



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding

North West England

READING

HACK



# INTRODUCTION

Reading Hack turns reading on its head. It's a youth-led programme for 13-24 year-olds, who gain skills and experience by volunteering and taking part in creative activities, known as 'hacks'.

A hack can be anything you like, as long as it has reading at its heart. Last year, 10,000 young people took part in Reading Hack by organising spoken word nights, running book swaps, starting their own book review blogs, volunteering to help others read and more.

Reading Hack takes place in schools, public libraries, youth groups and online; you can share your hack ideas on [www.readinghack.org.uk](http://www.readinghack.org.uk), where you'll also find more information, competitions, author interviews and hundreds of inspiring hack ideas from other young people across the UK.

Make sure you follow @ReadingHackers on Twitter and Instagram.

The Reading Hack is suitable for all sections to take part in, but the hacks must be lead by a member of The Senior Section. The aim of these hacks is to inspire members of The Senior Section to work with other levels of guiding. It is hoped that, whilst facilitating the hacks with other units, members of The Senior Section will be able to inspire more members to enjoy reading, whilst reinvigorating their own love of this past time. We recommend that you undertake one hack from each of the sections - Reading, Volunteering and Well Being. You should feel free to incorporate your own ideas and, don't worry if you don't have access to all the tools or materials listed in a hack - they are flexible!

**Remember:** You should decide with the unit(s) you're working with which hacks you would like to do. Why not get them together for a Rainbow Chat, Brownie Pow Wow, Patrol meeting or just a simple discussion.

## How to order your badges?

There are two types of badges available on completion of the Reading Hack; the Reading Hack badge is available for members of The Senior Section who have facilitated at least 3 hacks with other units in guiding. The Book Bugs badge is available for Rainbows, Brownies and Guides who have completed 3 hacks, led by a member of The Senior Section.

Badges are £1 each and be purchased directly from our Region shop using the links below.

**Buy the Reading Hack Badge (Senior Section) -**

<https://shop.girlguidingnwe.org.uk/products/reading-hack-woven-badge>

**Buy the Book Bugs Badge (Rainbows, Brownies and Guides) -**

<https://shop.girlguidingnwe.org.uk/products/book-bugs-badge>

## Why not try some of our top tips to make the Reading Hack printer friendly:

- Print multiple pages to one sheet - make sure you can still read it though!
- Set your printer to print double sided for optimum paper economy
- Only print the pages and sections you need
- Print the hacks in black and white to save your ink

**READING**

**HACK**

**READING OPTION!**



# CREATE A COMIC STRIP OF YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is for the girls to interpret the story of their favourite book by replacing words with pictures to create their own comic strip.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

The girls you are working with can either do this activity at their unit meeting place or they can take it home with them to complete. If they would like to use a computer then it may only be possible to do this at home, at school or at their local library.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

You could help the girls to start this piece of work at their unit meeting and they could then complete it in their spare time before returning to a future meeting to display their completed comic.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

Each girl should first choose their favourite book. They should then think about how they can use pictures to tell the story. The pictures can either be drawn by hand or on a computer using design software. All of the comics should then be displayed as part of a unit meeting and other members of the unit should read each other's stories.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Paper
- Pens
- Computer with a design programme

## SKILLS

- Writing
- Drawing
- Design
- Knowledge of computer packages.

## INTERESTS

- Drawing
- Storytelling
- Computers

# 150 WORD CHALLENGE

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is for the girls to create a story using just 150 words!

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

You could lead this activity in the usual unit meeting place, or why not talk to the unit leader about doing it outside, or at a local building such as a library.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

You could lead this activity as part of a unit meeting or as part of an activity day.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

All of the girls should be asked to write a story using just 150 words. Why not make it more challenging by trying to link up each person's 150 word story to create a bigger story. Ask the girls to read their finished stories out to the rest of the group. You could give them a topic to write about, or ask them to write a specific part of the story. Or, each girl could choose their own story to write.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Paper and Pens
- Imagination!

