

HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY : ALAYNA DAVIES-SMITH & JESSICA HOGAN

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:



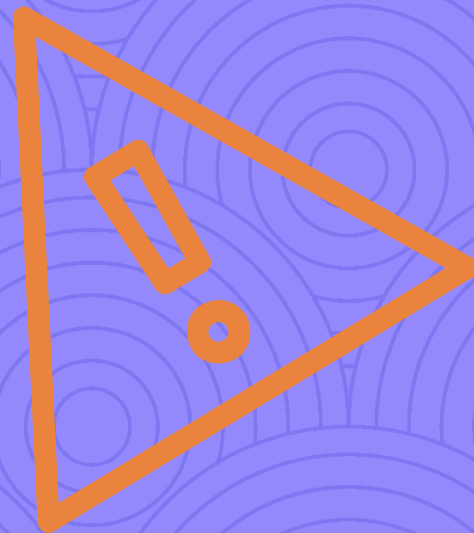
It might not be about the book

- 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?

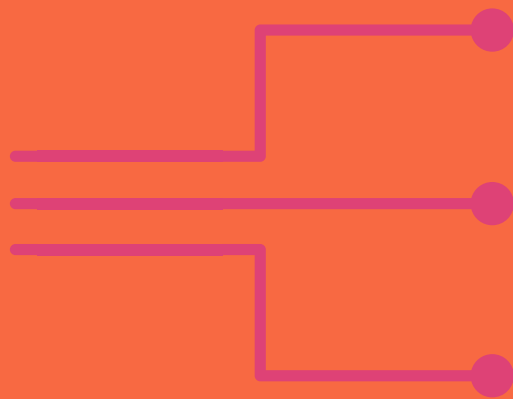
- Power struggles
- Complaints
- Drama Queens
- Life-stage mismatch



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

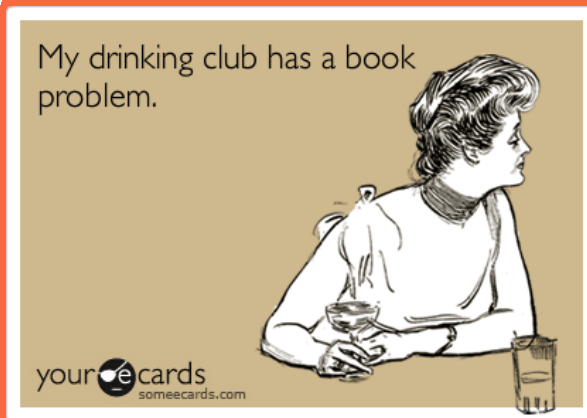
Get Your Group Moving

- 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!

STILL MORE ALTERNATIVES TO TRADITIONAL BOOK GROUPS



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.

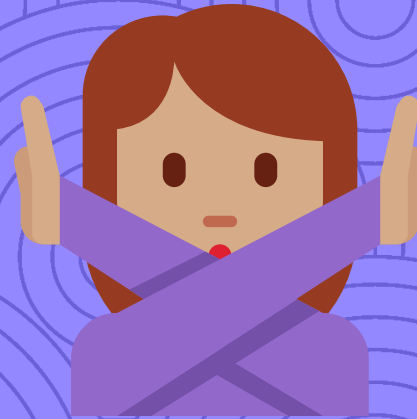
No Set Book to Read

- Share a favorite book and make new connections in a relaxed, social environment.



LET'S MIX IT UP!!!

**WoRsT BoOk ClUb EVer
CoMiNG SoOn...**



SHARE YOUR BOOK GROUP NIGHTMARES!



GOOD
TIMES



**SHARE YOUR BOOK
GROUP SUCCESSES!**



RICH RESOURCES



WEBINARS

ALA American Library Association

American Library Association / LibGuides / Book Discussion Groups / Quick Start Guide

Book Discussion Groups: Quick Start Guide

Resources for libraries--or others--seeking to establish a book discussion group.

Home Quick Start Guide One Book Programs

Start

How to Start a Book Discussion Group: Answer 10 questions and you're on your way!

1. **What kind of book club?** Decide on a club orientation: somewhere between highly social and seriously academic.
2. **What kind of books?** Choose a literary genre or a mix of genres: fiction (current or classic), poetry, drama, mystery, sci-fi,

Finding Books

Some Do's & Don'ts

1. **Don't read favorites.** Reading a book someone "just loves" can lead to hurt feelings—like inviting people into your living room to critique your decor. Ouch. Best to stay on neutral territory.
2. **Do mix genres.** A steady diet of one thing can be dull, dull, dull. Try interspersing fiction—current and classic—with

Holding the Discussion

How to Hold a Book Discussion

If you're leading a book discussion

1. **Choose one question** at a time and toss it out to the group. (See Generic Discussion Questions below.)
2. **Select a number of questions**, write each on an index card, and pass them out. Each member (or a team of 2 or 3) takes a

LJ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

LEARN.LIBRARYJOURNAL.COM > ONLINE COURSES > BUILD A BETTER BOOK CLUB

Build a Better Book Club

How to Create an Innovative, Self-Sustaining Book Club, from Start to Finish

Three-week online course from *Library Journal* & *School Library Journal*
Live Interactive Sessions on Thursdays at 2PM ET: October 25 and November 8

Also Available On Demand!
Can't make a live session? All sessions will be available to you 'on demand' following the initial broadcast.

Share



WEBSITES

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



RESEARCH

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



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THANK YOU

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