

## 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.