

Book Club Ceremony

Parties interested in reading a book together for a book club come together to read the book out loud to each other and discuss what has just been read.

Purpose

To improve the quality of the group discussion and ensure all participants read the book.

Preparation

Copies of the book are acquired for all participants who desire one.

Participants (roles)

Reader, Active Listeners

Pattern

Open—Reader announces the page where they will begin reading.

Execute—Reader reads the book out loud to the Active Listeners.

Active Listeners listen, take notes, and may follow along in their own books.

Reader continues until they reach a point where they wish to stop for discussion.

Everyone engages in discussion in what has been read taking notes and recording personal action items (how they might apply an idea they have just read).

Reader and Active Listeners may swap roles during the ceremony.

Close—Reader announces the end of the session and records the page they have stopped on.

Product

A record of where to start reading in the next ceremony.

A record of notes, ideas, thoughts, and personal action items.

Tips

May be done in even small 10- to 15-minute daily ceremonies, especially for books with short chapters like the book “Ceremony.”