

RIF Readers: Start a RIF Children's Book Club

Across the country, book clubs gather in homes, in libraries, in restaurants, and more to discuss the twists and turns of stories and debate actions of characters. Books inspire us, young and old, and we know that book clubs are not just for adults. Helping your child(ren) create their own book club is a wonderful opportunity to encourage and motivate reading, discussion, and comprehension.

We invite you to use this guide to encourage your child(ren) to become a RIF Reader and join with friends to make reading a designated time to come together to share a good book, and along the way you will be positively influencing your child's reading behaviors in a fun and engaging way.

FORMING YOUR RIF BOOK CLUB

Once you've decided to form a RIF Book Club, your child(ren) and the club members will become RIF Readers! A RIF Reader can be a child of any age so decide on an age range for your club and invite friends, classmates or neighbors in that range to join the book club. A book club with 3-6 children enables ideas to be freely shared and maximize inclusivity. Once you've created your RIF Reader group, pick a spot to meet. Meeting virtually, at someone's home, at a public library, or even at a picnic in the park are great locations to consider. Then, decide what day and time and for how many weeks you want to meet. Or, perhaps your club will meet bi-weekly or monthly.





RUNNING YOUR RIF BOOK CLUB

Note: For younger children, a caregiver/adult may need to help with the planning and support leading the book club. For older children, creating and running the book club is an opportunity for independence and leadership development.

- Think about how your book club wants to choose the book. Will each member get to select a title and you'll rotate through their choice each week/month? Will each member suggest a title and everyone will vote? Use RIF's suggested books lists to help with book selection which can be found at [RIF.org/Literacy-Central](https://www.rif.org/Literacy-Central).
- Once your title has been selected, be sure to share it in advance with the group. Encourage the children to read the book prior to the book club. The library provides a wonderful opportunity to borrow the book.
- Confirm the location of you book club meeting – perhaps pick a different location each meeting to make it more interesting or set one designated place for the RIF Readers to meet.
- Plan some discussion questions – pre and post – to kick off the book club conversation. Use RIF's suggested discussion questions (found below) to guide you or ask each member of the club to write down a question or comment they had when reading the book to share with the group.
- Think about opportunities to share the book's theme in a fun and engaging manner. Is there a unique recipe that celebrates where the book takes place? Is there a fun art project that ties into the book's theme? After you read and discuss the book together, dive into one of these extension activities. Again, you might plan this in advance and ask each book club member to bring their own supplies or you can rotate hosts to plan the activity for the group and be responsible for researching the activity and providing materials. And remember, you can be as creative as you wish, inviting RIF Readers to come in a costume related to the book, bring a favorite stuffed animal that reflects one of the characters, or even add a few theme-related decorations to the club setting.
- RIF suggests kicking off each book club with a read-aloud of the book – this can be a mom, dad, friend, child, etc. Reading a book aloud, taking turns reading, acting out a book, and discussing a book are all critical elements to building children's reading skills. Check out RIF's [Read-Aloud Guide](#).
- After the read-aloud, the group is ready to discuss, share thoughts, and work on the fun activity(ies) you planned.
- End the RIF Reader book club by announcing the next book. As mentioned, each child can choose a book during the course of the book club and/or parents/caregivers can give recommendations to help with book selection.

EXAMPLE RIF BOOK CLUB MEETING FLOW

4:00 - 4:05pm: RIF Readers meet at the book club location

4:05 - 4:15pm: Introduce the book and pre-read discussion questions

4:15 - 4:30pm: Read-aloud and discussion questions

4:30 - 4:40pm: Post read-aloud discussion questions and introduce next week's book

4:40 - 5:00pm: Activities and crafts

CHOOSING BOOKS

RIF can help with the book selection process. RIF's free book resource site, Literacy Central, offers thousands of book titles and many are organized by collection. So you can choose a theme and then look for book options such as viewing RIF's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion collection, Newberry Winners collection, our seasonal and holiday-specific collections, and more. RIF collections can be located at <https://www.RIF.org/literacy-central/search/type/collections>.

If you or a member of the RIF Readers book club is a RIF Skybrary subscriber, utilize the books found on the seven thematic islands. Then you can even pair a book with a related real-world video field trip hosted by LeVar Burton to share during your club meeting! To learn more about Skybrary [click here](#) or if you have an account [log in here](#).



CREATING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Discussion about the book is important because it helps engage children in the story, creates an opportunity to have complex conversations and discussions, and helps them identify emotions they may have about a certain topic. Below are a number of literacy tips that you can leverage to help get the RIF Readers engaged in the book and talking to each other about it.

- Before reading the book, show the cover and introduce the title, author, and illustrator. Ask the other book club members what they think will happen in the book and suggest things they can look or listen for during the story. Additional questions to ask before reading the book include:
 1. What do you think this book is about and why?
 2. Where do you think the story takes place?
 3. Have you ever read anything like this before?
 4. Discuss things that your child may have in common with the characters or setting in the story.

- After reading the book, here are some questions to ask to support comprehension:
 1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
 2. Who was the most important character? Why?
 3. What was the problem in the story? How was it solved?
 4. Does this book remind you of another book? Why?
 5. How did the story make you feel?
 6. Do you remember a time when you....? What happened?
- Get a set of dice and play Read, Roll and Tell. After reading the story, roll the dice. Based on the number rolled, have one of the children answer the related question. Have each child take a turn rolling the dice. Here are the dice number questions:
 1. Talk about where the story takes place.
 2. Identify and describe the main character.
 3. Talk about when the story takes place.
 4. Talk about your favorite part of the story.
 5. Talk about a problem that took place in the story.
 6. Talk about what this story makes you think of when reading it.
- Use the 3:2:1 strategy. Ask book club members to write down 3 things they learned, 2 things that are interesting, and 1 question they have. These questions boost engagement while improving reading comprehension.

DEVELOPING BOOK-RELATED ACTIVITIES

What better way to end a RIF Reader book club than with an activity that ties into the theme of the book! Activities like coloring pages and puzzles are a great way to engage children in the story and reflect about what they learned. Check out [RIF's Puzzle Creator](#) to create your own custom puzzles, and if you're using a book from RIF's collections, Literacy Central provides free puzzles and activity sheets for your use! Children can also make their own unique RIF bookmarks and other arts and crafts to carry their excitement through the week until the next book club meeting.

MOTIVATING THE RIF READERS

When your book club meeting is done for the day, have the children fill out a [RIF Reading Log](#) to keep track of their progress. And when your club finishes their meetings, you can create [RIF Reading Certificates](#) to celebrate their journey.

RECOMMENDED RIF RESOURCE LINKS

- Explore Suggested Book Club and [Title Themes](#)
- Check out our [Read-Aloud Guide](#) for Tips and Discussion Topics
- Use our [Puzzle Creator Tool](#) for your Extension Activities
- Have your Members Track Progress with our [Reading Log](#)
- Want to bring some RIF swag to your next meeting? Download and print [Bookmarks and Printable Materials](#)
- Acknowledge your Members with a [RIF Certificate](#)