

# Fact Sheet #2 : The First Meeting of your Book Club



## First Meeting - preparation

- When inviting people to attend your first meeting, ask them to bring along a book they have read recently. This makes an interesting first discussion, before the first assigned book is handed out. It also gives everyone a chance to get to know their new fellow Book Club members.
- Name tags can be helpful as everyone is getting to know each other.
- Tea and coffee (or a glass of wine!) can also help break the ice or make a new member feel welcome.
- Keep a written record of all decisions about how the group will run and distribute to the group at the next meeting.
- A good mix of people will provide lively, comfortable and fun discussions. Different opinions and styles should be sought and encouraged - if the members of the group or the books you choose to read are too similar the collective responses may be limited and, over time members may become disinterested.

## In your First Meeting...

### What is a Book Club?

Discuss the aim of the group.

### “Getting to Know You”

Ask each person to talk about the book they have brought with them, or have read recently. This activity will also provide people with an idea of what a Book Club does and allows people to get to know each other. It will also lead to a discussion of reading likes and dislikes.

### Decisions, Decisions, Decisions.....

At the initial meeting the group as a whole could consider and refine the following points:

- **Regularity of Meetings**  
How often would your members like to meet? Monthly meetings are the norm.
- **Where to meet**  
Will you always meet in the same place, or in different places each month?
- **Reading Interests/Preferences**  
What do Club members like to read? Who will choose the book each month?