## SKILLS

- Writing
- Creativity
- Learning and enjoying words
- Team Work (if writing a small portion of a bigger story)

## INTERESTS

- Organising people
- Fun
- Storytelling

# CREATE YOUR OWN SENSORY BOOK

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is for the girls to design and create their own sensory book using different types of materials.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

You could begin this activity with the girls at their normal unit meeting place and they could then take it home to complete. Why not speak to the unit leader about doing this activity outside and using materials from the great outdoors to create the books.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

You could run this activity as part of a normal unit meeting or a special activity day.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

First the girls should decide whether they would like to create a sensory book of their favourite book, or if they would like to create their own story. They should then plan out their story and the materials that they will need to tell it. Once completed, the girls should swap their sensory books and see if they can understand what each others are about.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Paper, pens and craft materials
- Why not take examples of sensory books along with you to inspire the girls when creating their own

## SKILLS

- Writing
- Design
- Craft
- Creativity

## INTERESTS

- Words
- Storytelling
- Crafts

**READING**

**HACK**

**VOLUNTEERING OPTION!**



# INVITE AN AUTHOR TO A UNIT MEETING OR ARRANGE A 'MEET THE AUTHOR' EVENT IN THE LOCAL AREA!

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is for young members to meet and (if possible) interview a local (or even national!) author.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

If it is possible for the author to visit the units normal meeting place then it could take place there. Alternatively, an external venue such as a library or bookshop may be the best places to find an event.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

This could be part of a normal unit meeting or at a special event.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

First, find out if you have any authors in your local area and check what age group they write for and whether it is appropriate for the unit your working with. You may be able to contact the author directly, or you may need to go through their publisher if you are inviting them to a unit meeting or event. If you decide to go to the library or a bookshop to see an author, you may need to arrange transport. For both options there is likely to be a cost, so do bear this in mind when planning this hack and liaise with the unit Leader as to whether there are unit funds available to support this.

## THINGS YOU NEED

Books by the author so the girls can read some of them before the event. You may be able to borrow these from your local library. If you are going to go to another venue, you may need to think about transport and consent forms. Speak to the unit Leader who will help you with this.

## SKILLS

- Writing letters and emails
- Knowledge of Girlguiding procedures
- Organisational skills
- Event management

## INTERESTS

- Books suitable for all ages
- Organisation of events

# ORGANISE A BOOK RAFFLE

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is to organise a book raffle, either with one unit or across multiple units to encourage younger members to read new books.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

Whilst book raffles are possible at all levels of guiding, this hack is aimed at the Rainbows and Brownies, so would take place at their unit meeting place or at a special event for these sections.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

This Activity can either take place at a meeting, or if the girls are keen to continue the raffle, at multiple meetings over a term.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

All of the books should be labelled with a number, you should then give the Rainbows and/or Brownies a raffle ticket containing a number on one of the books. The girls will need to find the book which has the same number. They could do this once a month for a few months. You could then ask them to write a review or dress up and act out the book.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Raffle tickets
- Books

Tip: Why not ask the Rainbows and Brownies to each bring a book along with them to swap.

## SKILLS

- Reading
- Knowledge of books suitable for the age group you're working with

## INTERESTS

- Ways of presenting information about books this age group will like

# HOLD A BOOK PARTY!

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is to hold a book party for a Rainbow or Brownie unit; the party could have a specific theme such as Harry Potter or Roald Dahl, or the girls could come as a character of their own choice.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

The party could take place at the normal unit meeting place or at another suitable party venue.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

The party could take place at the normal unit meeting or as a special unit event.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

Agree with the girls in the unit what type of party they would like to hold. Create invitations to invite the girls to the party once the theme has been decided. Organise the details for the party including party games and party food.

Tip: Don't forget to check if any of the girls in the unit have dietary requirements if providing food.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Invitations
- Party food
- A range of games to play, related to books
- Prizes for the best fancy dress costume

