

Reading Sheffield: Interview prompts (2011)

At the beginning of the interview you must record the details of interviewer and interviewee.

'This is an interview conducted by [spell it out]. **It is [date]..... I am interviewing**[spell it out] **He/she was born in on and lived in** [area of Sheffield] **between 1945 and 1965.** [Amend as necessary]

Interview prompts

- Did anyone read to you when you were young ? How, when, who? What kind of books?
- What were the first books you read that made you feel that you were now reading grown-up/adult books?
- Where did you get them from? Family member, library, friend, school or ...?
- Can you talk about any of the books you read as a young adult that made an impression on you? Why did they make an impression?
- What kind of books did you really like? Why?
- Tell me about where you got most of the books that you read as a teenager/young adult. [*prompt: local library, college library, works library, bookshops – new or secondhand?*]
- Did anyone encourage you to read?
- Did anyone make you feel that reading was a waste of time?
- Where and when did you find time to read?
- Were you ever made to feel embarrassed about what you read – a guilty pleasure? Or did you ever read anything because you thought it would improve you in any way? [*if appropriate: lowbrow, middlebrow, highbrow*]
- Which books did you read with pleasure when you were young that you wouldn't dream of reading again? Why not?
- Do any of the following authors or books ring any bells with you? [*Prompt: choose names from the list that seem to link with the kinds of books the reader has liked; encourage interviewee to reflect on what h/she liked about them*]
- Are there any ways in which your reading has changed your life?