

How to...



Start a kids' book club

Junior

Get together with friends and talk about what you read.

Whether you enjoy fantasies, mysteries, fiction, or nonfiction, reading is fun and entertaining. You can enjoy the books you read even more if you start or join a book club. In a book club, a group of people choose to read the same book and then get together to discuss what they thought of it. Being part of a book club is a great way to discover new types of stories and meet others who enjoy reading, said Judy Gelman, author of *The Kid's Book Club Book*. Here's how to get started.

Create the basics

To start a book club, you will first want to think about how often you'll meet and where you'll get together. Many book clubs meet about once a month so people have time to read the book before they get together. You could plan to meet at a different member's house each month or gather at the library or a local park.

Invite friends

Eight to 10 kids is a good number of people for a book club because it's large enough to feel like a group but not so large that you can't all easily meet. It's helpful if

Have you started a book club?

If so, write to us about your experience and include a photo if you'd like. We might publish your submission in a future issue. Email us at hello@theweekjunior.com.

everyone is about the same age, which means you may be interested in reading similar books. A book club is a fun way to make new friends, so besides your good friends, consider inviting kids you don't know as well.

Consider a theme

One way to make a book club feel special is to give it a theme. Maybe your club is focused on reading new graphic novels or classic fantasy stories. Or you could aim to read about a specific type of character, such as

middle schoolers. Having a theme can also make it easier to narrow down book options.

Choose the book

If you're the one forming the club, you could pick the book for the first meeting. After that, a different member could choose each month.

Or a member could bring three books to a meeting, describe them to the group, and let everyone vote. The box at right features books from our Summer of Reading list that are good picks for book clubs.

Come prepared

At each meeting, ask one person to bring a list of questions for the group to discuss. Questions can be about the specific book, or they could be broader questions that spark discussion. Two suggestions: If you could give the book a different ending, what would it be? If you wrote a sequel, what would happen next?

5 books to read with your club

These titles are from our Summer of Reading list. See the full list at theweekjunior.com/summerofreading. Each story is guaranteed to spark lively discussions about the characters and the decisions they make.

The Magic Misfits

By Neil Patrick Harris, illustrated by Lissy Marlin and Kyle Hilton (Little, Brown Books for Young Readers)

A group of teenage magicians try to save

a town from an evil carnival owner. *Ages* 8–12



Cece Rios and the Desert of Souls

By Kaela Rivera
(HarperCollins)
When her sister is
kidnapped, Cece
jumps into action

to get her back. Ages 8-12

Sisters

E VANCER TO THESE

By Raina Telgemeier

This graphic novel recounts the ups and downs of life with the author and her little sister. Ages 8–12



The Vanderbeekers

By Karina Yan Glaser (Clarion Books) Five siblings try to change the mind

change the mind of a landlord who doesn't want

to renew their apartment's lease. *Ages 8–12*

All the Answers

By Kate Messner (Bloomsbury USA Children's) Ava discovers a pencil that has the power to give her the right answers on her math quiz. Ages 8–12

