BIG SUMMER READ

Family Guide

1 December - 31 January

JOIN. BORROW. READ. WIN!

2026-2027

READ AROUND AUSTRALIA

At participating libraries across Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia.

Welcome to the Big Summer Read

Help make reading part of your family's summer! The Big Summer Read makes it easy to keep your child reading over the holidays, with plenty of choice, encouragement and fun along the way.

Encourage reading for fun



Let your child choose what they love to read.

Keep reading skills growing



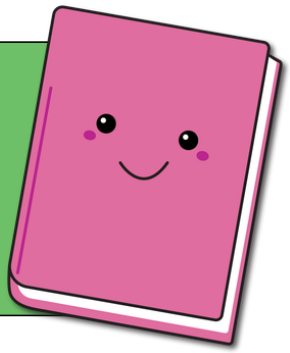
Regular reading helps your child maintain the reading skills they've developed throughout the school year.

Discover your local library

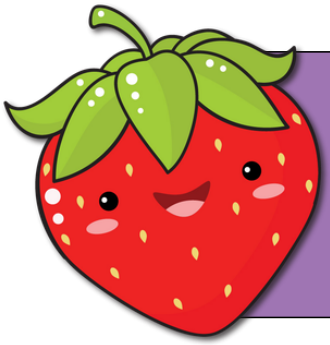


Explore free books, resources and activities for the whole family.

Key Dates



December 1 2026
Challenge Starts



January 31 2027
Challenge Ends



February 9 2027
Paper entry submissions due back to your library

Join the Big Summer Read

Children and teens can join in online or with a paper reading log.

Choose the option that works for your family.

JOIN ONLINE

Visit readbooks.com.au/bsr

Scan me

Already have a ReadBooks account?

Sign in

New to ReadBooks?

Join now



USE A PAPER LOG

Pick up a reading log from a participating library.

How it works online

JOIN

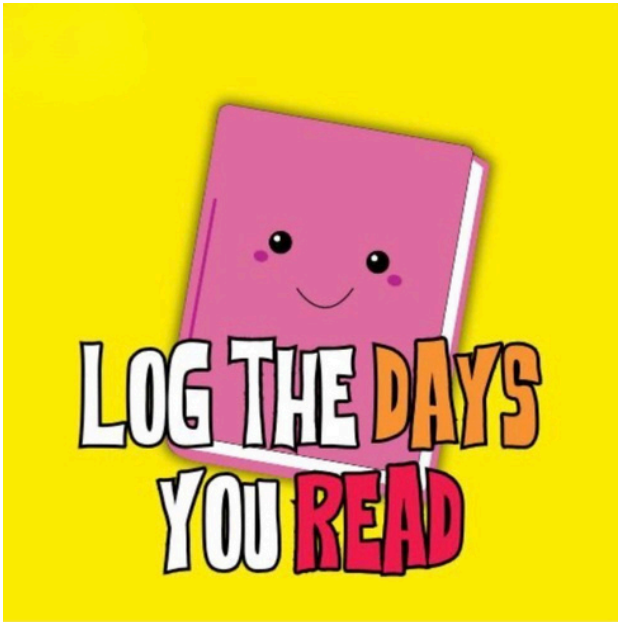
Sign in or create your ReadBooks account.

READ

Choose whatever you love to read in any format; books, comics, ebooks, audiobooks. It all counts!

LOG





Track books read or days spent reading.

KEEP GOING...

Read and log throughout the summer holidays.

WIN!

Log a minimum of **5 books or 5 days of reading**. Every 5 books or days = 1 entry into the prize draw. Your online entries go into the relevant state and national prize draws.

Using paper logs?

Return your completed log to your local library by 9 February 2027 to be eligible for the relevant prize draws.

