

3 Books are left in public places

2 READING

Read *Free books!* on page 26 of the Student's Book, and the text below about another source of free books. What is the most surprising information in this text?

THE WORLD'S SMALLEST LIBRARIES

Traditional red telephone boxes are disappearing from British streets because mobile phones are now widely used to make calls outside the home. But many communities want to keep their telephone boxes – these are mostly owned by BT, a telecommunications company. Now, in response to public demand, BT has launched a scheme called 'Adopt a kiosk'.

For as little as £1, telephone kiosks are adopted and turned into something else, for example, art galleries, information centres and, most popular of all, mini libraries. Telephone box libraries have now appeared in towns and villages all over Britain.

Shelves are built in the telephone box, and books are donated by locals. The libraries are operated as book exchanges: readers can come and take a book any time they like, but they must replace or return books they take. Some kiosks are locked at night; others are open round the clock. All kinds of books appear on the shelves, from detective stories and biographies, to cookery books and Harry Potter novels.

'Everyone stops to chat around the phone box,' says Claire from Essex. 'It's really brought the community together.'

'Our nearest public library is several kilometres away, so it's great to have this facility in our village,' adds her partner, Steve. 'I can read e-books on my tablet, but I'd far rather turn the pages of a real book!'



3 AFTER READING

Answer these questions about *Free books!* in the Student's Book.

1 What is the title of the paperback?

2 What are you invited to do?

3 Whose idea was BookCrossing?

4 Who is the website visited by?

5 Where are books left?

6 What are finders of books asked to do?

7 'So why not try it?' Try what?

Now answer these questions about *The world's smallest libraries*.

1 In what way are streets in Britain affected by the development of mobile phone technology?

2 Why has BT started its 'Adopt a kiosk' scheme?

3 Where do telephone box library books come from?

4 What is the main 'rule' of telephone box libraries?

5 What benefits of their mini library are mentioned by Claire and Steve?

Now look at *Your response* on page 26 of the Student's Book.