

# Summer Reading Resources

## Local libraries

You don't need to be a resident of an area to have library membership. Local libraries offer a selection of books to borrow for free, which can be ordered from other libraries for collection at your local branch. Many libraries also offer free ebooks, audiobooks and magazines which can be borrowed via an app.

For Birmingham Libraries, click [here](#).

For Walsall Libraries, click [here](#).

Recommendations of recent releases (please check availability ahead of visiting)

### [The Last Hawk by Elizabeth Wein](#)

- **Summary:** a thrilling, female-led aviation adventure set against the backdrop of Hitler's Germany and the last days of the Nazi regime
- **Available at:** Aldridge District Library, Bloxwich District Library, Brownhills District Library, Darlaston District Library, Lichfield Street Hub, Willenhal District Library, Streetly Community Library

### [Hani and Ishu's guide to Fake Dating by Adiba Jaiqirdar](#)

- **Summary:** Everyone likes Hani Khan - she's easy going and one of the most popular girls at school. But when she comes out to her friends as bisexual, they don't believe her, claiming she can't be bi if she's only dated guys. Panicked, Hani blurts out that she's in a relationship - with a girl her friends can't stand - Ishu Dey. Ishu is the polar opposite of Hani. An academic overachiever, she hopes that becoming head girl will set her on the right track for university. Her only problem? Becoming head girl is a popularity contest and Ishu is hardly popular. Pretending to date Hani is the only way she'll stand a chance of being elected. Despite their mutually beneficial pact, they start developing real feelings for each other. But some people will do anything to stop two Bengali girls from achieving happily ever after
- **Available at:** Streetly Community Library

### [When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler](#)

- **Summary:** A powerful, heart-breaking, ultimately redemptive novel about three childhood friends in 1930s Vienna whose fates are closely intertwined, even when their lives take very different courses
- **Available at:** Streetly Community Library

## Free online ebooks

Older texts that are out of copyright can usually be found online for free – this is a great way to find and read classics.

### [OpenCulture](#) ebooks

Recommendations:

- [Northanger Abbey](#) by Jane Austen
- [The Wizard of Oz](#) by L. Frank Baum
- [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) by Lewis Carroll
- [Oliver Twist](#) by Charles Dickens
- [The Three Musketeers](#) by Alexandre Dumas
- [Nineteen Eighty-Four](#) by George Orwell
- [The Picture of Dorian Gray](#) by Oscar Wilde

[Oak National Academy Virtual School Library](#) – a new book becomes available to read or listen to every week

### [Gutenberg](#)

Recommendations:

- [The Railway Children](#) by E. Nesbit
- [The Jungle Book](#) by Rudyard Kipling
- [The Call of the Wild](#) by Jack London

[The Book of Hopes](#) – a collection of 100 short stories for children

### **Free online non-fiction**

Non-fiction is as valuable as fiction. You can read about any topic! Here are some recommendations:

[National Geographic](#) – find out more about the world we live in

[BBC History Extra](#) – discover the past through thousands of articles

[Science Focus](#) – catch up on the latest in science and technology news

### **Free online audiobooks**

#### [OpenCulture audiobooks](#)

Recommendations:

- [Jane Eyre](#) by Charlotte Brontë
- [The Graveyard Book](#) by Neil Gaiman
- [The Chronicles of Narnia](#) (whole series) – by C.S. Lewis
- [Classic gothic horror collection](#) (Dracula, Frankenstein, Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde)
- [War of the Worlds](#) by H.G. Wells

### **Read poetry online**

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[Bookshop](#) – supports local bookshops by giving them 75% of the profits