Setting up your family online

VISIT readbooks.com.au/bsr

SIGN IN OR JOIN

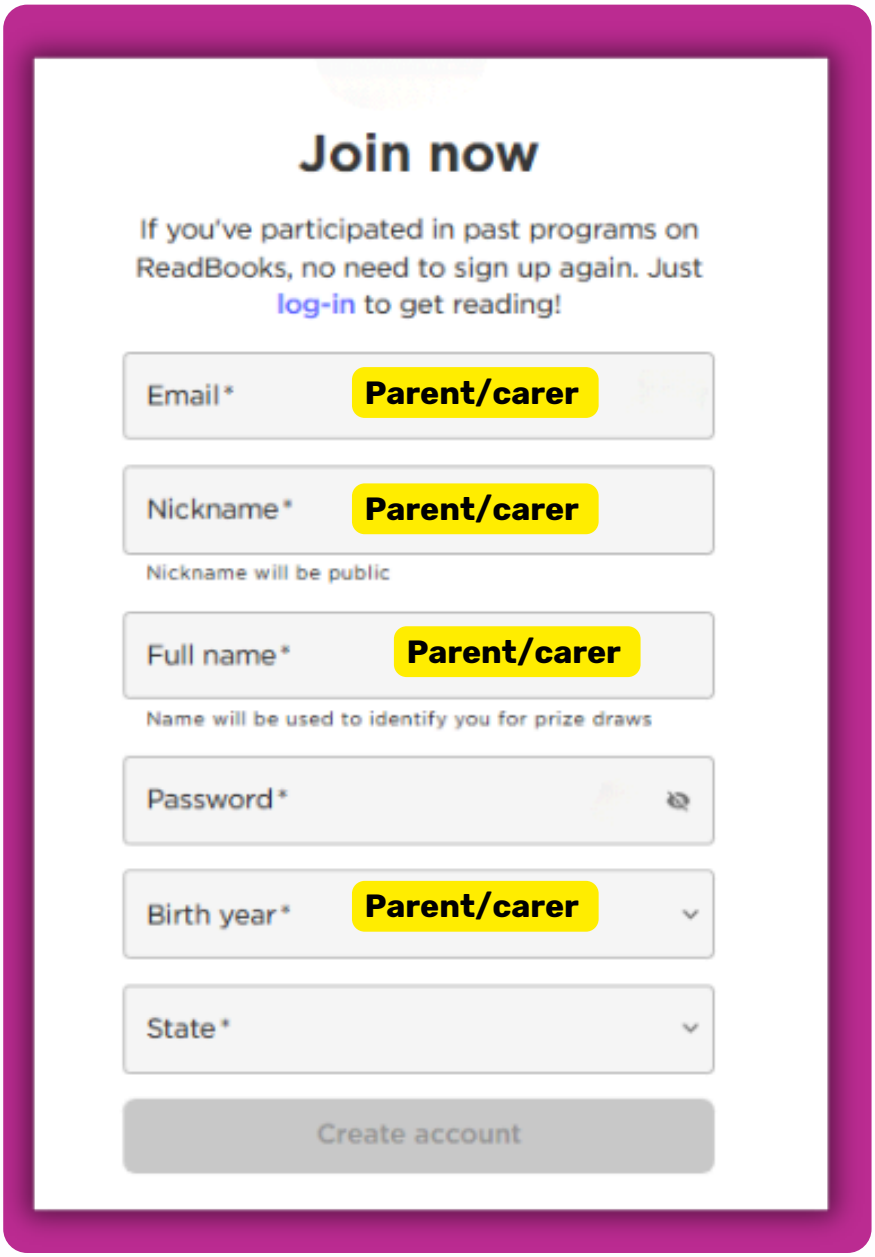
Returning participant?
If you have participated in a ReadBooks reading challenge before (including Warm Winter Read) choose Sign In

