

Fact Sheet #5 : Meeting Etiquette for Book Clubs



The following may be discussed early in your Book Club's life, or as the issues arise. It can be helpful to revisit decisions made - perhaps at the first meeting of each year.

1. Reading the book

If a member has not read the book, should they attend the meeting?

Will the Club provide a report on the plot line at the start of the session?

2. Private and social discussions

Club members may wish to meet before or after to socialise and chat.

Private discussions should probably be saved for later privacy or carried out in another room.

How will you ensure everyone gets a chance to contribute to the discussion?

3. Refreshments

If you are not meeting in a café, restaurant or pub, and would like to have refreshments during your meeting, a catering roster could be useful.

4. Guests

Are guests of members permitted?

If so, are there limitation on who would be welcome, and how many times they could come along before being required to formally join the group?

5. Is handiwork permitted?

Another person crocheting or knitting during discussion may distract some people.

6. Are children permitted?

The group may be happy to allow children who do not make a disturbance or Club members may wish to jointly hire a baby-sitter.

7. Are pets permitted?

Note that many venues will not permit pets inside, so this will depend on where your group meets and how the group feels about pets.