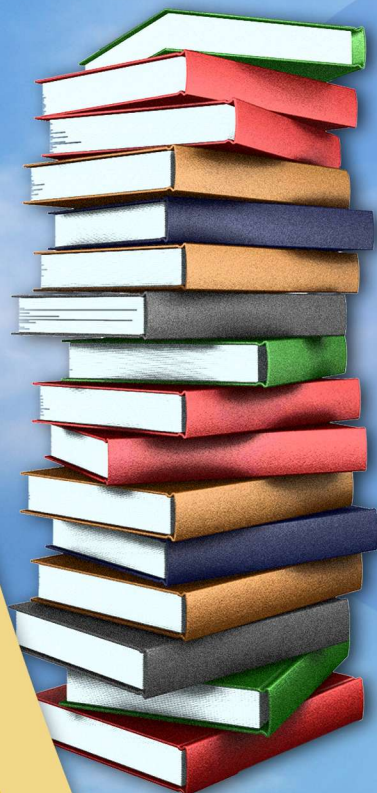


HOW TO START YOUR OWN BOOK CLUB



IT'S ALL IN THE BAG!

Book Clubs are a great way to enjoy books, meet people, and have fun!

Here's how to start and run a book club in five easy steps.

1. FIND MEMBERS

First you will need to recruit. A club with 8-10 members is ideal. Try inviting people from your existing social circles (friends, co-workers, neighbours, etc.). You could also advertise your book club on local bulletin boards (churches, libraries, supermarkets) and on social networking sites.

2. SET A TIME AND PLACE

Now you will need to decide how often to meet. When choosing a meeting time, ensure that everyone is able to commit to the schedule, and remember to leave enough time between meetings to allow everyone to read the book.

Next, you will need to establish a meeting place. Your group may have a regular meeting place, or rotate locations. Make sure that the space you choose can comfortably accommodate all members of your club.

3. CHOOSE A LEADER

The most successful book clubs have designated leaders. Leaders guide the meetings and ensure that discussions flow smoothly. There are different ways to choose a leader, and your club will decide what works best.

4. CHOOSE A BOOK

Deciding what to read is usually the biggest and most fun decision for any book club. There are lots of ways for groups to select books. Try these suggestions:

- a. Open vote – members nominate books and then vote on what to read next. Members could campaign for their selections, and try to get the club excited about reading the book.
- b. Rotating choice – each member takes a turn selecting the book.
- c. Host choice – the host of the meeting chooses the book.
- d. Themes – the group could choose a theme to incorporate over several books and months of discussion. Examples include: coming-of-age; another country and culture; racial issues; regional authors (i.e. New Brunswick Authors), or a particular historical period.

- e. Your club may also choose to select books from pre-established lists such as lists of literary award winners.

The New Brunswick Public Library Service has created the "Book Club in a Bag" program to help simplify the process of running a book club. Each of these kits contains 10 copies of a book, as well as an author biography, book reviews, discussion questions, a "How-To" guide for starting your own book club, sign-out sheets to help book club members keep track of their books, and a checklist of everything contained in the kit. You can search for Book Club kits in the "Find It Fast!" section of our online catalogue, Vision (<http://vision.gnb.ca>), under the Book Club kits icon, or ask a library staff member for help.



5. HOLDING MEETINGS

A book club is as much about socializing with friends as it is about discussing books. In your meetings:

- Encourage all members to participate
- Ask open-ended and provocative questions. Possible discussion topics include:
 - Characters
 - Storyline
 - Action
 - Social implications
 - Symbolism
- Include snacks - hosts can provide light nibbles or may even plan an entire menu based on the book.
- Make sure to allow time for socialization and general chat.
- Relax and have fun!

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