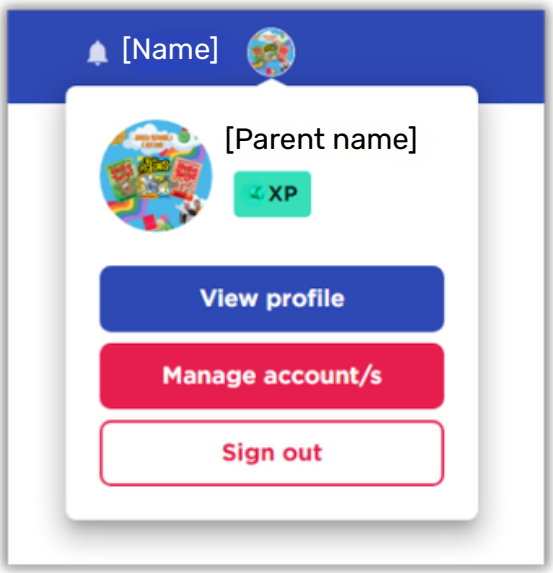
New participant?
Choose Join Now

Enter your details as the parent or carer managing your child/children's accounts. You can add your children in the next step.

Once your email address is verified, you will be able to log into your account.

*children under the age of 13 need to be under a parent/carer account. Teens over the age of 13 can create their own accounts.

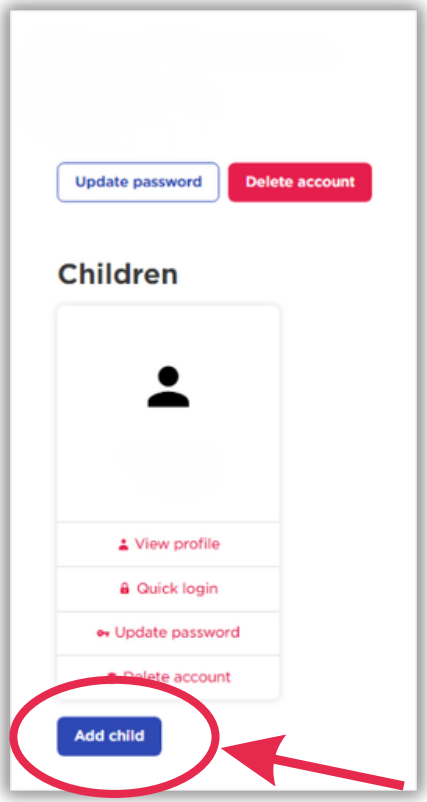




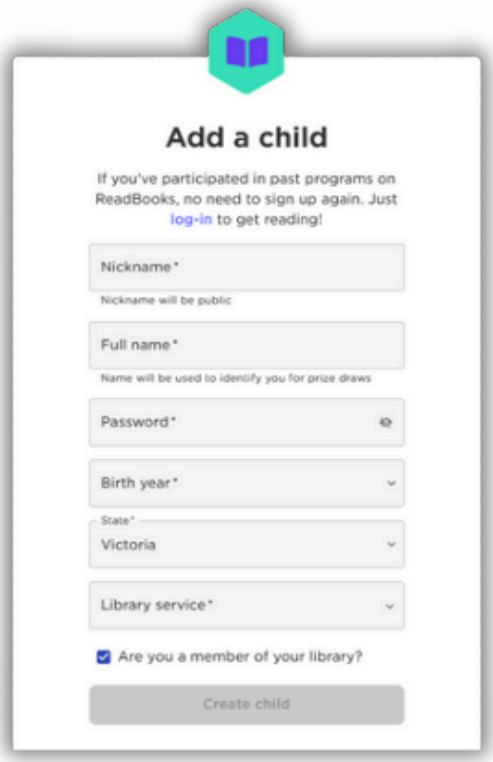
ADD YOUR CHILDREN

If you are not automatically directed to your profile page, you can access it from the top menu bar. To add child/children click on

Manage account/s



Add child/children one by one from this page.



Complete the details to add each child.

START READING!

Each child has their own profile to log reading and track progress. You will be asked to select the child when logging activities throughout the campaign.

How it works offline

Using a paper reading log

1. PICK IT UP

Get a reading log from a participating library.

2. READ

Enjoy reading anything you want to read.

