

Read with RIF Book Club Guide

Reading
Is Fundamental.

until every child reads

Read with RIF: Start a Children's Book Club

Across the country, book clubs gather in homes, libraries, community centers, and more to discuss the twists and turns of stories and share their thoughts about memorable characters. Books inspire readers of all ages, and book clubs aren't just for adults. Helping your child create their own book club is a wonderful way to encourage reading, meaningful conversations, and a deeper understanding of books.

We invite you to use this guide to help your child become a Read with RIF reader by joining with friends and family to make reading a time to connect over great books. Along the way, you'll help build a love of reading while supporting your child's confidence, comprehension, and engagement as a reader.



Forming Your Read with RIF Book Club

Once you've decided to form a Read with RIF Book Club, your child and the other club members will become Read with RIF readers! Readers of all ages can participate, so decide on an age range for your club and invite friends, classmates, neighbors, or family members to join. A book club with 3-6 children encourages everyone to participate, share ideas, and engage in meaningful conversations.

Once you've created your book club, choose a place to meet. Meeting virtually, at someone's home, at a public library, at a community center, or even at a picnic in the park are all great options. Then, decide what day and time you'll meet and how often your club will gather. Whether you meet weekly, biweekly, or monthly, choose a schedule that works best for your group.

Visit rif.org/literacy-central for free literacy activities

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Running Your Read with RIF Book Club

Note: For younger children, a family member or caregiver may help plan and facilitate the book club. Older children can take the lead, making book club a great opportunity to build independence, collaboration, and leadership skills.

- **Decide how your book club will choose each book.** Will members take turns selecting a title? Will everyone suggest a book and vote? Or will you choose books connected by a shared theme, author, or genre? Explore RIF's book collections on [Literacy Central](#) to help inspire your next read.
- **Share the book in advance.** Once you've selected a title, encourage everyone to read it before your meeting. If multiple copies are needed, check with your local library or explore digital reading options.
- **Choose a meeting location.** Meet at someone's home, the library, a community space, outdoors, or even online. Whether you rotate locations or gather in the same place each time, create a welcoming environment where everyone feels comfortable sharing their ideas.
- **Prepare discussion questions.** Use the sample questions in this guide or invite each member to come ready to share a question, favorite part, or interesting observation from the book.
- **Plan an extension activity.** Create a craft, cook a recipe inspired by the story, act out a favorite scene, write an alternate ending, or try another hands-on activity that brings the book to life. Encourage creativity by dressing as a favorite character, bringing a related item, or decorating your meeting space to match the book's theme.
- **Read and discuss together.** Depending on your group, enjoy a read-aloud, take turns reading aloud, partner read, or discuss a book everyone has already finished. Reading and talking about books together helps build vocabulary, comprehension, confidence, and a love of reading. Explore RIF's [Read-Aloud Guides](#) for additional ideas and discussion prompts.
- **Wrap up the meeting.** After your discussion and activity, choose your next book and celebrate everyone's participation. Giving children a voice in selecting books helps build excitement and encourages them to keep reading between meetings.

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Example Read with RIF Book Club Meeting

4:00–4:05 p.m. Welcome readers and settle in

4:05–4:15 p.m. Introduce the book (or revisit the book everyone has read) and discuss pre-reading or opening questions

4:15–4:30 p.m. Read together, share favorite passages, or discuss the book

4:30–4:40 p.m. Continue the discussion and choose the next book

4:40–5:00 p.m. Complete a book-inspired activity, craft, game, or writing extension



Choosing Books

RIF can help with the book selection process. Literacy Central offers thousands of free, expert-curated book collections designed to help children discover books they'll love. Browse collections by topic, genre, age, grade level, season, author, and more to find the perfect book for your club. If your group prefers, visit your local library to borrow copies of your selected title or ask a librarian for additional recommendations that match your club's interests.

Creating Discussion Questions

Talking about books helps children make meaning, strengthen comprehension, build vocabulary, and develop critical thinking skills. Book club discussions also encourage readers to share ideas, make connections, and learn from one another. Use the prompts on the next page to help spark thoughtful conversations throughout your book club.



Looking for inspiration? Explore themed collections featuring diverse voices and experiences, award-winning books, STEM, social-emotional learning, graphic novels, seasonal favorites, and more. Visit **rif.org/literacy-central** to discover your next great read.

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Creating Discussion Questions

Before Reading

Before reading, show the cover and introduce the title, author, and illustrator. Invite readers to make predictions and share what they notice before the story begins.

Ask questions such as:

1. What do you think this book will be about? What makes you think that?
2. Where do you think the story takes place?
3. Have you ever read a book like this before?
4. What do you already know about this topic, character, or setting?
5. What are you wondering before we begin reading?

After Reading

Use questions like these to encourage readers to reflect on and discuss the story:

1. What was your favorite part of the story? Why?
2. Which character stood out to you the most? Why?
3. What problem did the characters face, and how was it solved?
4. Did this book remind you of another book or an experience you've had? How?
5. How did the story make you feel?
6. What message or lesson do you think the author wanted readers to take away?



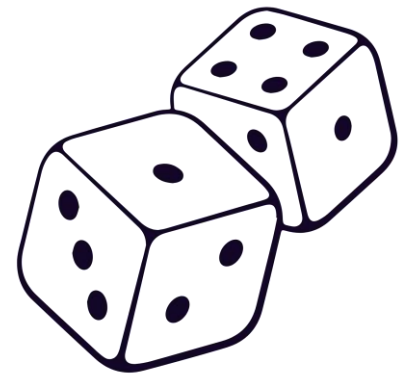
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Extending Learning

Read, Roll, and Tell

Grab a die and play Read, Roll, and Tell! After reading, take turns rolling the die and answering the matching prompt.

1. Describe the setting.
2. Describe the main character.
3. Tell when the story takes place.
4. Share your favorite part of the story.
5. Explain a problem in the story and how it was solved.
6. Share a connection you made while reading.



Try the 3-2-1 Strategy

Invite each reader to write down:

- 3 things they learned
- 2 things they found interesting
- 1 question they still have

This simple strategy encourages reflection, discussion, and deeper thinking about the text.



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Developing Book-Related Activities

What better way to end a Read with RIF Book Club than with an activity that ties into the theme of the book! Activities like coloring pages, puzzles, and crafts are a great way to engage children with the story and reflect on what they read. Check out RIF's [Puzzle Creator](#) to create your own custom puzzles. If you're using a book featured on Literacy Central, explore the free activities, printables, and discussion guides available to extend the reading experience.

Children can also [create their own bookmarks](#) and other arts and crafts to carry their excitement through the week until the next book club meeting.

Celebrating Your Read with RIF Readers

When your book club meeting is over, encourage children to complete a RIF [Reading Log](#) to keep track of the books they've read and reflect on their reading journey. When your club wraps up its final meeting, celebrate the [joy of reading](#) and everyone's participation by presenting RIF [Reading Certificates](#) to recognize their love of reading and the memories they've shared together.



Additional RIF Resources

- **Read with RIF Book Club:** Explore RIF's monthly featured books with discussion questions, activities, and extension resources to continue the conversation at home or in your book club. [Check out the collection.](#)
- **Literacy Central:** Explore free book collections, book resources, activities, and reading tools to support your next book club selection. [Explore resources now.](#)
- **RIF Quick Guides:** Explore additional family and educator tip sheets, literacy resources, and implementation guides. [Browse RIF tip sheets.](#)
- **Read-Aloud Guide:** Best practices, discussion prompts, and extension ideas to make every read-aloud engaging (available in English and Spanish).