

Empathy Day

12 June 2018



Read stories

Build empathy

Make a better world

#ReadforEmpathy

www.empathylab.uk



Libraries and Empathy

Libraries: the perfect place to bring communities together on Empathy Day

In divided times, empathy is a vital force for building cohesive communities and children's life chances

Since research shows reading builds empathy, libraries' core business can make a real difference



Empathy Day Aims

Harness the power of stories to build empathy

Give children (4-11) inspiring empathy experiences, using books

Help adults living/working with children use books differently to build empathy

Provoke mass crowd-sharing of empathy book-recommendations

Inspire Empathy Promises – people putting empathy into action



What libraries can do for Empathy Day



Read

- Displays using 2018 Read for Empathy collection
- Display features: Empathy Wall, shoes, empathy glasses, trees with empathy promises
- Empathy-themed rhyme times



Share

- Social media #ReadforEmpathy recommendations
- Support sharing/talking through Empathy Exchange shelf/cards
- Help people swap reading lives to understand others better



Do

- Identify community issues where more empathy would help
- Help the public make and enact Empathy Promises to tackle the issue



READ:

2018 Read for Empathy Collection



EmpathyLab

Read stories. Build empathy. Make a better world.



Read For Empathy Guide

30 books to build children's empathy

#ReadforEmpathy

How does empathy work?

Picture books

Novels, poetry, graphic novels

Top tips

Order from
www.peters.co.uk/empathy
for 20% discount

EmpathyLab



SHARE: help people use books to connect



Tweet your recommendations for adult or children's empathy-boosting books
#ReadForEmpathy

Make an **Empathy Wall** with wallpaper. Everyone writes their **#ReadForEmpathy** ideas. Gather at different times to talk, share and understand



People swap reading lives to connect and understand



Help the public
buddy up with
someone they
hardly know, or
who is very
different from
them



The week before
Empathy Day, they
swap the books
they are reading



On Empathy Day,
they get together
to discuss,
connect and
understand



Empathy Exchange



- Set up an Empathy Exchange shelf/dumpbin
- Populate with ReadforEmpathy collection
- Invite people to borrow a book then replace it with another
- They slip in a card saying why this is another great #ReadforEmpathy

Empathy Exchange could become a permanent section to express the community's reflections.



Do!



**Put empathy into action
– download and display
Empathy Promise cards**



Resources for you

- Posters and bookmarks from Peters when you buy the book collection
- Downloadable Read for Empathy Guide (www.empathylab.uk)
- Author quotes/ recommendations/ Twitter cards
- Case studies of library activity



Watch this space!

- **2018 *Engaging Libraries* experiment**
- **Engaging families in tackling a community issue where more empathy would help**
- **Empathy Cafes, planning community Empathy Day activities**
- **Library services involved: Essex, Sheffield, St Helens, Devon (Libraries Unltd)**
- **Funded by Carnegie and Wellcome Trusts**



Want planning help?

- Creative telephone brainstorming on offer
- Contact Miranda McKearney OBE, EmpathyLab's Chair
miranda@empathylab.uk
- @EmpathyLabUK @MirandaMcK
- Sign up to receive toolkit
info@empathylab.uk