

book club

What is a Book Club?

Goal

The goal of the Riverside Middle School Book Club is to encourage reading by providing a safe environment where literary discussion can take place in a respectful manner.

Structure

Club members are responsible for reading one book each semester. All books are previewed and selected by the Library Media Specialist. Although student input is encouraged, the Media Specialist has final say on book selections. During the meetings, the Media Specialist provides initial questions and directs and guides the discussion as needed. It is expected, however, that discussions are primarily student led.

Membership

Membership in Book Club is open to all Riverside Middle School students and faculty. New members can join throughout the year by contacting the Media Specialist. To remain an active member, a participant can miss no more than two meetings per nine weeks. Absences must be pre-approved by the Media Specialist at least one day in advance of the meeting.

Participation

Club members are notified in advance of the upcoming nine weeks' book selection. Every member must have a paperback or hardcover copy of the selected book, purchased or borrowed, for the semester' meeting. E-readers are allowed if both the student and parent have signed the Riverside Middle School Acceptable Use Policy, and the device has been registered in the media center. Based on attendance in each session, participants are divided into groups of approximately five members. Time is allotted at the end of each meeting for members to reconvene as a whole and share final thoughts. Participation is encouraged, but not required, during the weekly discussions. Members must agree to abide by the Book Club Manners to ensure courteous discourse.

Meetings

Book Club meets every Tuesday of each week. The sessions last from 4:35 p.m. to 5:35 p.m. The library is closed during this time.

General Meeting Format

- Time is given for members to share their impressions of the book.
- Members are organized into small groups.
- The Media Specialist introduces a general discussion question.
- When needed, the Media Specialist guides discussion in the groups and provides additional questions for consideration.
- Members reconvene as a whole group to share final thoughts of the book. Who can join?
- Any student or faculty member of Riverside Middle School! Book Club Manners
- Meetings start promptly at 4:35 pm. Please be on time.
- Bring your book and discussion ideas to every meeting.

- The person with the “microphone” has permission to speak. Wait your turn and do not interrupt.
- Be courteous of others’ viewpoints. Disagreements are okay, but rudeness is not.
- Allow everyone in your group an equal opportunity to contribute. No one person should monopolize the conversation.
- Stay on topic during conversations.

Moderator: Ms. Blackmon