

You'd like to start a Book Club



**Goldfields
Libraries**

1. **Style:** Decide what kind of book club you want (mainly social or mainly literary; all girls of a certain age or an eclectic mix) and advertise or ask around. Use social media or put up a sign in your club or workplace. If you don't have many members to start with, fear not - more will come in time. Some start with 3 or 4 members and grow.
2. **Time:** Decide what **day and time** to meet. This is a major factor which will determine who can and can't join.
3. **Name:** Give your club an identity: "Reading between the Wines" says it all!
4. **Numbers:** The library holds sets of 10 so best to keep the number to around 10 people. Extra copies are not always available.
5. **Where:** When you have members, agree where you will meet – at each other's homes, in the library, at the pub or a café or restaurant.
6. **Join:** Visit the library with ID or your member card and set up a Book Club card for your group. The person who joins will be responsible for borrowing and returning complete sets.
7. **Meetings:** Monthly or fortnightly meetings fit in with the loan period for sets. If someone is away, sets can be renewed if not reserved. Keep in touch with other members by email, phone or text.
8. **Coordination:** Books are numbered 1-10. The responsible person (you) should keep track of which person has which copy, and tick these off as they are returned. This prevents confusion and ill feeling. A downloadable form (Borrowing sheet) to keep track is available on the Book Club page.
9. **Renewing:** Book Club membership cards expire after 12 months. If at the end of this time the leader has moved on, a new person can nominate to be responsible. Simply mention this to a staff member at the library when the time comes for renewal of the Book Club membership.

Your meetings

- The meetings will be a mixture of discussion and socialising, but it is good to keep the focus on the book to 60% of the meeting time.
- Choose one aspect of the text or one particular episode as a springboard for discussion.

OR

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

OR

- Have a list of questions ready which people can respond to.

Some help with Book Club discussions can be found online:

Tips for choosing sets

1. Be adventurous! Sometimes reading something you are not drawn to or think might be boring can be surprising, particularly literary 'classics'. (They are classics for a reason).
2. Books that are challenging CAN generate the best discussions.
3. Don't try and choose for the whole year. This won't work with our sets. Try letting each member choose in turn, or leave it up to the leader.
4. There won't be sets of current 'best sellers' in our Book Club resources, as they are expensive, in demand and the library will already hold multiple copies.

Book Club Etiquette

1. Be polite and listen to others. Different opinions should be welcomed.
2. If people haven't read or finished the book, they should come along anyway. The discussion will be interesting to hear and they'll stay in the loop.
3. Keep social discussion light and remember why you are gathered: save 'unloading' for another time.
4. Don't take over or allow another to dominate. This is a killer and spoils the experience for everyone. If the domination continues and a friendly word doesn't solve the problem, the individual might have to go.

WEBLINKS for Book Clubs

Litlovers.com

Anzlitlovers.com

Freebooknotes.com

Randomhouse.com/rgg/

Bookcrossing.com