



## Tips For Holding Your Family's Own Book Club

**It's easy, it's fun, and it's perfect for all ages!**

### Why are family book clubs such a great idea?

- Children often want to copy their adults when they see them reading.
- Children are encouraged to read when everyone listens to their opinions about books.
- Reading books together creates shared lifetime memories.
- Book clubs build bigger vocabularies and help children to do better in school.

### TIPS



#### 1 INCLUDE EVERYONE

All people in your family, from babies to grandparents and everyone in-between, can be in your book club. Little children usually LOVE IT when older brothers and sisters read to them. Relatives who live far away can join the book club on Zoom or FaceTime. Teenagers often enjoy sharing their favorite authors with their family. Parents are usually the most important role models to encourage reading in the family.



#### 2 MAKE IT A DATE

Pick a time that works for everyone, such as a monthly dinnertime book club. All members should do their best to be at every book club discussion. This shows respect for everyone in the club, especially for the family member leading that date's discussion. Do your best to schedule enough time to enjoy the food, the book discussion and any activities. Book clubs typically meet for 90 minutes to two hours.



#### 3 TAKE TURNS CHOOSING A BOOK

Family members take turns picking the book to be read by the group. The member who picks the book also leads the discussion about that book. While younger people may ask for help from older members for planning the discussion, they should still get to decide what will be discussed.



#### 4 READ DIFFERENT KINDS OF BOOKS & LITERATURE

Families with young children who are not reading yet, may decide to hold the meetings in two parts. In part one, the family can read a picture book that is selected by the young child. After they read and discuss that simpler book, the young child can do an activity like drawing pictures about that story. Meanwhile, the older members can then discuss a more challenging book chosen by one of them. Some book clubs choose an author and read and discuss the books written by that writer. Youth may choose graphic novels, which look like comic books. Teenagers may pick chapter books on social issues they are concerned about. Adults may choose classics or even books of poetry. The club can even read a newspaper or magazine. The book club can set its own guidelines for choosing what to read. You can find free or very low-cost books at the public library or at yard sales. Also, look for affordable books online. Maybe other families you know have their own clubs and you can swap books.



#### 5 HAVE SNACKS AND PLAN FUN ACTIVITIES

Book clubs often gather around food or activities. The supper or snack served could be related to the book that is being discussed. Members could do a simple craft activity during the discussion. Members can even watch a movie based on the book, if there is one. The member in charge of that book can suggest the food, the craft or other activities.

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