



Go All In with Pongo!

Girlguiding North West England



**GO
ALL
IN.**

National
Year of
Reading
2026

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Challenge Pack: Go All In with Pongo!

Introduction

You may have seen that 2026 is the National Year of Reading – a year to celebrate the power of stories and the joy of reading for pleasure. In partnership with the National Literacy Trust, we want every member in our region to rediscover the magic of a good book, to find out more about what they love, and boost mental health and wellbeing by reading for pleasure!

Whether you are a Rainbow exploring your first story, a Brownie baking, a Guide learning about your favourite astronaut, or a Ranger using books for activism, this pack is designed to help you “Go All In”. Remember, reading includes audiobooks – if you’re into it, read into it! Come along and meet Pongo, our gentle orangutan friend, as he helps us explore the joy of reading. He loves stories almost as much as he loves swinging in the trees, and he can’t wait to share that excitement with all of you.

All the activities in this pack can be adjusted or adapted to work better for members’ needs and preferences; audio books are just as appropriate as reading books.

How to Earn Your Go All In badge

This challenge is split into three themes:

Ignite the Story, Read What You Love, and Reading for Wellbeing.



3 activities (1 from each theme)



3 activities (at least 1 from each theme)



4 activities (at least 1 from each theme)



4 activities (at least 1 from each theme)

To purchase your badge, please head over to our region shop here:

<https://shop.girlguidingnwe.org.uk>
and search “Go All In”



Theme 1

Ignite the Story



Show & Tell

Time: 20–30 minutes.

Resources: A favourite book or something you enjoy reading. This does not have to be a fiction book.

Instructions: In small circles, members introduce their book/reading material, explain the plot (without spoilers), and share why they love it to spark conversations and expand others' reading choices.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): The 60-Second Pitch. You must persuade your audience to read the book using only three 'hook' sentences. You will be timed and must answer three "critical" questions from the group.

Related Interest Badges: Rainbows (Storyteller – Express Myself), Brownies (Book Reviewer – Be Well), Guides (My Views – Take Action).

