

BOOK CLUB

Health Check

How Heathy Is Your Book Club?

Just as many of us have an annual checkup at the doctor, an annual book club "health check" can help prevent a group from stagnating or prevent unexpressed tensions from reaching a breaking point.

BookBrowse.com has created a list of topics, both logistical and interpersonal, to consider discussing with your group. Start off keeping topics broad so the discussion can flow in the direction most relevant to your book club.

Agreeing upon the core objectives of the group will help prevent problems from happening, and make resolving them easier when they do.

For a more in-depth look at each of these topics, see: bookbrowse.com/BCHC

Topics To Consider

- What is the first word you would use to describe your group?
- Are the meeting frequency, time and location(s) working well?
- Are there issues to discuss relating to attendance and reading the book?
- Is the group happy about the types of books being discussed and the process for selecting them?
- Is the size of the group working well?
- Is there a good balance between discussion time and social aspects?
- What about the discussions themselves?
- Is the group's overall organization and communication working well?
- Is there anything not already covered that members of the group would like to start or stop doing?

Next Steps

Having taken the time to discuss these issues, make sure to agree what, if any, changes your group is going to make, and keep a note of the key points for future reference.

Effective book clubs are built on active listening, respect and compromise. Just as there is no single right way for a book club to run, there is no single right way to resolve problems that arise.

For more on this topic see ***The Book Club Health Check*** at bookbrowse.com/BCHC, and BookBrowse's research report: ***The Inner Lives of Book Clubs***, available at bookbrowse.com/innerlives.

