

Book Clubs in the Classroom *Starter Plan*

Composition

- Decide how many clubs you will have and what genres. Plan for enough clubs so that you can have 4-5 students in each club for an optimal discussion experience.
- Allow students to choose what genre/club they want to participate in. If you have one club that is popular, consider making two clubs with the same genre/book.
 - For example, I have 15 kids in a class and decide on a Dystopian group, Paranormal group, and a Non-Fiction group of 5 in each, but then find that 9 kids really want in the Dystopian group. I might rework the clubs and have two Dystopian groups (4 members and 5 members) and a Non-Fiction group (6 members), and omit the Paranormal or least popular group.
 - If a student really wants to switch after a couple of chapters, let them. This is about them finding the books that spark a love of reading. However, you need to limit switches to one time so that it doesn't hinder the other club members' progress.
- All members of the club will read the same book. Each club will have a different book.

Guidelines

- Allow students to name their book club. This gives them ownership.
- Set aside 10-15 minutes at least once a week as "Book Club" time
 - Permit the students to physically move into groups. They can even set their chairs in a circle if room size permits. Each club will meet in a different area of the classroom.
 - Everyone reports on what page they've reached in the book; hold each other accountable.
 - Discussion on chapters already read by all members
 - Set target page to reach before next Book Club meeting
 - If time left, allow them to use the rest of the time to read
- Provide discussion guides on the selected books if available
- Make this program your own. Come up with your own rules to customize it to your teaching style.