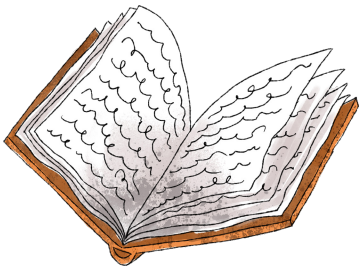
How to run a school bookclub

Getting together to share opinions about books is a great way of encouraging children and young people to read for fun

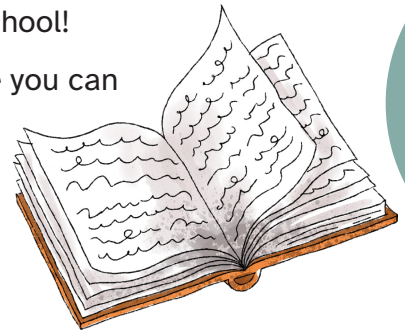


Some tips on running a bookclub:

- 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!

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