

MEETING MATERIALS

- Name tags
- Sign-in sheet
- Print outs of book lists
- Print out of discussion questions
- Book club bookmarks

WHEN/WHERE

Monthly, on the last Monday of the month

6:30-7:30 PM Eastern Time

Main Branch, Community Learning Center, Classroom C

ROUGH AGENDA

10 minutes - Welcome & Introductions (especially if new members are present)

1 minute - Review rules and expectations

45 minutes - Discussion

Initial thoughts, if any

Discussion questions

Last 5 minutes - Introduce next month's book

RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Open door policy: New members are always welcome!

No Guilt Book Club: it's okay if you didn't finish the book. Just be prepared to hear potential spoilers

Stay on topic during the meeting, and then feel free to socialize after

Always be respectful when you disagree

Give everyone a chance to speak

Respect diverse viewpoints

Annabelle will facilitate the discussion, but if anyone else would like to take over for a meeting, just let me know! :)

BOOK SELECTION

During our first meeting, we will vote to select 6 books. Going forward, we will select books one quarter in advance. Voting method may need some work :)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

There's no pressure to stick rigidly to answering the following questions during our meetings, but they are a really good starting point for conversation and hopefully will

inspire some deep thought while reading! Enjoy! FYI: I got most of these questions from Bookclubs.com!

1. Did you find the author's writing style easy to read or hard to read? Why? How long did it take you to get into the book?
2. From your point of view, what were the central themes of the book? How well do you think the author did at exploring them?
3. Compare this book to other books you have read by the same author, or other books you have read covering the same or similar themes. How are they the same or different?
4. Would you recommend this book to someone? Why or why not (or with what caveats)?
5. How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?
6. How thought-provoking did you find the book? **Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it?** If so, what?
7. How did the book make you feel? Did it evoke any emotions? Make you laugh, cry, or cringe?
8. **How, if at all, did this book relate to your own life? Did it evoke any memories or create any connections for you?**
9. Did you highlight or bookmark any passages from the book? Did you have a favorite quote or quotes? If so, share which and why?
10. What was the most challenging or difficult part of the book for you to read or understand? How did you overcome it?
11. If there was one thing about the book you could have improved, what would it be?
12. Discuss the author's use of symbols, metaphors, or imagery to convey their ideas or emotions.
13. How would you describe the book in one sentence? What is the main point or purpose of the book?
14. **What are some of the questions or criticisms you have about the book? How would you challenge or debate the author's claims or arguments?**
15. How did the book change your opinion or perspective on the topic? Did it confirm or contradict any of your assumptions or expectations?
16. What was the most memorable or impactful story, anecdote, or example in the book? Why did it stand out to you?
17. What was the most surprising or shocking thing you learned from the book? How did it make you feel?
18. How did the author engage and persuade you as a reader in the book?

19. How did the author's choice of how to frame and organize the book impact its effectiveness for you?
- 20. How did the author address any counter arguments or criticisms in the book? Did they acknowledge any limitations, gaps, or biases in their research or writing? Did you find their arguments convincing?**
- 21. What are some of the ethical, moral, or social implications of the book? How does it challenge or support your values or beliefs?**
22. Did the book inspire you to take action, change your behavior, or think differently about something?
23. What are some of the limitations or biases of the book? How does it reflect the author's background, perspective, or agenda?
24. How much do you think the author's personal views or biases influenced the book and how do you feel about that?
25. How does this book compare to other books by the same author or in the same genre?
26. If you could ask the author one question about this book, what would it be?
27. Why do you think the author wrote this book and what was their purpose or goal?
28. Rate this book on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the highest. Why did you give the book the rating you did? Did any part of this book club discussion change your rating from what it would have been directly after finishing the book?

BACKGROUND - INTRODUCTION TO NEXT MONTH'S BOOK

Annabelle will research the book's background and context to enhance the group's understanding and appreciation (and pique everyone's interest). Areas of investigation could include the book's author, genre, history, setting, and reception.

1. Who is the author and what is their background or experience in relation to the book?
2. Under what context was this book written? How was it received?

BOOK LINEUP

2026 Q4

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October	Is a River Alive? By Robert Macfarlane

November	The Backyard Bird Chronicles By Amy Tan
December	NO MEETING
2027 Q1	
January	Bogland: The Secret World That Defies Death and Protects Life By Merritt R. Turetsky
February	An Incomplete History of St. Joseph County, Indiana By Aaron Hellman
March	Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet By Ben Goldfarb
2027 Q2 (TBD, vote will be held in January)	
April	
May	
June	
2027 Q3 (TBD, vote will be held in March)	
July	
August	
September	
2027 Q4 (TBD, vote will be held in June)	
October	
November	
December	