

Hints and Tips – Starting a Reading Group

Ice-breakers for first meeting:

- What does reading for pleasure mean to you?
- Where do you read at home? In the bath, in bed or somewhere else?
- Do you read fiction, which genres? Do you read non-fiction?
- Do you read a few books at a time or just one?
- Can you imagine what the characters look like?
- Do you choose a book from its cover?
- Do you read what someone has recommended?
- Do you use internet sites like Amazon, Fantastic Fiction to choose your next read, do you use the library catalogue?
- Do you have an ereader?
- Do you use Overdrive to download library eBooks?
- Do you prefer seeing the film adaption before or after you've read the book?

How to choose what to read as a group

Use the library Service's extensive collection of multiple copy reading group titles (Groups should make first, second and third choices as many of the titles are in demand) We also welcome recommendations for additions to the collection

Use Amazon to find out more about the titles and to get ideas for future reads

Recommendations from group members, reviews in newspapers, magazines, websites, radio and television.

NewBooks Magazine in your local library is a great source of inspiration and is now associated with [online resource](#)

Websites for Readers

www.lovereadng.co.uk – helps you to decide what to read next. There are also free extracts of books so you can try before you decide what to read. You can choose from the list of categories – debut novels, biography, relationship tales and family drama etc. A very comprehensive site.

www.whichbook.net – a fun site which allows you to input your mood and taste – happy or sad, easy or demanding, conventional or weird. It will then recommend titles, graded as best match or good match. A direct link to Prism (library online catalogue) is available so that your chosen title can be reserved.

www.booksfromscotland.com – a site dedicated to promoting and selling Scottish interest books with profiles on writers, publishers, genres and events

www.readinggroups.org – Reading Groups for Everyone - run by the Reading Agency, this site gives tips about running a group, discounts and promotions, awards and shortlists and news from reading groups – groups can register their details here and be part of a national network.

www.fictionuncovered.co.uk – celebrates the best fiction writers in the UK and 8 writers will be selected annually to be part of a major promotion supported by retailers – has useful reviews and may highlight more unusual titles.

www.bloodyscotland.com – website for Scotland's first crime writing festival

www.fantasticfiction.co.uk – very useful for tracking all books written by an author showing publication dates, also recommending other similar titles you might like to try

www.womensprizeforfiction.co.uk/ - annual award for excellence and originality in women's writing from around the world. Now known as the Baileys' Womens Prize for Fiction.

www.themanbookerprize.com – news, interviews and articles about this very prestigious annual award for the very best in fiction

www.thecwa.co.uk - the Crime Writers Association Dagger Awards

www.richardandjudy.co.uk – seasonal reading selections, reviews and suggestions for reading group reads. Podcasts and author interviews

www.deadgoodbooks.co.uk – focus on crime genre

www.caffeinenights.com – crime, horror and contemporary fiction in paperback and digital formats

www.nudge-book.com – browse and discover the world of books through BookHugger, BookNoir, BookDiva, BookGeek, BookChap, BookLife

www.goodreads.com - American site, easy to sign up, create your own bookshelves, share with other readers, post reviews.