

Book clubs have always had the ability to connect people who love to read and talk about books. Online book clubs can offer this same connection... you just have to do things a little bit differently. Here are a few tips to get you started with hosting your own online book club.

## 1. Choose the Book

The first step is to choose a book. Burlington Public Library has a few ways to help you out with this.

[BPL Staff Lists](#): Explore book suggestions made by BPL staff.

[OverDrive](#): Browse the virtual shelves of our largest eBook collection. Watch the site for promotional reads, such as *Burlington Reads @Home* or *The Big Book*, which allows multiple users to borrow the same book at the same time.

[Novelist](#): Whether you want your book choices to have a theme (classics, mysteries, award winners) or you want to read a variety of genres, check out Novelist's Recommended Reads Lists for suggestions.

## 2. Get the Book

Not everyone in your group has a copy of the book at home? With your Burlington Public Library card you can borrow from digital collections available through OverDrive, Hoopla, and RB Digital. Some eResources require you to install an app and then create an account (or just create an account) for that particular product. [Read details here](#)

[OverDrive/Libby](#): OverDrive provides access to the largest collection of new eBooks and audiobooks. Access the collection on your computer or download the OverDrive or Libby app to your mobile device.

[Hoopla](#): Hoopla is a digital streaming service that provides a vast collection of audiobooks (and more) that can be accessed by multiple customers at the same time – perfect for book clubs.

[RB Digital](#): RBDigital offers digital audiobooks, including a collection of classic eBooks. Many titles have no limit to the number of customers who can access a title at a time.

[Project Gutenberg](#): Project Gutenberg is an online resource available without a library card. The collection has over 60,000 eBooks that are available to download for free.

### 3. Host a Meeting

Just as important as choosing the books your group will read, is deciding how your group will meet. There are plenty of meeting options for online book clubs. Whether this means having all members present at the same time in a face-to-face chat or creating a discussion forum where members can add comments as they go along, here are some options to help you decide what will work best for your book club:

**Video Chat Forums:** Sign up for a free account on one of these sites and invite your book club members to chat via video at a set meeting time.

[Zoom](#)

[Google Hangouts](#)

[Skype](#)

**Discussion Forums:** Sign up for a free account on one of these sites and create a group where your book club members can chat via messages at times when they chose.

[Facebook](#)

[Messenger](#)

[Goodreads](#)

[WhatsApp](#)

### 4. Facilitate the Discussion

Just like traditional book clubs, online book clubs may choose to have one member lead book club discussions or rotate this role among club members. Whatever your group decides, here are some resources to help you prepare:

**Facilitating Tips**

[ilovelibraries](#)

[ThoughtCo.](#)

[LitLovers](#)

**Book Discussion Guides**

[Novelist](#)

[LitLovers](#)

[Reading Group Guides](#)

[New York Review Books](#)

## Generic Book Discussion Guides

Can't find a specific book discussion guide? Don't worry. Use these general questions to spark a discussion about any book.

[BookRiot](#)

[Oprah Magazine](#)

[BookBundlz](#)

## Sample Layout for a One-Hour Online Book Club Meeting

### *First 10 minutes*

- Welcome the group: Encourage an introduction roundtable among participants. It may work best if the facilitator calls on each person to introduce themselves so people aren't interrupting each other.
- Explain how the discussion will work and any time limits you would like to follow. For example: Provide a few strategies to prevent interruptions and people talking over each other.
- Read a summary about the book, share a short video clip, etc.

### *Discussion Questions (40 minutes)*

The allotted time for discussion can be adjusted depending on how long your book club is scheduled to last. Use prompt questions to jumpstart the discussion portion of the program. Prepare at least eight prompt questions to discuss for 3 to 5 minutes each.

### *Final 5-10 minutes*

- Identify upcoming book club titles
- Play video/book trailer for next month's book
- Thank everyone for coming.

Get your online book club started today—and enjoy!

No Burlington Public Library card? [Apply online now for FREE membership](#) if you live, work, attend school in Burlington, or pay property taxes here.