3. LOG

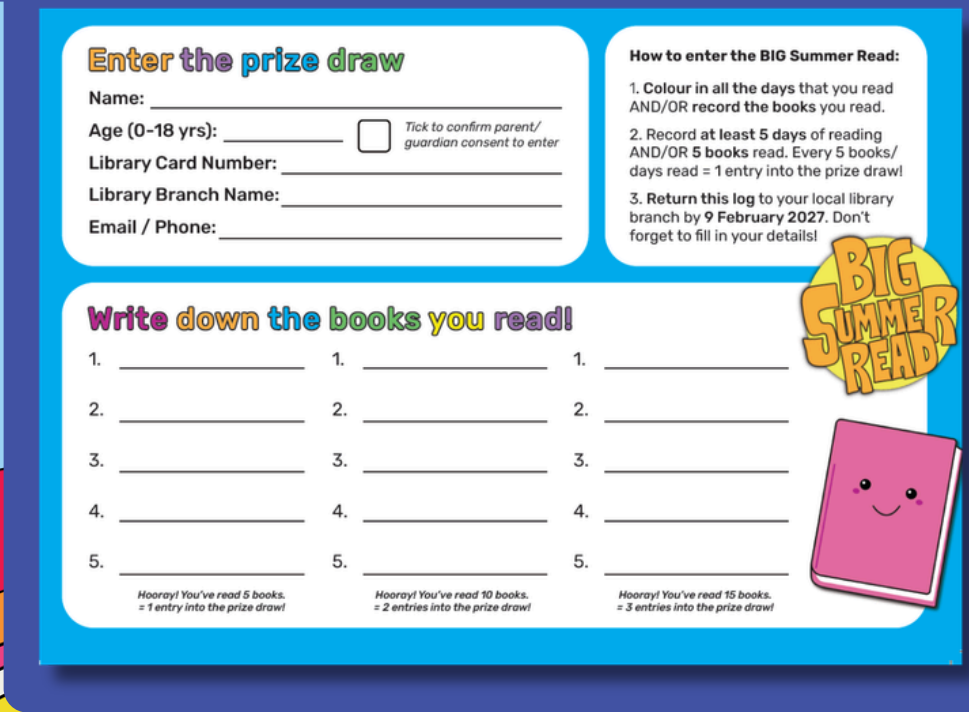
Record the books you read, or the days you read, or both!



4. HAND IT IN

Return your completed log to your local library by **9 FEBRUARY 2027.**

Paper logs are available at participating libraries. Check with your local library about availability and local prize draws.



All reading counts

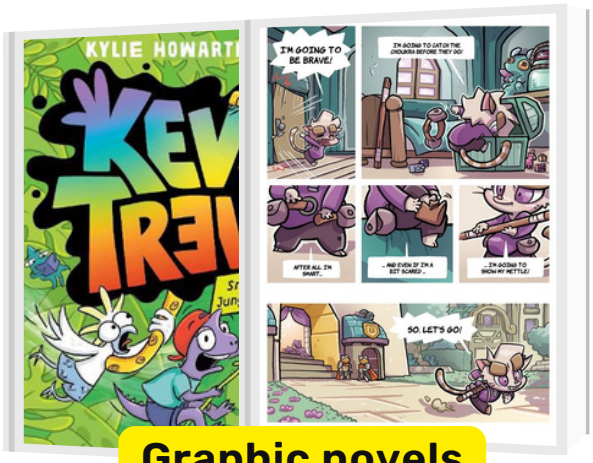
Stories come in all shapes and sizes. Choose what works for you!

BOOKS



Picture books | Chapter books
Non-fiction | Magazines

GRAPHIC NOVELS



Graphic novels
Comics | Manga

LISTEN



Audiobooks | Read alouds

READ TOGETHER



Share a story with family or friends

ANY LANGUAGE



Reading in any language counts.

CEREAL BOX?

why not?

And yes, rereading old favourites counts too!



