

Selected Online Resources for Book Discussion Groups



Getting Started:

Seattle Public Library | Book Group How-Tos:

<http://www.spl.lib.wa.us/library-collection/books-movies-and-music/book-groups/book-group-how-tos>

Basic guidelines for starting a book group including choosing books, reading for discussion and creating great questions.

Hennepin County Library - Bookspace - Book Clubs

<http://www.hclib.org/pub/bookspace/BookClubs.cfm>

Comprehensive collection of links to and information about book lists, discussion guides, leading groups and author info.

Book Group Resources and Discussion Guides:

Novelist Plus

<http://www.ebscohost.com/novelist/default.php?id=3>

Subscription database dedicated to helping you decide what to read next. Notable for book recommendations and substantial book discussion guides (which include answers!).

Book Group Buzz: A Booklist Blog

<http://bookgroupbuzz.booklistonline.com/>

Book group tips, reading lists, and literary news from Booklist Online.

Reading Group Choices

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

Offers reading group guides, discussion topics, resources, and tips for lively book discussions.

Book Club Girl

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

Dedicated to sharing tips, news and great books with book club and reading group members everywhere.

Reading Group Guides

<http://www.readinggroupguides.com>

Online community for reading groups that includes over 3,000+ reading guides.

What to Do When There's No Guide Available

http://readinggroupguides.com/no_guide/no_guide.asp

List of questions to use with those tricky books that have no discussion guide. Divided into a variety of genres.

More Resources for Choosing Books:

Oprah's Book Club and Books

http://www.oprah.com/book_club.html

Interviews, reviews, book discussions and a list of the titles from Oprah's Book Club.

BookSpot

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

All sorts of book lists from award-winners to great summer reads, links to authors online, book news, book events, and more.

Flashlight Worthy Books

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

Handpicked book recommendations, organized into quirky and interesting book lists.

Early Word

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

Billed as the Publisher - Librarian Connection, Early Word is great for keeping up on what's new in the world of publishing.

Pulitzer Prize Winners

<http://www.pulitzer.org>

Complete list of current and past Pulitzer Prize winners and finalists. Great resource for book clubs with a historical focus.

Great Books List

<http://www.interleaves.org/~rteeter/greatbks.html>

Collection of Great Books lists. Good for book clubs interested in reading classics or those books consistently rates as great by readers and critics.

Odds and Ends:

Twin Cities' Literary Events Calendar at Minnesota Reads

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

Minnesota Reads has a great calendar of Twin Cities' literary events should your book club be looking for a literary social outing.

Minnesota Playlist

<http://minnesotaplaylist.com/>

Information and calendars of local arts event for book groups interested in mixing theater or other performing arts into their reading.

Mid-Continent Public Library: Based On The Book

<http://www.mymcpl.org/books-movies-music/based-book>

A compilation of over 1,250 books, novels, short stories, and plays that have been made into motion pictures. Great for book groups doing book/movie pairings.



Experience the Book:

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

Madam Butterfly is on Minnesota Opera's 2012.
<http://www.mnopera.org/season/2011-2012-season>

Chocolat by Joanne Harris

Visit Abdullah Chocolate Shoppe and watch through the viewing window as chocolate is made. <http://www.abdallahcandies.com/>

Dead Survivor by K. J. Erickson

The Minnesota Historical Society is the place for genealogy.
<http://www.mnhs.org/index.htm>

The Florist's Daughter by Patricia Hampl

The Art in Bloom event at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts shows off the talents of local florists in the Spring. <http://www.artsmia.org/art-in-bloom-2011/>

The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton

Walk around one of the many public gardens in Minnesota such as Noerenberg Gardens in Wayzata.
<http://www.threeriversparks.org/parks/noerenberg-gardens.aspx>

The Glass Castle by Jeanette Walls

Volunteer and help the homeless.
<http://minneapolis.onebrick.org>

Girl With a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

Take in the Minneapolis Institute of the Arts. <http://www.artsmia.org/>

A Good Year by Peter Mayle

Arrange for a designated driver and visit a winery. Or two.
<http://www.vinothevalley.com/>
http://www.weekendwinery.com/Wineries/Wineries_MN.htm

Jesse James: the Last Rebel of the Civil War by T. J. Stiles

In September, see the reenactment in the streets of downtown Northfield with horses and guns (shooting blanks, or course) or visit the actual bank Jesse James robbed at the end of his bank robbing career.. <http://www.djjd.org/>

The Life of Pi by Yann Martel

We have a choice of zoos in Minnesota.

Loving Frank by Nancy Horan

Tour Taliesin, the home which is the subject of the book in Spring Green, Wisconsin.

<http://www.taliesinpreservation.org/> and click on Tours.

The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory

The Renaissance Festival will bring you back in time.

<http://www.renaissancefest.com>

Seabiscuit by Laura Hillebrand

See the action at Canterbury Park.

<http://www.canterburypark.com/> and click on the Live Racing link.

Snow by Orhan Pamuk

If individuals are cross country skiers and hold a state park pass, they might like to go on a candlelight ski in one of the State parks.

http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks/candlelight_events.html

Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Go to the circus!

Whistling Season by Ivan Doig

Check out the Oliver Kelley Farm.

<http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/ohkf/>

Will to murder : the true story behind the crimes & trials surrounding the Glensheen Killings by Gail Feichtinger

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Congdon Estate is an unforgettable tour. <http://www.d.umn.edu/glen/>

Book Club Kits Components

Kits:

- 8-10 copies of a title
- Discussion questions
- Tips for book clubs
- Tips for managing kit for your book club
- Check out list for copies of books in kit
- Bag or box

Logistics:

- How do you reserve a kit? (keep in mind transportation time when defining circ)
- How long can the patron keep the kit? (HCL lets patrons have for 6 weeks w/1 week before & after for delivery=8 week booking period)
- Where can the kits be picked up and returned?
- Check-in procedures (Are components there? What needs to be refreshed? How do you resolve problems? Will fines be charged if returned incomplete?)
- Check-out procedures : part of your catalog or not?
- Funding: how will you start kits? How will you maintain kits?
- Storage: where will they be stored?
- Staff: who will maintain collection? Who will support circ of the collection?
- Collection: withdrawing and ordering procedures, selection of titles

Marketing:

- Information listed on your website (who will update/refresh online info?)
- Book marks, brochures