



How to Start a Book Group

Answer these 10 questions, and you're on your way.

Source: <http://www.ilovelibraries.org/booklovers/bookclub>

- **What kind of book club?** Decide on what type of group you'd like to have—social, academic, or maybe somewhere in between.
- **What kind of books?** Choose a literary genre or a mix of genres: fiction (current or classic), poetry, drama, mystery, sci-fi, current events, history, or biography.
- **How many members?** Eight to 16 members is best: enough for a discussion if several are absent, but not too many to make discussions unwieldy.
- **How often and when should the group meet?** Once a month works best for most groups. Some meet every six weeks. Of course, days and times will depend on jobs, childcare, family dinners, and more. Setting a recurring schedule may help.
- **Where should the group meet?** Homes, clubhouses, public libraries, churches, and restaurants all make good meeting places.
- **What should the group call itself?** Give your club a name that reflects who your members are or what you want to read—for example, The Bus Stop Book Club, Words on Wednesday, Stranger Than Fiction, etc.
- **How will the group keep in touch?** Send out monthly meeting reminders. Distribute a complete list of phone numbers, mailing addresses, and email addresses.
- **Does the group want to collect memories?** Use a club journal or a three-ring binder to keep track of the books the group has read, as well as plot summaries, discussion highlights, and members' opinions. It's especially useful to bring new members up to speed.
- **Does the group want to give back to the community?** Give to a community scholarship or local literacy organization. Hold a used-book exchange; donate any unclaimed books.