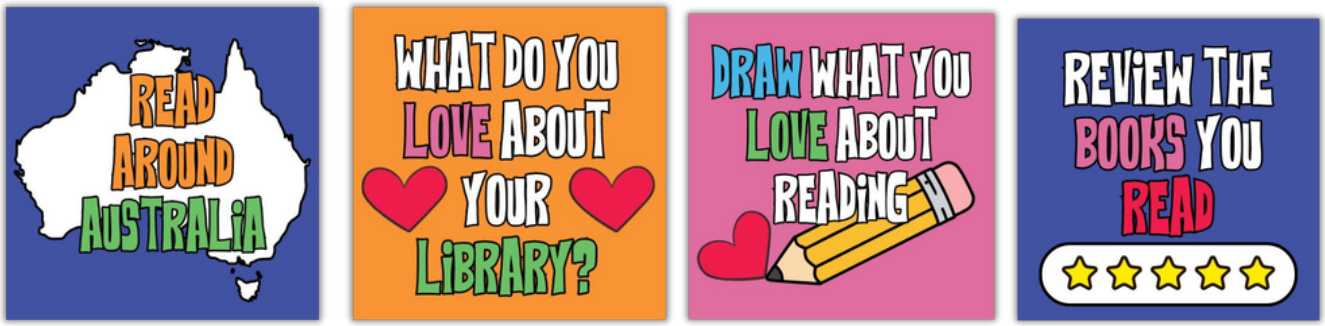
MEET THE MASCOTS

Our Big Summer Read mascots share fun activities, and you can earn badges and experience points.



BONUS CHALLENGES

Looking for more challenges? Try a bonus challenge in ReadBooks.



FEATURED AUTHORS

Children's authors love being part of the Big Summer Read! We have a dedicated page to introduce each of them, along with their books, recommendations for reading and tips to help you dive into reading all summer long.



Read and Win!

Reading is the real reward, but you could win something extra too!
We have three levels of prize draws:

LOCAL

Check with your library for local prizes.

STATE

Eligible entries go into state prize draws.

Check with your library for state prize draws.

NATIONAL

Eligible entries automatically go into national prize draws.
National prize draws include participants from multiple states.

All particicipating libraries are eligible for their entrants to go in the national prize draw.

National Prizes:

Awarded via random draws of eligible participants in 4 age categories

0-4 YEARS

Books and book packs

5-8 YEARS

Books and selected bookish activity pack

9-12 YEARS

Kobo eReader + books

13-18 YEARS

Sony wireless noise cancelling headphones + books

Full Terms and conditions of entry may be found at readbooks.com.au

5 easy ways to encourage summer reading

Make it a routine

Find a regular time for reading.

Let them choose

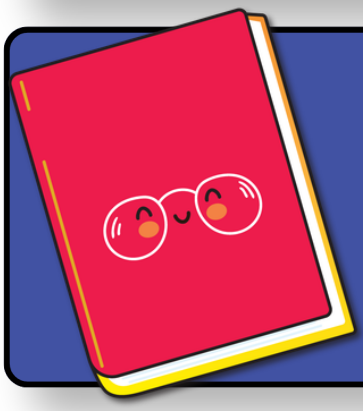
Any book that gets them reading is a good choice.

Read together

Share a story or read alongside each other.

Visit the library

Discover new books, access digital resources, and explore free programs and activities.



Celebrate!

Encourage progress and enjoyment, not competition.

FAQ’s

Do you recommend any particular books?
Absolutely. Your local library is the perfect place to discover your next great read. You can also explore recommendations from our Ambassador and Featured Authors on ReadBooks for inspiration.

Do I need to visit the library to participate?
No. The Big Summer Read can be enjoyed wherever you are. Reading can be logged online from home, and paper logs can travel with you throughout the summer. While visiting the library isn’t required, it’s a great way to discover new books, access digital resources, and explore free programs and activities.

Can siblings share a ReadBooks account?
Each child should have their own account so they can track their reading progress and be entered into prize draws individually. Parents and carers can create multiple child accounts under a single parent account, making it easy to manage reading activity for the whole family in one place. Children using paper logs should also have their own log to record their reading.

I’m worried this will create competition between my children. One is a more confident reader than the other. What should I do?
We know that every child develops as a reader at their own pace. The Big Summer Read is about encouraging a love of stories and celebrating progress, not comparing achievements. Children can choose the reading option that works best for them, and every participant has an equal chance to be entered into the prize draws. Our goal is to make reading a positive and enjoyable experience for everyone.