



HOW TO START A BOOK CLUB

THE MEETING PLACE

The location of your book club meetings—a restaurant, library, or your living room—will influence the number of members in the club and vice versa.

If it's in your home, you might want to keep it to eight or less. Ideally, no one member will have to host every meeting of the club. Club members are often willing—and usually eager—to host a meeting of the club at their house.

If your library has a meeting room available, you may want to open up the club to 12 or more members. Other options for larger book clubs include meeting areas at bookstores, churches, YMCAs, restaurants or hotels. (Some of these may charge a fee—check before you commit.)

A story is always better if you have someone to share it with. What could be better than sharing it with a group of friends who have read it, too? Starting your own book club is an endeavor that we applaud! And we've made it easy to do with these tips and resources.

Think about what your intentions are for your book club. Before you start looking for prospective members, sit down for a few minutes and ask yourself the following questions.

- 1.** Why are you starting a book club? What do you hope to get out of it?
- 2.** What type of people will make up the club? Are you hoping that all of you will have something in common (beside your love of books), or are you looking to form a diverse group?
- 3.** What types of books will your club primarily read? Fiction? Non-fiction? One particular genre, such as romance, bestsellers or biographies? Will you rotate through themes each month, like Asian literature, travel books or classics?
- 4.** Do you want to lead the club? If so, for how long, and how much time can you devote to organizing meetings, refreshments and discussions? If not, will other members be willing to take on these responsibilities?
- 5.** What are the minimum and maximum number of members your club can accommodate? (This may be dependent upon where you're meeting)
- 6.** When will your first meeting take place? How often will your club meet afterward? What about the summer months, and during the winter holidays?



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Having discussion questions before your book club meets will help facilitate a good discussion of your book. As you read each novel, jot down page numbers and passages that moved you and where you found answers to the Oprah.com discussion questions. That way, you can easily share them with the group later on.

1. Get printable versions of the discussion questions from some of Oprah's Book Club selections!

2. Many publishers' websites now offer reading guides or discussion questions for their titles. (You may also find author background information, interviews and more!) These links will help you get started:

- **HarperCollins (includes Avon Books, Amistad Press and William & Morrow)** www.harpercollins.com/hc/readers/fiction.asp
- **Random House (includes Knopf, Doubleday, Pantheon, Vintage Books, and Schocken)** www.randomhouse.com
- **Penguin Putnam, Inc. (includes Viking, Dutton, Plume and Signet)** www.penguinputnam.com
- **Time Warner Books (includes Little, Brown and Company)** www.twbookmark.com/books/reading_guides.html