## SKILLS

- Design
- Organisational skills
- Creativity

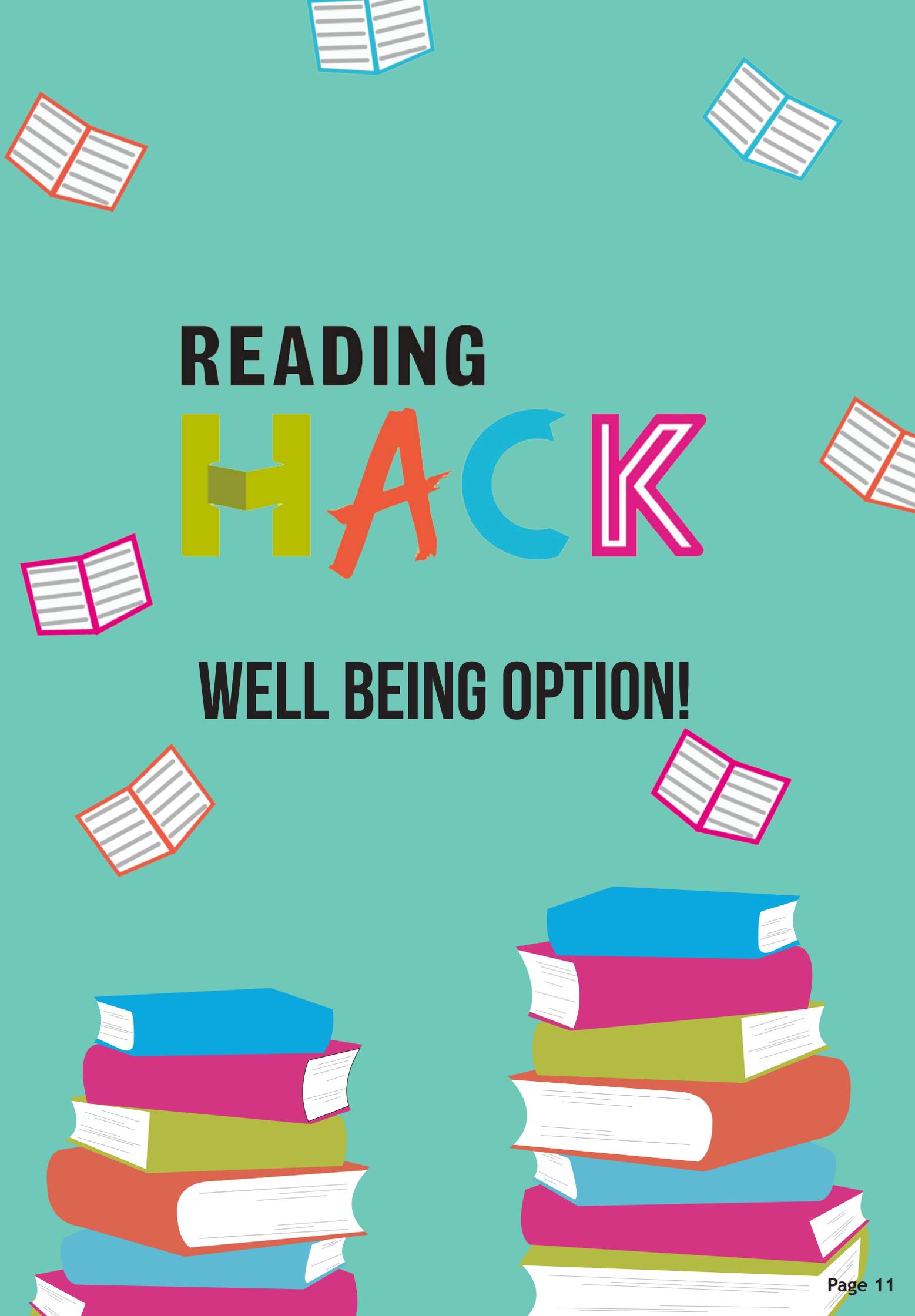
## INTERESTS

- Reading and a knowledge of books suitable for the age group
- Creativity
- Party planning

**READING**

**HACK**

**WELL BEING OPTION!**



# POSITIVE MYSTERY BOOK

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is to cover your favourite book in brown paper and write a blurb on it describing the book.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

This hack could take place at the normal unit meeting place.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

This hack could be held at a normal unit meeting.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

Each member to bring a book wrapped in paper. Each person will need to write a blurb about the book on the paper cover. Lay out all the books and each person has to pick one and take it home and read it. At the next meeting they can tell the rest of the unit what they thought of the book.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- Paper
- Books

## SKILLS

- Reading
- Reviewing
- Presentation
- Debating

## INTERESTS

- Books
- Debating

# HAPPY MEMORIES BOOK

## WHAT (IT IS ABOUT)

The aim of this hack is to create a book to make the girls feel happy.

## WHERE (IT WILL TAKE PLACE)

You could introduce this hack to the girls as part of their unit meeting, to be continued at home, or they could work on their books across multiple meetings.

## WHEN (IT WILL HAPPEN)

During the unit meeting, or at a time to suit the girls outside of the unit meeting place.

## HOW (WE WILL DO IT)

Encourage the girls to create their own happy memories book using different resources. They could include their favourite quotes, photos of their friends, camps or holidays etc. They could include things people have said to them that have made them happy or accounts of their favourite happy moments. If they would like to, the girls can then tell the rest of their unit about some of the things they have included in their book and why.

## THINGS YOU NEED

- A blank book
- Pens
- Photographs and anything the girls wish to put in their book, or create for it

## SKILLS

- Writing
- Design
- Reflecting skills

## INTERESTS

- Words
- Craft