



We all hope that you and your families are keeping safe at this challenging time. I know that many of you will have discovered some of the wonderful online offerings to entertain and engage us by now, but I hope that the following list is useful and gives you something enriching to recommend to people, of all ages, in your household

For Younger Children (3-11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Book Trust has an excellent website and you can find them on Twitter and Instagram too. They have reading and writing activities for children of all ages. https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/home-activities• Visit: https://www.storynory.com/ for free audio stories for children right through to teenagers as well as much more interesting content!• You can find even more stories at https://storyweaver.org.in/ a wonderful home of multilingual stories.• Wigtown Book Festival had to be cancelled this year, but went online instead. Now, all videos from the events will be available on their website. Look out for content here about reading and writing. https://www.wigtownbookfestival.com/
Teenagers + up	<p><u>Reading and Listening to Stories and Authors +</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scottish Book Trust has an excellent website and you can find them on Twitter and Instagram too. They have reading and writing activities for children of all ages. Check out Instagram TV (IGTV) for some interesting content too — like Alastair Chisholm’s piece on ‘How to Write a Novel’. https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/home-activities• Visit: https://www.storynory.com/ where you will find <i>classic authors</i> — such as Dickens, Conan Doyle, Kipling — featured. The readings of their most notable works are really worth listening to. You can also listen to hundreds of books free at http://www.loyalbooks.com/ or here https://stories.audible.com/start-listen• Check out ‘Penguin Classics’ Instagram TV (IGTV) for Crash Courses in a selection of Classics (I enjoyed the 5-minute video on ‘Sense and Sensibility’. This is a fun way to get a quick tour of a range of classics).• Why not check out here: http://www.penguinteen.com/the-beautiful-read-along/ if you’re interested in a virtual book group, reading along started on 3rd of May and runs until 30th. <p><u>Theatre</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The weekly National Theatre Live plays should not be missed. You have until Friday 8th May at 7pm to catch Benedict Cumberbatch in <i>Frankenstein</i>. From 7pm on 7th May, Ralph Fiennes and Sophie Okonedo

	<p>are Shakespeare's fated lovers in <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i>. Keep an eye out every week for something new! Useful links:</p> <p>https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home https://youtu.be/tl8jxNrtceQ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare's <i>Globe Theatre</i> invite you to join them for 6 of their plays streamed free on YouTube. https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCwN-jwNNNQN-8sfKG-gg8uA You will also find a tour of the theatre here and some interesting videos about the making of props as well as much more. The Royal Shakespeare Company also have some free content. However, I think you have to sign up for a free trial and cancel a subscription thereafter, so caution is advised! 😊 <p>Podcasts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harry Potter fans Podcast https://www.harrypottersacredtext.com/ Hank and John Podcast The "Hank" and "John" are Hank Green and John Green, brothers, authors, and YouTubers. (You may have heard about one of John's novels, <i>The Fault in Our Stars</i>!) On their podcast, they answer questions like how to quit a job, how to find time to do little things, and can bees feel happiness and sadness. https://www.wnycstudios.org/podcasts/dear-hank-john <p>Mental Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a podcast made for and by teens, focusing on mental health. Episodes focus on topics like insomnia, how sound affects everyday life, and social media and mental health. https://www.mentalmusic.org/
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Parents and Carers,

If you are interested in joining in a book group too, or listening to authors, you might be interested in the following:

- Book club fortnightly and author talks on YouTube channel: <https://www.salon-london.com/>
- Guardian book group:** A Journal of the Plague Year by Daniel Defoe, which is available for free on Project Gutenberg if you want to take part and can't make it to a bookshop or library.
https://www.theguardian.com/books/live/2020/apr/24/nina-stibbe-webchat-post-your-questions-now?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other
- Reese's Book Club:** Reese Witherspoon recommends one book per month <https://hello-sunshine.com/book-club>

