

READING AHEAD

Robert wins prize for reading



Reading Ahead is the new name for the *Six Book Challenge*. See www.readingagency.org.uk

Three years ago, Robert Nunn would never have picked up a book to read for pleasure. Earlier this year, he won a prize for being one of the first among over 200 [Southend Adult Community College](http://www.southendadultcommunitycollege.ac.uk) students to complete the 2015 Six Book Challenge (now called Reading Ahead). The college works closely with [Southend Libraries](http://www.southendlibraries.org.uk) to deliver the programme.

Robert, 59, chatted to us recently about his inspirational achievement:

I was really nervous when I first heard about the Six Book Challenge from Judith, who is my tutor on the 'English: returning to work' classes I've been doing at Southend Adult Community College. I'd never really read anything, so I was panicking. I thought, "Can I really read that number of books?" But I was surprised; doing the Six Book Challenge wasn't too bad actually, and some of the books I read at college to complete it were interesting.

My favourite was a book called *Bob and Tim at the Pub* - I liked it because it is about a couple of

men just like me and it was not too difficult. In fact, I just sat down and read it straight through. My tutor helped me to choose some books that I could read.

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I liked reading to complete the Challenge. Have a go at it, because it's good and it's fun - especially when you get a certificate! I couldn't believe it when I heard I had won the prize of six [Quick Reads](#) books, but I was nervous when I had to receive them from the Mayor of Southend. It was good to win the books and now my wife is reading them too.

I still need help with my reading, but the Six Book Challenge has encouraged me because now I know I can read books. So it's increased my confidence and I would like to do it again. If anyone else is not sure about it, I would say "Go for it. Just sign up and have a go."

Please contact genevieve.clarke@readingagency.org.uk if you'd like to find out more about Reading Ahead.