*This is a story about
magic in space!*

*You question if you should
actually like the bad guy!*

*You will not be able
to solve the mystery til
the end.*

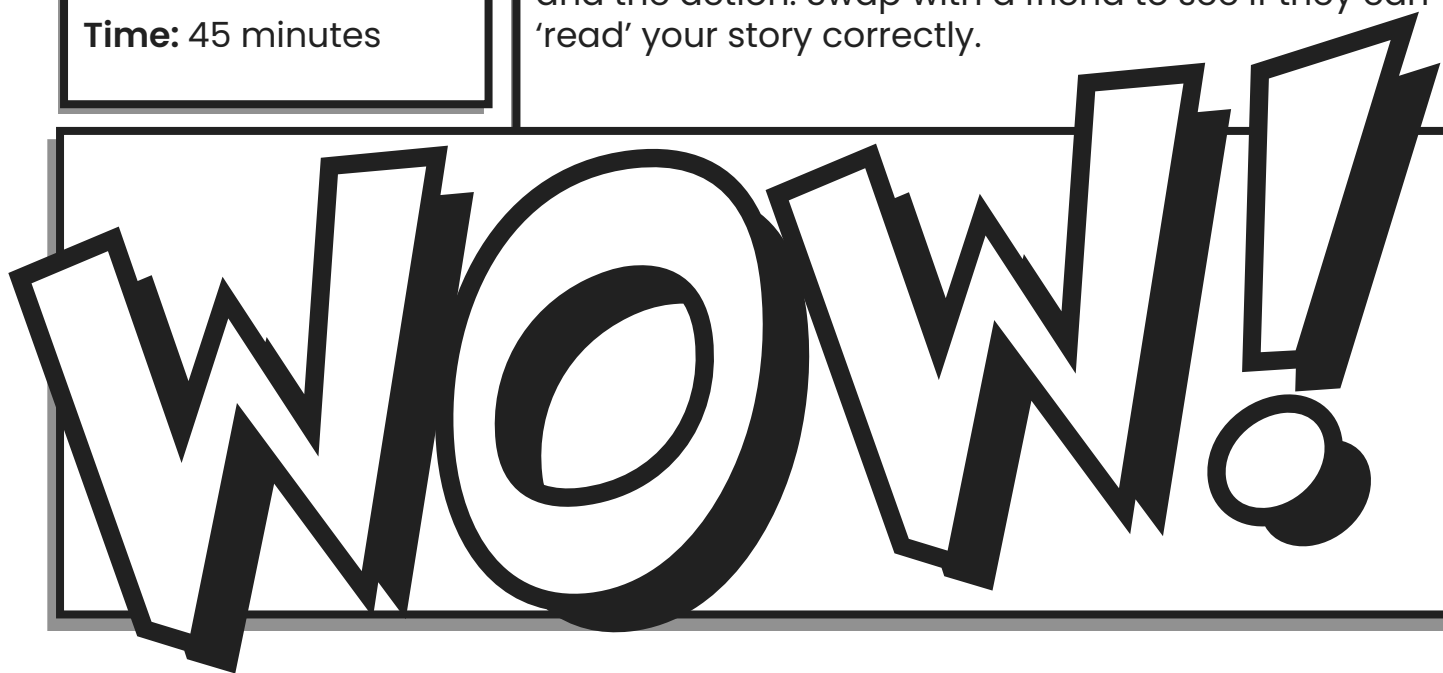
COMIC STRIP CREATORS

The Goal: Learn to understand the flow of a story through panels, expressions, and action lines rather than just words.

Time: 45 minutes

Resources: Blank comic templates (3–6 panels), pencils, and markers.

Instructions: Create a silent comic. You must tell a complete story (a beginning, middle, and end) without using a single word or speech bubble. Focus on 'reading' the character's body language and the action. Swap with a friend to see if they can 'read' your story correctly.



Level Up (Guides & Rangers): The Script-to-Panel Challenge. One girl writes a descriptive paragraph of a scene. The other must read that text and translate it into a storyboard. This tests how we interpret descriptive language into visual information.

Related Interest Badges: Brownies (Imagination – Express Myself).

Read My World

The Goal: Show how reading connects to your hobbies and interests.

Time: 20–30 minutes

Resources: Non-fiction books, magazines, websites printed out, or audiobooks linked to hobbies (sport, animals, space, crafts, gaming, cooking, etc).

Instructions:

Members choose a reading item connected to something they love (e.g. football magazines, recipe books, horse-care guides, Minecraft handbooks). Share:

- What the reading is about
- What it helped you learn or do
- One cool fact or tip you discovered

Level Up (Guides & Rangers):

Skill Builder: Identify how reading helps you improve your hobby (e.g. learning techniques, rules, history). Create a mini 'starter reading list' for someone new to that interest.

Related Interest Badges: Rainbows (Storyteller – Express Myself), Brownies (Passions – Know Myself), Guides (Happy habits – Skills for my Future).

Musical Melodies: Bringing Stories to Life

Explore how music and sound effects can change the mood and 'voice' of a written story.

Time: 45 minutes

Resources: A short story or picture book, percussion instruments (or 'found' instruments like pots and spoons), and a way to play recorded music.

Instructions: Read a story aloud as a unit. Identify key moments (a storm, a character running, a magical discovery) and use instruments or vocal sounds to create a 'soundtrack' that plays while the story is read.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): * The Challenge: Select a piece of instrumental music first. Listen to it and write a short story or scene that matches the 'story' the music is telling.

The Harder Part: Perform your story with the music, ensuring your narration hits specific musical cues.

Related Interest Badges: Rainbows (Storyteller – Express Myself), Brownies (Imagination – Express Myself), Guides (Music – Express Myself), Rangers (Creative writing – Express Myself).

Theme 2

Read

Into It!



Hobby Hack

Goal: Show how reading helps you level-up at something you love.

Time: 30–40 mins

Resources: Books, magazines, blogs, manuals, instructions related to your hobby (crafts, sport, coding, music, baking, gaming, etc).

Instructions:

1. Pick a hobby you enjoy.
2. Find something you read that helps you get better at it (instructions, tutorials, guides, magazines, even YouTube transcripts).
3. Share with the group:
 - o What you read
 - o One tip or cool fact you learned
 - o How it helped you

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Create a mini 'Hobby Reading Guide' for your unit so others can try it.

Related Interest Badge: Brownies (Passions – Know Myself), Guides (Journalling/Personal Best), Rangers (Blogging/Vlogging/Booktivist).

Look For a Book

Time: 15 mins (prep) + 20 mins (walk)

Resources: Preloved books, waterproof bags, NYR printable postcards (available [here](#) and [here](#)).

