The Reading Retreat Kit

Sample Pages - plan a whole weekend of reading

Free sample - three real pages from the kit: The Planner's Quick-Start (p.3), Three Ready-Made Itineraries (p.7) and My Retreat Reading Menu (p.16). Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

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The Planner's Quick-Start

The whole job on one page (kit p.3). Read it once, then work from it - the sheet a first-time planner keeps in the front of the retreat folder forever.

1. Pick the shape (p.4).
Club weekend, friends' getaway, solo readaway, or stay-home. The shape decides everything downstream: headcount, venue, reading mode, budget.

2. Poll dates, then book the venue (p.5).
Three candidate weekends, at least six weeks out. Count the good reading chairs before you count the beds - a retreat fails at the chair, not the bed.

3. Set the budget and collect early (p.8).
One money person, one envelope for receipts, money collected before anything big is booked.

4. Invite properly (pp.11-13).
Real invitations, a real RSVP deadline, and a tracker for rooms, dietary needs and who's paid.

5. Choose the reading mode (pp.14-17).
One shared book (ballot, p.17) or bring-your-own (reading menus + the shared shelf, pp.15-16). Both are planned in this kit; pick one per retreat.

6. Print the venue kit (pp.18-29).
Signs, agenda posters, name tents, the phone pact, reading passports, menu board. One printing session, one folder, done.

7. Run the days on the rhythm (p.6).
Or don't think at all and follow a ready-made itinerary (p.7) exactly as printed.

8. Close it properly (pp.33-39).
Group photo, the closing ritual, letters to next year's retreat, and the date vote - cast while everyone still wants to come back.

The planner's timeline:

When	The job
6+ weeks out	Shape chosen - date poll out - venue booked
4 weeks out	Invitations sent - book ballot opens (shared-book mode)
2 weeks out	RSVPs closed - rooms assigned - menu plan drafted
1 week out	Ballot result announced - budget collected - shopping list written
The day before	Venue kit printed - swap books gathered - own books packed (p.10)
Arrival day	Welcome sign up before the first guest arrives

The planner rules:
- Reading is the itinerary - everything else is planned around the reading blocks.

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- One planned group activity per day, maximum. A retreat is not a tour.
- Leave one completely unscheduled stretch in every day. It will fill itself beautifully.
- The host reads too - a host who never sits down teaches the house to feel guilty.

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Three Ready-Made Itineraries

Complete, timed itineraries to run exactly as printed (kit p.7) - the planner's 'just tell me what to do' page.

Itinerary A - The 2-Night Weekend (Friday-Sunday)

When	What
Fri from 4:00	Arrivals - welcome sign up - books onto the shared shelf (p.15) - tea
Fri 6:30	Dinner (the easy one - something that waits)
Fri 8:00	First fireside: phone pact signed, passports issued, Set A cards (p.30)
Sat	The full rhythm day (p.6) - group activity: the village bookshop walk
Sat 8:00	Fireside Set B (shared-book groups, p.31) or Set A continues
Sun 8:00-10:30	Slow breakfast window - final reading block
Sun 11:00	The Closing Ritual (p.34) - group photo (p.33) - date vote (p.39)
Sun by 3:00	Departures - house checked, swap leftovers shortlisted (p.34)

Itinerary B - The Long Weekend (3 nights)

Days 1 and 4 run as Friday and Sunday above. Day 2 is a full rhythm day (p.6). Day 3 is the deep day: the morning block stretches to 1:00, free hours hold the weekend's one bigger outing (or none - a group vote at breakfast), the shared-book fireside (Set B) runs before dinner instead of after, and the evening is deliberately empty: the Book We Leave Behind (p.34) is chosen tonight, from the swap table, while there's time to argue about it fondly.

Itinerary C - The One-Day Readaway (no overnight)

For stay-home retreats, solo days, and groups testing the idea before committing to a weekend.

When	What
9:00	Arrive (or: household briefed, door sign up) - coffee - phone pact for the day
9:15-12:00	Deep-reading block one
12:00-1:00	Shared lunch (or the good cafe)
1:00-2:00	A walk - the whole group activity, and enough
2:00-4:30	Deep-reading block two
4:30-5:00	Tea - passports stamped - one prompt card each, standing up, mugs in hand
5:00-6:00	Closing ritual, short form: one line for the letters page + the date vote

Every itinerary in this kit is a trellis, not a train track. If the morning block runs long because nobody wants to stop, the itinerary has not failed. The itinerary has worked.

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My Retreat Reading Menu

The kit's signature guest page (kit p.16) - one per guest, filled in before or on arrival. A reader plans their weekend's reading the way a kitchen plans a menu: a way in, a main, something sweet, a spare. Menus are shared at the first fireside; it is the icebreaker that breaks itself.

Reader: **Retreat:**

THE STARTER - the book I'll open with: short, easy in, confidence-building.

Title / Author:

Why this first:

THE MAIN - the big book of the weekend: the novel I'll be in all Saturday.

Title / Author:

My page target by Sunday:

SOMETHING SWEET - the comfort reread, the short stories, the poems: for the last hour before sleep.

Title / Author:

Kept for: [ ] the porch [ ] the bath [ ] bed

IN CASE OF WEATHER - the spare: for the mood I didn't predict.

Title / Author:

FOR THE JOURNEY HOME - saved, deliberately unread, however loudly it calls from the bag.

Title / Author:

Menus change. A menu is a plan, not a promise - if the Starter becomes the whole weekend, the menu has still done its job. Swap talk at fireside is how next year's shelf gets stocked.

This free sample holds three real pages of The Reading Retreat Kit (40 pages: the 10-page planner's guide - Welcome, the Planner's Quick-Start, the Four Retreat Shapes, Dates & Venue with the 12-question venue checklist, the Rhythm of a Retreat Day, Three Ready-Made Itineraries, the Budget Worksheet, the Host's Packing List and the Guest's Packing List & the Book Maths - plus 30 printables: two invitation designs, the RSVP & Rooms Tracker, both reading-pick guides, Reading Menus, the Book-Choice Ballot, the welcome sign, agenda posters, name tents, quiet signs, the Phone Pact, the swap table, the two-page Reading Passport, the menu board, the Meal Plan & Shopping Worksheet, 36 fireside prompt cards in three

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spoiler-gated sets, the Group Photo & Memory page, the Closing Ritual & the Book We Leave Behind bookplate, Letters to Next Year's Retreat, the Books of the Weekend Log, the Host's Debrief, thank-you cards and the Next-Retreat Date Vote - US Letter, A4 and tablet editions). Quick-start + itineraries + one menu are enough to sketch a real retreat tonight and send it to the group chat. Full kit at pagelyra.vercel.app