

Getting Started: First Meeting

Books Connect

- Discuss how your reading group might work. People may be unsure about how book groups run, or have different ideas, so you could talk about what you expect to happen.
- It's all about sharing your reading experiences - what members thought about the book, story or poem ; how it made you feel; whether you finished it! Where you read it; would you recommend it to someone else.
- Everyone is entitled to their own views – don't take it personally if someone totally disagrees with you –the range of opinions is what makes book groups interesting.
- And hopefully it will be fun – a social occasion that everyone enjoys, perhaps with tea, coffee and biscuits; a glass of wine or a beer.

IDEAS TO GET YOU TALKING

- **Favourite Books**

Ask each person to talk about a book, story, poem they've particularly enjoyed it could be brand new or an old favourite. If you meet in the library, have a look around to find a book you would recommend to someone else.

- **Book Covers**

Stand up 10 books and discuss the covers – which do you like? Which don't you like? What are the reasons for your choices? Who do you think they're trying to appeal to?

- **First Lines**

Take the first few lines from several books, and discuss them. Do they make you want to read more? Or do they put you off completely? Why?

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- **Desert Island Books**

Which 3 books would you take with you if marooned on a desert island? Would they be fiction/fantasy to help you cope with the situation, or practical books which could help you survive? Discuss with the person sitting next to you.

- **Books on screen**

How well do books adapt to the cinema? Is it better to read the book before seeing the film? Can the film ever be as good as the book? Do some film or TV versions make you go and read the book?

- **In the News/Best sellers**

Which books are in the news at the moment? Have you seen any advertised in newspapers, or in shops and libraries? Have you read any best sellers, or prize winning books lately? Do you read books about or by celebrities, sports men/women, or other famous people?

- **Children's Favourites**

What did you like to read or listen to when you were young? Can you remember any special books from your childhood? If you have children or grandchildren, do you share stories or books with them?

- **Holiday escapes**

Recommend a book to others in the group which would be good to take on holiday. You could suggest books to match different types of holiday/places: beach reads, city breaks, adventure holidays. Is reading a good book like taking a holiday? What would you put in your travel bag?

- **Room 101/Books you love to hate**

Which 3 books would you banish to Room 101 and why?