

Guidelines for Novel Exchange Book Club

We decided on the following to guide our group:

1. We will meet on the 4th Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm at the Shoreview Library, in the Book Club Room if it is available. If not, librarians will suggest alternate room. We can bring beverages, but containers must be covered. We can bring non-messy treats, but we don't plan to regularly have food, unless someone has a small treat they want to share.
2. We will start on time, and spend the first 15 minutes or so in 'catching up' and socializing before we start the book discussion. I will sign up for the room through 4 pm so if people want to stay around later for more socializing, that works, too. We expect to finish the discussion around 3 pm.
3. We will read a mix of genre including both fiction and non-fiction. The group will decide on books to read and discuss, and a member will volunteer to lead the discussion. We will try to select books several months in advance so members have adequate time to get them from the library. The discussion leader will send a reminder and a list of discussion questions about a week before book club meets.
4. During the discussion, we will let a member complete her/his thoughts before speaking up. Everyone should have a chance to speak before anyone speaks again.
5. Some books will bring up old memories or painful times in our lives that we may share with the group. We will not share these stories outside our group unless the person says it is okay to share.
6. We consider our commitment to book club to be strong, and will try to attend all meetings that we are able to. That keeps attendance steady and avoids the wide variation in number of people that can make discussions difficult to plan for.
7. We want to be welcoming to all who are interested, but we will limit the group to 8 - 9 members who regularly attend, so there is adequate opportunity for all to fully participate in the discussion.
8. For this year, Sharon will be the group leader - contact person to be listed in PH calendar, keep email list of members, keep list of books read, calendar of books chosen for discussion, reserve room, forward updates to Fred Green for the PH web site and calendar, etc.

