



## How to...



**WOW!**  
Reading for six minutes a day has been shown to reduce stress.

# Start a book club

**Dive into stories with friends and share your opinions with one another.**

The only thing better than reading a good book is reading it with others. In a book club, a group of people choose a book that everyone will read and discuss. It's a great way to discover new types of stories and get to know other kids, said Judy Gelman, author of *The Kid's Book Club Book*. Follow these steps to start one.

### Create a basic plan

Think ahead about how you'd like the book club to run. How often do you want to meet? Where will you hold meetings? Meeting about once a month gives everyone time to read a chapter book. This summer, you might consider having meetings outside so you can practice social distancing. You could also meet through a video conference call.

### Invite friends

Think of eight to 12 kids (about your own age and grade) you'd enjoy having in a book club. Consider friends and kids you don't know as well. A book club is a great way to become better friends. An adult can help you call or email them.

### Consider a theme

One way to make a book club feel special is to give it a theme. Maybe your club is for fans of graphic novels or fantasy stories. Or you want to read about a specific type of character, like middle schoolers. Having a theme can make it easier to decide on books.

### Choose your book

If you're starting the club, offer to pick the book for the first meeting. After that, a different member can choose each month. Or a member can bring three books to the meeting and describe them to the group. Then everyone votes to choose the club's next book.

### Come prepared

For each meeting, the person who chose the book leads the discussion. They can bring a list of questions to get things started. Questions can usually be found online for a specific book, or there are some that work for most books. Try these: If you could give the book a different ending, what would it be? What do you think the main character looked like? If you wrote a sequel, what would happen next?

### Make meetings even more fun

Talking about books is great, but you can also do related activities at meetings. Everyone could create a comic strip or alternative cover inspired by the graphic novel you read. Or you could dress up as a book's main character. Members could also help your community by bringing canned or dried food to a local pantry on the club's behalf.

For a list of great suggestions for books to read with family and friends, go to [theweekjunior.com/summerofreading](http://theweekjunior.com/summerofreading).



Discover new books.

## Read together as a family

A family book club gives you a chance to discuss stories with loved ones near and far, either at home or by phone or video call. Choose a book, ask everyone to read it, and set a time to talk about it. We have some book suggestions and conversation starters for you here.

**BLACK BROTHER, BLACK BROTHER**

By Jewell Parker Rhodes



(Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

Donte and Trey are 12-year-old twins, but Donte is treated differently because his skin is darker. Conversation starter: How do Donte's experiences affect the brothers' relationship?



**FINDING ORION**

By John David Anderson

(Walden Pond Press)

Watch for plot twists as Rion and his quirky family head out on a road trip. Conversation starter: Why do you think being normal is so important to Rion?

**FRONT DESK**

By Kelly Yang  
(Arthur A. Levine Books)



Coming to 1990s America from China is only the beginning of 10-year-old Mia's life journey. Conversation starter: How do Mia and her parents handle their situation differently?

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