

Handout

Routines for Getting Started and Wrapping Up

Directions: Books clubs are all about sharing stories and building community around books. It can be fun to start and end each book club session with a routine to bring in everyone's voice. Choose from the following routines to frame your book club meetings.

Routines to Get the Discussion Started

1. What's on Your Mind?

Take a minute to think about the chapters you read for this book club meeting. Then choose one of these questions to chat about for a few minutes. Make sure to hear from everyone in the group!

- What's on your mind after reading these chapters?
- What's worth talking about in these chapters?¹
- What is the most valuable idea in this part of the book?

2. Share a Notable Quotable

- Take a minute to review what you read for this book club meeting. Have each group member choose a sentence or short section that you really enjoyed. Maybe you found it funny or particularly moving. Maybe it connected to your own life. Maybe it made you angry or it confused you.
- Read aloud or summarize (if it's more than a sentence) your short section and share why it stood out to you.

3. Consider a Color, Symbol, and Image²

- Think about a color, a symbol, and an image that you think best represents the chapters you read for this book club meeting. You can focus on a character, a theme, or a big idea that interests you.
- Have each member of the group share their color, symbol, and image and explain their ideas.

4. One Question and One Comment³

- Take a minute to think about a question you have about the chapters you read for this meeting. It might be a place where you got confused, a question about why a character made a certain decision, or a question about the world of the book.
- Have each group member share their question and comment and see where a discussion of them takes you! Make sure to hear from everyone in the group.

¹ Gallagher, Kelly and Penny Kittle, *180 Days: Two Teachers and the Quest to Engage and Empower Adolescents*. (Portsmouth, NH: Heinemann, 2018), 57.

² Color, Symbol, Image is adapted from a thinking routine developed by educators at Harvard University's Project Zero.

³ Gallagher, Kelly, *Deeper Reading: Comprehending Challenging Texts*, (Stenhouse Publishers, 2004), 48.

Closing Routines for the Final Five Minutes

1. Can You Hear Me Now?

Discuss what worked in this session's book club discussion and what didn't work.

- What new insights do we have as a result of a group member's question or comment?
- Who had something to say but struggled to be heard?
- Were there any distractions, like background noise or phones?
- How can we support each other in the future to overcome any challenges?

2. Review Your Book Club Contract

Review the norms you created during your first book club meeting and then discuss the following questions:

- Where did we do a good job upholding our group norms today?
- Where did we struggle or break one of our norms?
- What is one thing we can do better next time as a group to make sure that we all uphold our norms?

3. Set Goals for the Next Meeting

Setting goals and sharing them with each other is a great way to hold everyone accountable for the week's reading. Discuss the following questions, making sure to hear from everyone in your book club.

- What was a highlight of today's discussion for you?
- What is your reading goal for the week? What is one thing you will do to help make sure you meet or exceed your reading goal?
- How can the group help you reach, or surpass, your goal?