

# the reading agency

## Participate: Creative Reading

### Involving volunteers

Volunteers can be a big help both with running any of the above groups, and for events. This document complements the Participate: Involving Young People Volunteer Handbook.

Young people will often become 'helpers' but it is also important to recognize that they may have more specific needs. To help them get the most out the time they offer, you have to know why they want to be volunteers. Is it because they like one particular aspect of the group, or they like the social side? Core to their role is understanding the main aims of the group. If the group is in a library then getting more people to read for pleasure is central. This aim can provide the basis for developing reading-based volunteer roles, which explore young volunteers' own experience of reading and how they can share their passions with the group.

#### **Giving the volunteers a role**

While it's fine to be a 'helper' at a group, it sounds much better at a job or college interview if the young person can relate what their specific duties were, and what was expected of them. Develop local partnerships and use your authority's volunteering policy to help you develop and recognise roles for:

- Planning events
- Organizing displays
- Going on book buying trips
- Facilitating a book group
- Managing the group's presence on groupthing.org
- Writing press releases
- Organizing/writing/videoing book reviews

Volunteers need responsibilities and good communication with staff so they are not isolated.