

## **Ideas into Action, Level 5, Sheffield's Favourite Reads Project**

### **Project Brief**

**Name of organisation:** Reading Sheffield, Sheffield

**Website:** <https://www.readingsheffield.co.uk/>

### **Purpose of organisation/background**

Reading Sheffield is a linked group of projects – including oral history, research, artwork and poetry - gathering and connecting the experience of reading in Sheffield during the last three hundred years. We welcome volunteers to work on current projects or suggest new ones.

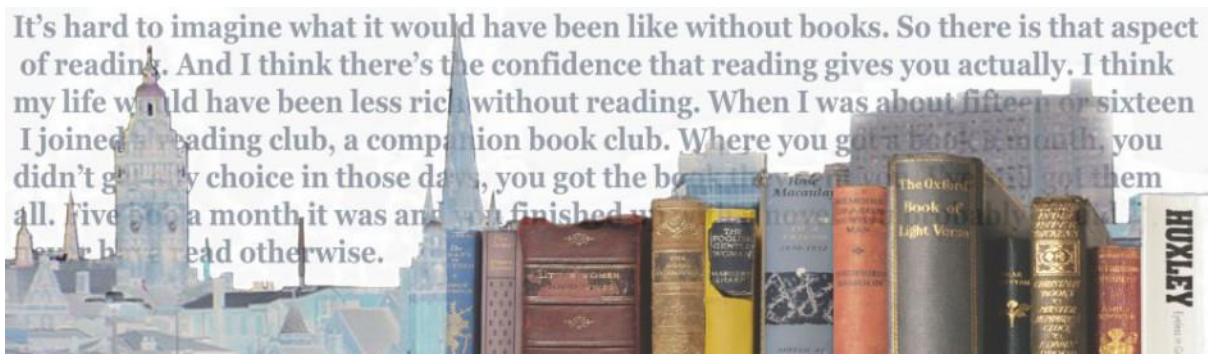
We are all Sheffield readers: We first got together in 2010 to share memories of how we treasured the time to read. We all found in reading a pleasure that changed how we lived. Our backgrounds differ but we nearly all came from homes where neither parents or grandparents had any education beyond their teens. The older members of the group had long worked to foster a love of reading: by teaching, broadcasting, working in libraries or writing books themselves. Though not all from Sheffield, we all love this city where we have spent most of our working lives. Our projects are a contribution to the social history of the people with whom we have lived and worked.

At the heart of Reading Sheffield is a set of 60+ interviews about reading with Sheffield men and women born between 1920 and 1945. These are available in transcript and audio on the project website, along with the interview guides. 'Reading journeys' have now been written for almost all the interviewees, to introduce them and cover the key points of their reading lives, and these can be found by searching the site blog.

### **Project Brief Description.**

Students will work in pairs or small groups to produce:

1. An individual account of each student's personal reading history/ journey similar in format to those on the RS site blog. As part of the blog, you are encouraged to compare and contrast your experiences and views with those of our interviewees, most of whom belong to different generations. Wordcount: 900-1000 words. Reading Sheffield may seek to publish your account on their website (with your permission).
2. A blog (one each student) based on research on popular fiction. Word count: 750-1000 words. RS will provide a list of topics and authors.



Students' projects will be partly informed by work already carried out by Reading Sheffield and can draw on resources such as

- The Reading Sheffield website
- SHU resources on oral history and ethnography research methods
- Online archives of *The Times*, *Sunday Times*, *Guardian*, *Observer* and *TLS* which will have reviews materials for some of the novels and topics.
- Archive of the *Sheffield Telegraph* and *Independent* (available on the British Newspaper Archive)
- Print and online resources on popular culture and popular fiction at SHU libraries
- SHU special collections on middlebrow fiction and 20<sup>th</sup> century popular fiction (Covid permitting)
- Sheffield Archives (Covid permitting)