

Resources

Park Road Books

PRB offers special discounts for book clubs. You need to let them know what book you have picked out at least two weeks in advance, and your book club needs to be registered with them (free of charge). They can email the form. The owner, Sally Brewster, is also available to come out and talk to book groups in the region.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Libraries

CM Libraries offers Book Club Kits. On their website under Services and then Communities is the section for book clubs. The kits come in a tote bag with 10 copies of the selected title, and they can be checked out for 6 weeks. You fill out the online form and they will arrive at your local branch within 10 days. The kits also include an author biography, discussion questions, and tips for a successful book discussion.

Reading Group Choices

www.readinggroupchoices.com

Each year RGC publishes a book filled with discussable books and conversation starters.

Great Group Reads

On the NRGM website, you will find the current list and archives to help you pick your next book!

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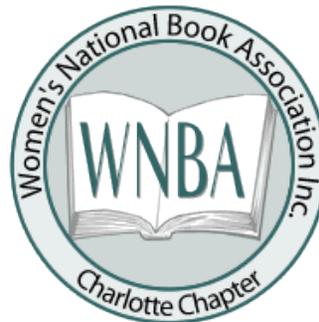
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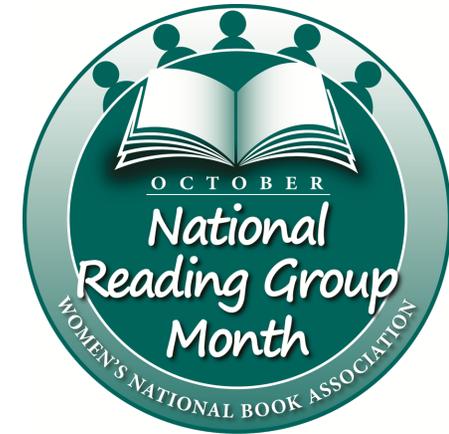


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www.wnba-charlotte.org

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NATIONAL BOOK ASSOCIATION**

Book Club Advice: Tips & Tricks



www.nationalreadinggroupmonth.org

*An opportunity for book clubs to plan for the future,
and the perfect time to join or start a group.*

Starting a Book Club?

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



- **Why start a book club?**

When you finish an amazing book,

do you want to tell someone all about it? Or when you read a frustrating book, do you want to rehash the annoyances and see if others agree with you, or can point out good points that you missed? A Reading Group is the ideal setting for these discussions.

- **How do we get members?**

If you know 2-3 people who'd like to start a group with you, that is fairly small. If everyone can bring just one friend, 6-8 is a great number for discussion. You can also list your club on Goodreads, Meetup, or with your local library if you are open to strangers. And tell your local bookstore.

- **How do we pick books to read?**

If members don't want to choose books themselves, the WNBA publishes an annual list of Great Group Reads. Also check out Reading Group Choices' annual list, and ask your local bookseller or librarian.

Potential Pitfalls

And how you can avoid them!

- **Many members don't finish.**

Is your book club assigning many very long books? And are you giving members enough prior notice to read them? It's best to pick 2-3 books ahead, if you don't do your whole calendar at once. If so, ask if it's okay to spoil the ending, don't just assume you can't discuss it. Some people are okay with spoilers and some know they will never get around to finishing. Then try some novellas or short stories. You don't have to choose—and read—an entire short story collection. You can pick just 2-3 stories to discuss. If the same culprits can't manage the short stories and continue to not finish the books, then just spoil away! It's not fair for them to hold you hostage.

- **No one has much to discuss.**

Try picking books with Discussion Questions included to start the conversation. Some books have the questions online instead of printed in them.

- **I hate the books some members pick.**

Having each member responsible for picking one book selection may seem like a good idea, but it's not everyone's strong suit. Instead, having members make suggestions and then voting on the books, is much more egalitarian. Plus, you don't have to always like the books!

- **It's too expensive for me.**

Is your book club meeting over dinner at nice restaurants? Not everyone can afford that. Consider hosting in members' homes and either serving snack foods or going potluck. If you'd prefer to meet elsewhere, try instead a coffee shop, tea shop, or bakery, or your local library or bookstore. Also most book clubs try to stick to paperback books. If you get your list together early, then the library is also a good option, or sharing copies.

- **Frequently only a couple of members show up.**

Maybe the date and time you've originally chosen just doesn't work anymore. Have members vote and see if a different time would improve attendance. Also keep in mind it is a big commitment, and it can help to give members a few months' off, such as around the holidays or in the summer. Those times when you have 2 months or more between meetings are a great time to pick a larger book.

- **We get off topic so easily!**

It's good to have a leader to corral people back around but the only true solution to this problem is commitment by the members to stick to the book. You can start off the meeting with more personal discussions and then state when the book discussion is going to begin, which can help.