



With thanks to the City of Guelph Emergency Fund, PIN is pleased to provide a series of DIY Volunteer Projects for Youth.

Get involved. Make an impact. Gain community involvement hours

## Read your heart out. Write from your heart.

**"Reading is the gateway skill that makes all other learning possible."  
-Barack Obama**

**"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body"  
-Joseph Addison**

Literacy is a key skill and a key measure of a population's education. Without literacy skills, one is limited in their education. The UN's [SDG #4](#), Quality Education, acknowledges that education enables upward socioeconomic mobility and is a key to escaping poverty. The main purpose of the [SDG #4](#) is to ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning. Additionally, one of the 12 social determinants of health, which are non-medical factors that influence health outcomes, include education and literacy.

### **Why is this important?**

The importance of literacy and education include:

- Education helps reduce inequalities and reach gender equality.
- Literacy lifts people out of poverty.
- Literacy empowers girls and women. In 2018, some 773 million adults— 2/3 of whom are women—remained illiterate in terms of reading and writing skills.

This DIY invites you to use your skills of literacy through reading and writing to give back to your community. Like the words of Obama and Atwood, reflect on how Canada and the rest of the world would be like if literacy and education were not a priority.

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DYK? In 1820, only 12% of the world could read & write. Today, it has reversed, where only 14% of the world remain illiterate. However, the majority of those that remain illiterate are girls and women.

### Activity Steps:

- Review the SDGs related to literacy and education -particularly Goal #4.
- Learn how social determinants of health are linked to literacy and education.
- Take part & promote in the Guelph Public Library's Summer Reading Club.
- Help an individual in your neighbourhood learn to read and/or write.
- Learn about local organizations that have a mission for increased literacy levels.
- Take part in a virtual reading group or write a poem, story, article of your choice.

### Reflection

- What did you learn about this activity?
- Think about the importance of literacy in our lives? How does literacy impact education and life post-education?
- How to literacy levels vary within different populations (i.e. girls/women, Indigenous peoples, Black or People of Colour)



### PIN Points:

PINnetwork.ca hosts two databases to explore

1. Volunteer Opportunities supporting SDG #4
2. Community Information including organizations that focus on recycling