

Starting a Kids Book Club



The Book Club is an idea that has taken on a newer popularity in recent years. Hosting a book club event at your home, library, or community center, is a wonderful way to support reading motivation and engage kids in reading and discussing books. Any grade level can participate in a book club event; it is up to you and your child to be creative in including everyone in the fun. Here are some tips in starting your own book club.

1. **Organize a group:** your group may be a family or it may include a group of fathers and daughters, siblings, gender specific, or neighborhood friends
2. **Decide where and when to meet.** Some popular places to meet are at home, at a library space, or off site at a local coffee place. Some groups meet monthly on a Friday night with pizza, and other groups meet every other month. Some groups plan for school breaks and vacation days.
3. **Determine the book to read.** Younger children will enjoy reading picture books or listening to a chapter book. Older readers will enjoy reading a chapter book or listening to an audio book about characters that kids can relate to easily.

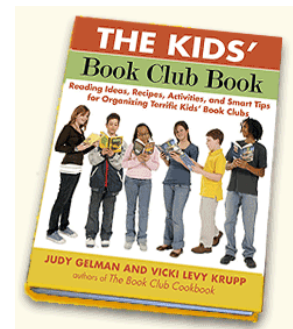
Check out this website for hints about recommendations for how to pick a book: <http://www.kidsreads.com/clubs/>

4. **Planning the book club event:** Prepare questions that are factual, that are opinion based, and that relate the participants to the book. Discuss similarities and differences from other books that have been read. Bring in information about the author, and details about the time period and setting of the story. Prepare games, crafts, and activities that are related to the theme of the story. Participants can be invited to dress up in costumes that represent the characters.

5. **Prepare food and decorations just for fun!:** Let a scene, a character, a theme, or the setting inspire you and your child. For example for a “Good Night Moon” book club you might serve oatmeal “mush” and hot chocolate. Avoid spending a lot of money, the idea is to think creatively and use what you have around the home to create the right atmosphere. Explore a new ethnic food, culture, or geographic setting for example, in Esperanza Rising by Pam Munoz Ryan, the group could explore Mexican Cuisine.

6. **Check out these websites and books for ideas.**

<http://www.kidsbookclubbook.com/>



http://www.oprah.com/article/oprahsbookclub/kidsreadinglist/pkgkidsreadinglist/20080701_orig_kids_books

Have fun making your own book club!