



HOW TO SET UP A BOOK CLUB



So, you're starting your own book club. Congrats! Here are some tips to ensure its success:

1. **RULES!** Whether the members are friends, neighbors or colleagues, a book club will fall apart without a **clear set of concise rules**.
2. In the beginning, you may want to include a lot of people. While everyone's enthusiastic about joining a book club, you'll see **who's really committed** in the end. 12 people or under is ideal.
3. Are you OK with someone coming to the book club without finishing (or even starting) the book? If you want to truly hold a meaningful book discussion, you probably want to make a strict rule that members should not show up unless they have **completed the book**.
4. How will members communicate? You will want to send out reminders and confirmations of book selections to all members. You can create a **group text** or even a private **Facebook Group**.
5. Establish **how often you will meet** and how far ahead you will plan. Many book clubs work on a 12-month calendar. Do not change dates unless absolutely necessary.
6. Create a calendar. Each member will sign up to host at their home or at an appropriate meeting place.
7. It often works best if the **host chooses the book when it's her turn**. The benefit of this is that you will get to read a variety of book types, some of which you would never have tried reading on your own.
8. The **host supplies all food and/or drink**. This takes the pressure off of everyone to run out right before to bring a hostess gift or bottle of wine. It's a fun idea to have a **theme** to go along with the book--for example, Italian desserts for a book set in Italy.
9. The host should do some **preparation** before the book club discussion. The host should keep everyone on track. It's best if you have a set of questions to guide the discussion.
10. Keep discussions **polite and respectful of everyone's opinion**.

XOXO,
Michelle

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