GET A GROUP!

HOW TO GET A GRIP WHILE MODERATING BOOK GROUPS & PROGRAMMING WITH BOOKS

HLA 2018
Where do I start???

- **KNOW YOUR COMMUNITY**
  Demographics? Mostly older folks, more parents with young children, high school nearby? Spin off a very popular group or event - AARP, Fantasy gaming, meet with parents during childhood storytime.

- **SURVEY YOUR COMMUNITY**
  Questionnaire? Post it in the library, put it out at programs, post in community spaces, social media, tell Friends of the Library groups.

- **SURVEY YOURSELF**
  Ask yourself what your strengths and challenges are. Maybe use online format, passive book club, only meet every other month.
BOOK GROUPS SHOULD BE FUN

TIPS TO HELP YOU HOST THEM WITH EASE

YOU ARE THE FACILITATOR. YOU ARE IN CHARGE.

STATE THE RULES OUT LOUD AND REPEAT AS NEEDED.

KEEP THINGS FRESH!

DON'T BE AFRAID OF TRICKY TOPICS.
How to select titles:

- Have members choose, more buy-in that way.
- Vote on choices for several months, giving everyone a chance.
- Have everyone read a different book based on a theme or genre.
- Have a list of 30 possible and narrow down from there.
- Getting books to people - pick a book with enough copies, ebooks, donations or grants...

What do you talk about?

- Many books have questions included in the back.
- Author's websites may have questions or topics.
- Websites like BookRiot & LitLovers. Bustle.com has an article on general questions:
Things to think about:

- It might not be about the book
  - Meet new people
  - A symbol to unite around
  - The formula brings comfort
  - Affordable entertainment

- Who knew a book club could be such a soap opera?
  - Power struggles
  - Complaints
  - Drama Queens
  - Life-stage mismatch
ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL BOOK GROUPS

WHAT ELSE IS OUT THERE?

Enjoy!

Intergenerational Programs
- parents with teens
- grandparents with kids
- older siblings with younger

Book Club in a Bag
- have kits ready at your library to lend out

Blind Date with a Book
- wrap up books and have participants choose a surprise title
- post reviews on a board
MORE ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL BOOK GROUPS

- Online Options
  - hold the group completely online
  - have the author participate via Skype

- Get Your Group Moving
  - play charades with books
  - take turns interviewing each other about a title
  - draw out the plot

- Get Your Group Out
  - meet somewhere else
  - pick a restaurant with themed food
  - go see the movie version!
The UnBook Club
- Librarian selects titles monthly (podcast, book, movie, audiobook, etc)
- Space to post reviews

No Required Reading
- Readers can bring their own book, or choose one to check out.
- Read/chat about books you've read.

No Set Book to Read
- Share a favorite book and make new connections in a relaxed, social environment.
LET'S MIX IT UP!!!

WoRsT BoOk CIUb EVer CoMiNG SoOn...
SHARE YOUR BOOK GROUP NIGHTMARES!
SHARE YOUR BOOK GROUP SUCCESSES!
The Discourse of Reading Groups: Integrating Cognitive and Sociocultural Perspectives

Routledge Research in Literacy; Routledge Revivals
Volume 6 of Routledge research in literacy

Authors David Peplow, Joan Swann, Paola Trimarco, Sara Whiteley

WEBSITES
- ALA Book Club Central
- EPIC Reads.com - Bellatrist YA

RESEARCH
THANK YOU

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