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West Virginia University
EXTENSION SERVICE

How to Start a Book Club: If Oprah Can Do It So Can You!

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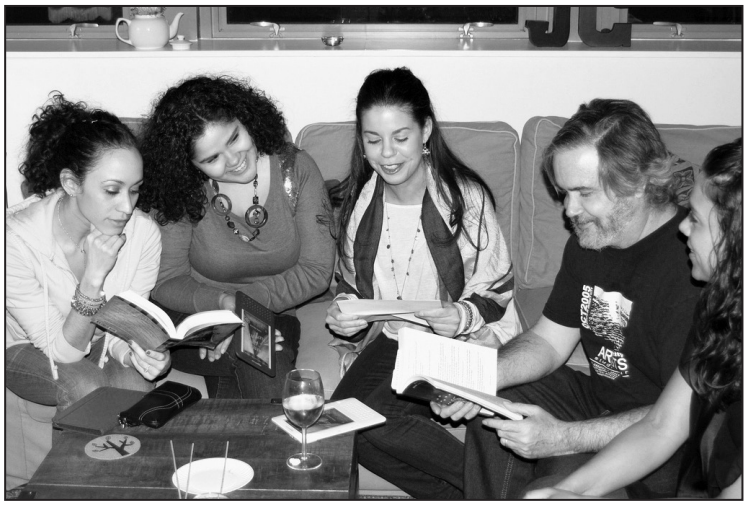
Whether you are looking for like-minded lovers of the classics or just an excuse to chat with friends, getting a book club together should be fun and easy.

Starting a book club

What could be better than sharing a great book with a group of friends who have read it, too? Starting your own book club is a great way to share your love of reading in a fun way. Book clubs allow you to see other people's perspectives, hear different opinions, and read a variety of books.



Book clubs are supposed to be fun and stress-free; however, there are ground rules to establish in order to be successful. First, find people you enjoy talking to and who share the love of reading. Once you have a small group of people, you can begin organizing your club.

Questions your group will need to answer

- What do you want to get out of the book club?
- What type of people will make up the club?
- What types of books will your club read?
- How many members will you have?
- What are the logistics: when, where, time?
- Who will lead the group?

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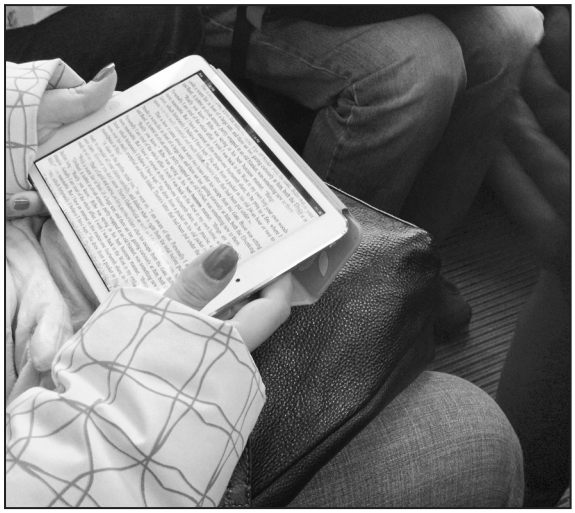
- Will your book club have a name?
- Who will lead the book discussions?
- Who chooses the books?
- Finding discussion questions?
- Cost of books?

Once the book club has answered these questions, you are ready to get started! Just pick your book, begin reading, and be excited to get together with your club.

Using electronic readers

In today's world, electronic readers or e-readers are becoming more of a norm than the hard copy. Some people still love to hold the book in their hands and flip pages; however, others enjoy the convenience of a small device that's easy to hold, bookmarks automatically, and keeps all their books in one place. It is a personal choice and whatever you are most comfortable using.

When choosing an e-reader, be sure to explore the different brands' features in order to get the one that best fits your needs. Some of the most popular are the iPad mini, Kindle Fire, Nook, and Kobo. Each has a list of pros and cons. Do your research. Ask others what they like and dislike, compare price ranges and features, consider memory provided, and where you can download books.



Advantages of an e-reader

- Underline or highlight passages you may want to keep.
- Good for those who have trouble holding a book open due to arthritis or carpel tunnel. E-readers are small lightweight devices that turn pages with a swipe or click of a button. They often include an option to enlarge font size for easier reading.
- Free downloadable books.
- E-readers hold hundreds of books. You can store all your books in one place and always have your library with you!

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