

Half term challenge

Essex Children's University is one of just under 100 Children's Universities across the UK and our friends at [Children's University Scotland](#) have been working with the [First Minister's Reading Challenge](#) to encourage children to have fun reading.

We thought it would make a great half term challenge sheet, particularly as [Essex Book Festival](#) is just around the corner, so a great big thank you to CU Scotland for allowing us to use their Challenge Ideas.

For each of these activities, all CU Learners need to do is show their school that they have completed a challenge, and they can collect a credit in their Passport to Learning. Not sure what they should show their teacher to collect the credit? It could be their drawing, a photograph, three fascinating facts, or some writing about the books they have read – it's up to them!



Read a book in three interesting or strange places: on a hill, in a cafe, on a bus, at the park or beside the seaside! Use your imagination!

Take a photo of yourself reading in each place. Did you find it easier or harder to read there? where is your favourite place to read and why?

Pick one of your favourite characters from your favourite book. Imagine, what would their house be like?

Draw some pictures of their house: what food would they have on their dinner table? What pictures would be hanging on the wall? What would their garden be like and what clothes would they have in their wardrobe?

Go to a Children's University Learning Destination like a historic site, museum, art gallery or science centre. Read some of the displays and information there, and write down three fascinating facts that you wouldn't have otherwise learnt.

Did your reading help make your visit more fun? Why?

Read five books you've never read before in two months.

Give each book a star rating and tell us why you liked or disliked it.

What was your favourite moment from each book?

Write an alternative ending to a book. What could have happened instead? Could the ending have been happier, could it have ended with a cliff-hanger, or could everything have ended more neatly?

Which ending do you prefer, your own ending or the one written by the author?

Read aloud to a family member or friend, trying out as many different voices as you can! If you prefer, someone else in your audience can share the reading with you.

Record your reading as you go to make your very own audio book.

Read three different types of book. You could choose:

Folklore and Fairy tales, Magic and Mystery, Sport, Spooky, Funny adventure

.... And many more!

What is your favourite book types and why do you like it so much?