

How to run your reading group

Books Connect

WHAT TO READ

- Do you all want to read the same book, and then discuss it; or read different books by one author? Or maybe you'd like to choose a particular type of book sometimes – like crime or non-fiction or poetry.
- Many reading groups read the same book, with occasional meetings where they do something different. But you don't have to stick to this model.
- How are you going to select which books to read? You could use any lists of titles provided by your library, or recommended books from a librarian, website, newspapers or friends. Or do you want to take it in turns to choose?
- Some libraries provide sets of books or books on tapes/CDs for readers to borrow from a special reading group collection – just ask library staff. Often they will have a special reading group ticket, which gives you free loans for longer than the normal loan period.
- Perhaps your group will read magazines, graphic novels, manga or children's books

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OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- Who would you like to invite? How often do you want to meet? Many groups meet monthly so they have enough time to read the book, but you can choose how often, which day of the week/times to suit your group.
- The group will need a couple of people to organise it – you may get help from library staff initially, but you will probably be running it yourselves. Some library services can offer support from volunteers for reading activities.
- For example, you need to make sure you know how to order books from the library, how long you can keep them, and how to collect/return them – just ask library staff.
- You could also discuss where to meet – will it be in the library, or somewhere else like a café or what about the pub?
- Check if there are any special events for readers going on in your local library. Libraries welcome suggestions from reading groups and are very pleased to have your input and support for visiting author events or readers' days.

ONLINE INFORMATION

- There are lots of good websites with information about authors and books, as well as online reading groups and magazines. If you don't have access to the internet at home, you can use the computers in your library. Staff can help you to do this.
- Many publisher websites have a reading group section with author interviews, reading guides/suggested questions for discussion, and sometimes offers of free books, quizzes and competitions.
- See the web reading guides page in this pack for some recommended sites.