

What will the Creative Cities of Literature be doing on International Literacy Day 2021?

Bucheon (South Korea)

Lead city Bucheon will highlight the work of the Bucheon Literacy Education Association. Since in classroom learning has not been possible, teachers from fourteen district centres have reached out to senior citizens with difficulty accessing digital platforms, and provided individual learning via telephone. The online learning festival will show videos and interviews that share teachers' and students' experiences during the pandemic. This event will be held on 8 October (the day before Hangeul Proclamation Day) to celebrate the importance of literacy, while remembering the invaluable work of teachers.

Dunedin (New Zealand)

Dunedin, Creative City of Literature, has joined forces with poet and teacher Jenny Powell, who will run literacy workshops for new entrant school children at local schools. This exciting programme will begin on International Literacy Day 2021. Jenny's workshop consolidates early reading experiences and will include oral language, performance and poetry-writing. Jenny has written works for all ages, and her children's poems have been published in New Zealand's *School Journal* for many years. The combination of Jenny's skills in literacy and creative writing is impressive, and Dunedin is pleased to be able to offer this new programme for creative young minds to celebrate International Literacy Day 2021.

Exeter (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

Exeter will highlight a free bibliotherapy programme, launched in summer 2021, for the benefit of low-income families, both adults and children, who struggle with literacy and reading engagement. Exeter delivered the programme, in association with Susan Elderkin from The Novel Cure, to families from Whipton Barton Junior School. Bibliotherapy is a therapeutic approach that uses literature to help clients better understand and cope with the world around them. Research has found that reading increases personal confidence, reduces social isolation, improves concentration, and increases self-awareness. Each family receives a 'book prescription' tailored to their individual reading levels, interests, and wellbeing needs and Exeter City of literature will provide three of the books from each family's list.

<https://www.exetercityofliterature.com/current-projects/bibliotherapy>

Heidelberg (Germany)

Non-profit organisation MENTOR supports the reading ability and literacy of school children aged 8 to 16 years: <https://mentor-leselernhelfer-heidelberg.de/> Mentors and students read age-appropriate texts together and talk about the experience, and play reading games to awaken a desire to read more, tapping into the imaginations and creativity of the children.

Kuhmo (Finland)

To celebrate International Literacy Day, Kuhmo Creative City of Literature will publish two YouTube videos: one a Kalevala-themed rap song, and the other an interview featuring the artist and translator behind the Juminkeko Center's Kalevala-themed summer exhibition. Among their other works, the artist and her husband have translated the Finnish National Epos, the Kalevala, into Farsi. During the interview she speaks about what We, modern day people, could learn from the national epics, and why everybody should read them.

Manchester (UK)

Read Manchester is a partnership with Manchester City Council that engages local families with books and stories, inspiring them to make reading a priority in their everyday lives. Focusing on the area of Wythenshawe, Read Manchester works with children and young people as they reach each milestone in their education, helping to end the vicious cycle of illiteracy. <https://www.facebook.com/ReadManchester/>

Nanjing (China)

Nanjing, Creative City of Literature, is celebrating the theme 'Reading as the Seed for Kids'. From Between 10 August and 30 September, primary school students, who enjoy reading, will have the opportunity to choose their favourite parts from reading materials in any genre, make self-recordings, and submit their entries to a city-wide competition. The Best Reciters will be selected by the panel and will have their recordings shared via China's largest podcasting platforms, Ximalaya and Qingting. With The Nanjing Literature Centre taking the lead, organisers of the Nanjing celebrations include Nanjing Publishing and Media Group, Nanjing Reading Promotion Association, Qinchun Bookshop and independent bookstores across the city.

Odessa (Ukraine)

Odessa, Creative City of Literature, is marking International Literacy Day with a series of events in 2021:

9/3: Presentation of the project 'Odessa chronographs: Witnesses of history in the columns of Greek periodicals of the early twentieth century' at Odessa National Scientific Library;

9/8: 'From a clay tablet to a printed page: Cognitive feast' at Branch Library № 25;

9/9: 'Pocket book: A book exhibition dedicated to International Literacy Day' at Branch Library № 28;

15/9: 'Helpers in the world of literacy: Navigator to International Literacy Day' at Branch Library № 35.

Ulyanovsk (Russia)

Ulyanovsk, Creative City of Literature, plans to hold twelve simultaneous online events in libraries dedicated to digital literacy. The online sessions will be organised by the libraries of the Ulyanovsk Centralized Library System, and will include a mini-course on digital literacy; an introduction to electronic libraries; questionnaires; web travel; online conversations with children about safe internet and digital security; and reviews of digital library collections.