

Handout

Taking Charge of the Discussion

Directions: Book club discussions should be fun! While they are not as structured as class discussions, having roles can help the group uphold its norms. Successful book clubs find a balance between “book talk” about characters, themes, and conflicts and “friend talk” about everyone’s lives and the world today. Switch roles each meeting so everyone has a chance to try them out!

Facilitator

The Facilitator guides the discussion. They get the meeting started with a group check-in. At the end of the meeting, they lead a reflection. The Facilitator makes sure that everyone’s voice is heard and that one student isn’t dominating the conversation. The Facilitator can help the group review their book club contract if someone feels like a norm has been broken.



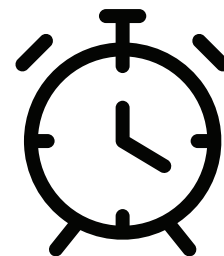
Questioner

Everyone should come to book club meetings prepared with questions to discuss about the chapters they read. The Questioner helps the Facilitator by posing the first question about the book. They also have follow-up questions if the conversation slows down. The Questioner can use the “Compelling Questions for Book Club Discussions” handout or prepare their own questions as they read each week. They can write their own questions on sticky notes or a small piece of paper that they use as a bookmark.



Time Keeper

The Time Keeper helps the Facilitator to keep the group on track. They can help the group get refocused if the discussion wanders away from the book for too long. When the meeting is almost over, the Time Keeper lets the Facilitator know that they should start the group reflection.



Big Idea Grabber

The Big Idea Grabber summarizes the big ideas that group members raise during each discussion. The Big Idea Grabber records these ideas and shares them with the group and the teacher. They can “sketchnote,” which means representing what group members say using pictures and images. Or they can jot down key words and phrases during the meeting on a piece of paper. Before the final reflection at the end of the meeting, the Big Idea Grabber gives a summary of the big ideas the group talked about.

