



How to...



DID YOU KNOW?
Anne Hutchinson is credited with forming the first book club in North America, in 1634.

Start your own book club

Summer is a perfect time to enjoy new books with a group of friends.

A book club is a great way to see friends and keep reading over the summer. How it works is pretty simple: Everyone in the club reads the same book, then meets to discuss it. Book clubs are a fun way to hear other perspectives and discover new books you might not have chosen otherwise. Here's how to get started.

Invite members

First, think about the people you would like to be in your club. Consider who would like to read books and talk about them, and invite them to join. Pick a day and time that is convenient for everyone to meet regularly, either once or twice a month. Talk with an adult about who will host and where. You might rotate homes or pick one convenient spot, like a local community center or park.

Establish ground rules

A few basic guidelines will help your book club meetings run smoothly. At your first gathering, discuss what those rules should be. For example, one guideline could be that only one person can speak at a time. Another could be that all opinions about the book should be respected, even when some members don't agree with them.

Choose the books

At your first meeting, your club can decide what kind of books you'd like to read. Will you focus on fiction, biographies, graphic novels, or a variety? You can also talk about how your club will choose specific titles. One idea is that members can take turns. To decide who will choose first, second, and so on, you could pick names from a hat or go from youngest member of the group to oldest. For inspiration, see "Find your next read" at right.

Prepare discussion topics

With the other members of your group, prepare a list of topics to discuss at the next meeting, after you've read the book. Some possible questions: What conflicts does the main character face in the book, and how does the author show that? How does the main character change from the beginning to the end?

Add a final touch

Another way to make your book club fun is to take turns bringing a snack that's tied to the theme or the setting of the book. If the book you're reading was turned into a movie, you can also plan a screening with your book club and watch it together!



Discover new books.



Find your next read

If you're looking for a first pick for your book club, take a look at our Summer of Reading list on page 12 as well as these sources.

The Week Junior Book Club

Each month *The Week Junior* chooses a book (such as those shown above) and provides discussion questions and more at theweekjunior.com/bookclub.

Read With Jenna Jr. Jenna Bush Hager, co-host of *Today with Hoda & Jenna* and this issue's guest editor, has released her 2024 book list for kids at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-Jenna.

American Library Association

Get the group's list of notable reads for young people at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ALA.