



#### DID YOU KNOW?

A 2009 study at the University of Sussex found that reading for just 6 minutes can help reduce stress by up to 68%.

# APRIL



**3 HOURS** if you read 6 minutes a day  
OF READING

## 1 ... THE BEGINNING OF HAY-ON-WYE BOOK TOWN, 1977

Richard Booth proclaimed the town an "independent kingdom," which sparked a surge in interest in local bookshops.

## 2 ... INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK DAY

The day is observed on the birthdate of Hans Christian Andersen, a Danish author best known for his fairy tales.

## 4 ... THE DAY GEORGE ORWELL'S *1984* STARTS

On this day, the main character of Orwell's classic novel started a secret diary by writing a sentence "Down with Big Brother."

## 6 ... *THE LITTLE PRINCE* IS PUBLISHED, 1943

A novella by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry became one of the most influential books of the 20th century.

## 23 ... WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE IS BORN, 1564

The greatest writer in the English language created almost 40 plays, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*.

## ... WORLD BOOK AND COPYRIGHT DAY

An annual event by UNESCO to discuss publishing and copyright, as well as promote the enjoyment of reading.

## 24 ... THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IS FOUNDED, 1800

The largest library in the world. Its collection is growing at about two million items per year.

## 28 ... HARPER LEE'S BIRTHDAY, 1926

An American novelist best known for her 1960 novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

#### READING CHALLENGE

**Week 1:** Your favorite childhood book

**Week 2:** A book with a number in its title

**Week 3:** A book about a prince or princess

**Week 4:** A book set in medieval England

IF YOU WISH  
TO RENEW  
YOUR MIND,  
READ.

— LAILAH GIFTY AKITA