Instructions: Write a friendly note on the postcard, tuck it into the book, and hide it in a safe public space for members of your community to find and enjoy. You can also write postcards of interesting recommendations and leave these around for people to find.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): The Book Trail. Coordinate with local businesses or parks to create a 'Reading Trail'. Use QR codes on your postcards that link to a unit-made map or a digital review of the hidden book.

Related Interest Badges: Brownies (Kindness – Take Action)

Community Book Drive

Time: 1 hour (plus collection period)

Resources: Cardboard boxes, craft materials for decorating, local contact list.

Instructions: Are there any community book shelves in your area? Collect preloved books to restock local community bookshelves, schools, or community spaces.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Rangers act as project managers to identify a specific 'literacy desert' in their area (e.g., a local hospital waiting room) and pitch a plan to the site manager to install a permanent Book Swap Box.

Related Interest Badges: Brownies (Charities – Take Action), Rangers (Booktivist – Know Myself).

Create a Unit Reading List

Goal: Celebrate the variety of reading in your unit.

Time: 30–40 mins

Resources: Paper, pens, display board

Instructions:

- Each member contributes 3 reading items they love. Include anything: comic, blog, recipe, lyrics, DIY instructions, manual, magazine, audiobook. Why do they love it? What has it helped them to learn or achieve? What has it helped them to experience or feel?
- Organise into categories: 'Fun', 'Skill-Building', 'Relaxing', 'Learning'.
- Display your list in your meeting space.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Turn it into a digital resource or social media post for the unit or wider community.

Relate Interest Badges: Brownies (Book reviewer – Be Well)

Theme 3

Reading



Book Review Postcards

Time: 20 minutes

Resources: Art supplies.

Instructions: Capture your thoughts in a structured way on the postcard. Draw a new cover design on the blank side.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Digital Advocacy. Design a high-quality digital graphic or 'BookTok' style video review to share on official guiding social media channels.

Related Interest Badges: Brownies (Book Reviewer – Be Well), Rangers (Blogging-Express Myself).

“Take 10” Reading Nook

Time: 30 minutes

Resources: Blankets, cushions, fairy lights, books.

Instructions: Build a cozy ‘nook’ in your meeting space. For 10 minutes in your unit meeting, practice mindfulness by reading for your mental health.

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Sensory Curation. Beyond building the space, curate a 10-minute ‘soundscape’ (rain, library sounds) and hand-make bookmarks using advanced craft skills like macramé or calligraphy.

Related Interest Badges: Rainbows (Healthy Mind – Be Well), Brownies (Mindfulness – Be Well), Guides (Bookworm – Know Myself), Rangers (Calm space – Be Well).



Read - Rest - Rage: The Unit Reading Shelf

The Goal: Show that reading comes in many formats and serves different emotional needs and that people get to choose what matters to them.

Time: 30–45 minutes

Resources: Paper, sticky notes, or cards, pens

Optional: a display board, boxes, or digital tool (e.g. Padlet, Slides)

Instructions:

As a unit, create a shared reading shelf with three sections:

READ (Curiosity & Learning)

Things that help you learn, explore, or deep-dive:

- Non-fiction books
- Manuals, guides, how-tos
- Articles, blogs, Wikipedia deep dives
- Magazines, comics, graphic novels
- Subtitles, transcripts, recipes

REST (Calm & Comfort)

Things that help you switch off or feel safe:

- Audiobooks
- Poetry
- Familiar rereads
- Fanfiction
- Picture books
- Lyrics

RAGE (Feelings & Fire)

Things that help you process big feelings or challenge the world:

- Protest speeches
- Opinion pieces
- Zines
- Song lyrics
- Autobiographies
- News articles

Each member contributes at least one item to any section and adds:

- What it is
- Why it belongs there
- How it makes you feel

Share and reflect

Share and reflect as a group by discussing:

- Which section filled up fastest?
- Were there surprises?
- Did anything not look like “reading” at first?

Level Up (Guides & Rangers): Reading Culture Creators

Turn your shelf into a digital resource for your district or division and add content warnings, age notes and mood tags. As an optional challenge, create a fourth category your unit invents (e.g. laguh, escape, fuel, fight back).

Related Interest Badges: Rainbows (Healthy Mind – Be Well), Brownies (Mindfulness – Be Well), Guides (Bookworm – Know Myself)