

How to run a school book club

Book clubs are great for encouraging young people to engage with books and develop a love of reading for pleasure.

A book club involves a number of members who meet regularly. They each read the same book, in the same time period, and then discuss it at the next meeting. It's a great way of encouraging children to share analyse a story and share their opinions.

Some tips on running a book club

- Keep the number of members of each club relatively small – 8-12 children is ideal.
- Make sure all the members of a club are of a similar age and/or reading ability.
- Set a regular meeting time. It can work well as an after-school club or a lunchtime club. Keep the meetings short: 30-60 minutes is about right. Lead the first meeting but try to take as much of a 'back seat' in future meetings as practicable.
- If the children are reading more than one book between meetings, set a time limit for discussing each book.
- Ensure children know not to interrupt each other!
- Let members choose books from a selection, and ask for suggestions.
- Suggest questions for members to discuss. Start with easy ones about characters and the general plot, to get the discussion going. You can even send parents a list of titles and questions to help them become more involved in their child's reading.
- Ask children to create a summary of the book and of their thoughts at the end of each book (but don't make it a chore). It's a great way for them to share the experience and encourage others to read.

How to get hold of the books

- Approach your local library. They are likely to be able to source multiple copies.
- Ask parents to lend copies of the books. Some may even donate them to school!
- Use a book catalogue where you can get discounted books.

Happy reading!

For more resources or advice contact us at reading@readathon.org or on 0870 24 011 24. We are happy to help.

The logo for Readathon, featuring the word "Readathon" in a white, rounded, sans-serif font inside a white cloud-like shape with a scalloped border, set against a dark orange background.

Reading to help children in hospital

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