



READING FOR THE CLIMATE



THE PROJECT

In 2023 students participated in the UWE climate book club research project. Students discussed 'Dry' by Neal and Jarrod Shusterman over three sessions, exploring climate crisis through the plot and characters' experiences. Following the club, students met with researchers one last time to share their thoughts about the experience and its impact. They reflected that the book club...

HAD PERSONAL BENEFITS FOR THEM

Students revealed that reading climate literature develops new forms of knowledge and allows them to reflect on their own environmental emotions. Students began to contextualise climate knowledge in their own lives, thinking through ethics, and considering their own preparedness, resilience, and behaviours in light of climate crisis. They reported an increased sense of agency and awareness of meaningful climate actions.



HELPED THEM TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE

Students reported that engaging with climate literature motivated them to tell others about what they were reading, which led to them having more discussions about climate crisis with family and friends. The value of climate literature as a form of communication was pointed to, with one student saying "there's not an emotional depth to numbers and statistics", whereas literature "is very tangible and powerful".

THE STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK CLUB MOTIVATED ENGAGEMENT

Students reported that the collegiate nature of the sessions motivated them to keep coming, as it balanced a focus on challenging topics with new and positive social connections. Reading in short sections allowed them to go through the process of uncovering the story together, giving space and time for shared ideas and critical reflection.

