

How to Run a Book Club

Adapted from LitLovers.com

Use these ideas to help you organize your book club activities, hold good discussions, and settle tough issues.

Suggested Meeting Format

Allow 1 to 2 hours per meeting:

- 15-45 minutes — Social Time (eat, drink, be merry)
- 30-60 minutes — Book Discussion
- 15 minutes — Administrative Matters (Decide on next book, Sign in/out copies)

Holding the Discussion

With a Leader

Appoint a club member—perhaps the person who selects the book or hosts the meeting. Some clubs have a member who enjoys leading all discussions.

Without a Leader

Take turns going around the room, allowing each member to talk about his or her experience reading the book.

Troubleshooting

1. *Members who haven't read the book?*
Come anyway! Not everyone can finish every book, but non-readers may still have valuable insights.
2. *Disagreements about the book?*
Be gracious! There is no one way to experience or interpret a book. In fact, differing opinions are good.
3. *Members who prefer to socialize?*
Designate discussion time be limited to the book. Some clubs hold book discussions first and invite "social members" to join afterward.
4. *Dominating personalities?*
Never easy. "Let's hear from some others" is one approach. Some clubs pass an object around the room; you talk only when you hold the object. If the person continues to dominate, a friendly but frank conversation might work.

Mountain View Public Library

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