on true events, a rhinoceros remembers his life before he was captured and sent to a zoo, then is rescued and taken back to the wild but he fears he is the last of his kind.

The soup movement

Ben Davis

A thirteen-year-old boy in remission from cancer moves to a new town. When he gets some chips for lunch, he gives the soup his mother had made to a homeless man and so sets in motion a growing trend of acts of kindness.

The dog that saved the World (Cup)

Phil Earle and Elisa Paganelli

A young girl and her dog save the day when they find the World Cup trophy that was stolen and then discarded in a park.

Nen and the lonely fisherman

Ian Eagleton and James Mayhew

A lonely merman and a lonely fisherman fall in love but the merman's father is angry about how humans spoil the oceans so tries to stop them meeting.

The girl who stole an elephant

Nizrana Farook

A young thief is drawn into a revolution when she has to flee her village after steal jewels from the Queen's bedroom.

The last bear

Hannah Gold and Levi Pinfold

Eleven-year-old April accompanies her father to Bear Island in the Arctic for six months. There are no polar bears left on Bear Island, but one endless summer night, April meets one. Can she save him?

Eyes that kiss in the corners

Joanna Ho and Dung Ho

A young girl notices the different shape of her eyes to those of her schoolmates and celebrates the difference and her heritage.

How to be me

Cath Howe

A young boy still grieving for his mother finds a way to open up when he makes new friends at a summer drama club.

Mayhem mission

Burhana Islam and Farah Khandaker

A nine-year-old boy doesn't want to become responsible when his sister gets married and leaves home, so he decides that he will spoil her wedding to stop that happening.

A street dog named Pup

Gill Lewis

A young dog is separated from his boy owner but never gives up hope of being reunited with him.

Tisha and the blossom

Wendy Meddour and Daniel Egnéus

A mother teaches her little girl how to switch off and slow down when things all get a bit much.

The proudest blue

Ibtihaj Muhammad, S K Ali, and Hatem Aly

A young girl celebrates the beauty and significance of her older sister's decision to wear the hijab.

The invisible

Tom Percival

When a young girl and her family have to move because they can't afford the bills, she begins to help others like her and they all begin to belong in the community they build.

Mohinder's war

Bali Rai

A thrilling World War II adventure set in occupied France, featuring an Indian RAF pilot.

The great (food) bank heist

Onjali Q Rauf and Elisa Paganelli

A young boy and his friends set to stop the thieves who are stealing food from their local food bank.

Amara and the bats

Emma Reynolds and Emma Reynolds

After she moves to a new town, a young bat-loving girl sets out to make her local park create a safe sanctuary for bats.

The boy who made everyone laugh

Helen Rutter

A young boy with a stammer dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian.

Barbara throws a wobbler

Nadia Shireen

A kitten gets so cross that she creates a Wobbler and she has to find a way of making it go away.

Sona Sharma, very best big sister

Chitra Soundar and Jen Khatun

A young girl, in spite of misgivings about a new baby brother or sister, tries her very best to become the very best big sister she can be.

Allergic

Megan Wagner Lloyd and Michelle Mee Nutter

Can Maggie outsmart her allergies and find the perfect pet?

Front desk

Kelly Yang

A young Chinese girl now living in America works hard to help her parents make enough money to live but harbours dreams to become a writer.

Ages 11-16

Future girl

Asphyxia

A sixteen-year-old deaf girl finds her world opening up when she starts a relationship with a CODA boy.

Felix ever after

Kacen Callender

A transgender teen grapples with problems created when someone posts his deadname and pre-transition pictures of him on the internet.

Sofa surfer

Malcolm Duffy

When 15-year-old Tyler has to move to Yorkshire, his new friendship with Spider finds him dealing with things in her life that he didn't know existed.

When the sky falls

Phil Earle

An evacuated boy builds a relationship with the gorilla at the zoo owned by the woman with whom he's been billeted.

In her element

Jamila Gavin and Jacinta Read

Two young girls with disabilities find friendship through their love of being in water.

When life gives you mangoes

Kereen Getten

A young girl makes a new friend and regains her confidence as she tries to come to terms with a traumatic event.

SLAM! You're gonna wanna hear this

Nita Gill (Editor)

A collection of poems from poets, old and new, from the slam (spoken word) scene.

Queen of freedom: defending Jamaica

Catherine Johnson

Tells the story of Queen Nanny who led a slave revolt on the island of Jamaica in the 18th century.

When the world was ours

Liz Kessler

Max, Leo and Elsa are three friends in Vienna in 1936, whose lives are transformed by the course of events over the next nine years.

Splinters of sunshine

Patrice Lawrence

A fifteen-year-old boy must team up with the ex-prisoner father he neither knows nor likes in order to rescue a childhood friend from the clutches of a drugs gang.

Silence is not an option

Stuart Lawrence

A young person's guide to positivity and using the good inside themselves and the world to enact change in their lives.

In the key of code

Aimee Lucido

A girl makes a friend at her new school when she joins the computer science club and learns to combine coding with her love of music.

The crossing

Manjeet Mann

A teenage girl struggling with her mother's death and an Eritrean refugee find hope when fate throws them together.

Show us who you are

Elle McNicoll

Cora, a young autistic girl befriends Adrien, a boy with ADHD, and they begin to uncover dark secrets at his father's high-tech business, the Pomegranate Institute.

The sad ghost club

Lize Meddings

An anxious, lonely person meets someone very similar at a party neither wanted to go to and a tentative friendship begins.

[This book is cruelty-free: animals and us](#)
Linda Newbery

A young person's guide to positivity and using the good inside themselves and the world to enact change in their lives.

[The curious case of Karl Nova](#)
Karl Nova

A collection of personal and autobiographical poetry by award-winning poet Karl Nova.

[Black and British: a short essential history](#)
David Olusoga

A short introduction to Black British history.

[After the war: from Auschwitz to Ambleside](#)
Tom Palmer

A young boy who survived the Nazi concentration camps arrives in the Lake District, where hopes of a new life await.

[The year I didn't eat](#)
Samuel Pollen

Based on the author's personal experiences, a 14-year-old boy battles with the eating disorder anorexia.

Wrecked

Louisa Reid

After becoming involved in a fatal accident, two teenagers' long-term relationship begins to unravel.

Little light

Coral Rumble

A story in verse which follows Ava as she navigates her tough life with as much positivity as possible.

Tsunami girl

Julian Sedgwick and Chie Kutsuwada

A teenage girl who loses her grandfather in a tsunami is helped by a friend to find a way to get on with her life through her manga.

Cane warriors

Alex Wheatle

Based on true events in 1760 in Jamaica, a fourteen-year-old slave boy becomes involved in an uprising against his oppressors.

Punching the air

Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

After a sixteen-year-old American boy is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison, he struggles to find a way to keep true to himself.

Islington Library Locations

- 1 Archway Library
- 2 Cat and Mouse Library
- 3 Central Library
- 3 Home Library Service
- 4 Finsbury Library
- 4 Islington Local History Centre
- 4 Islington Museum
- 5 Lewis Carroll Children's Library
- 6 Mildmay Library
- 7 N4 Library
- 8 North Library
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- 10 West Library

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