

TEEN BOOK CLUBS- METAMORPHOSIS

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There are so many possibilities for themed book clubs dealing with the themes of Identity, Metamorphosis and Transformation/Make-Over. Most of the titles are YA but some of them are YT or suitable for younger teens.

WEBSITES

<http://www.colapublib.org/periodicals/#reference>
Novelist Database

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides.html>
Multnomah County Library book club discussion guides for young readers

<http://www.booksamillion.com/ncom/books?id=3994776248602&cat=bambookclub>
Books A Million book discussion guides

PROGRAM OUTLINE

1. Get a group of teens who want to discuss books.
2. Pick a book for the first meeting. After that, have the teens pick the next book. If you have a Teen Advisory Board, have them pick the first book. Make sure you have read any possible selections beforehand to ensure they are appropriate for your group and community.
3. Agency request copies of the book so that anyone can check them out. Make sure your circulation desk staff knows they are coming in.
4. Advertise and have your teens take flyers for their friends
5. Find some discussion questions
6. Provide refreshments if possible.
7. Remember that your job is to facilitate discussion. Try to get everyone involved and not let a couple of people dominate.
8. Have fun!

Universal Questions

From: <http://www.multcolib.org/talk/universalquestions.html>

1. What did you enjoy about this book?
2. What have you read that is similar to this book?
3. What are some of the major themes of this book?
4. What do you think the author was trying to accomplish with this novel?
5. Who was your favorite character? What did you appreciate about him/her?
6. Consider the main character: what does he or she believe in? What is he or she willing to fight for?
7. At the end of the book, do you feel hope for the characters?
8. What is stronger in the book: plot or character development? Why? Do you think this was intentional on the part of the author?
9. Have you ever experienced anything similar to the action of this novel?
10. Did you find this book a quick read? Why or why not?
11. What are your concerns about this book?
12. How did you feel about the main character?
13. What are the most important relationships in the book?
14. What makes a minor character memorable?
15. What are the most revealing scenes?
16. Are any of the events in the book relevant to your own life?
17. What did you think of the style of the writer?
18. Was the story credible? The characters credible?
19. Did you find any flaws in the book?
20. Compare the hardcover and paperback covers. Which one do you like better? Why?

Created in part with funds granted by the [Oregon State Library](#) under the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library. Send feedback to [Katie O'Dell](#), Reading Promotions Coordinator

SUPPLEMENTAL ART ACTIVITIES

Identity Collage

Materials Needed:

Magazines (to cut up)

Scissors

Glue

Construction Paper

Have the teens make a collage that represents their identity.

If You Could Morph into Anything, What Would it Be?

Materials Needed:

Imagination

Paper

Scissors

Glue

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Magazines

Tissue paper

Have the teens create an image of their own metamorphosis into whatever creature they would like to be.

Book Cover Makeover

Materials Needed:

Imagination

Paper

Scissors

Glue

Crayons, markers, colored pencils

Magazines

Tissue paper

Have the teens pick one of the book covers and redesign it.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

027.626 Kunzel, Bonnie The Teen-Centered Book Club

RJ 028.55 Gelman, Judy The Kids' Book Club Book
Includes information about young and older teens

Identity:

YA Cabot, Meg Princess Diaries
Princess in the Spotlight
Princess in Love
Princess in Waiting
Project Princess [v. 4 1/2]
Princess in Pink
Princess in Training
Party Princess
Sweet Sixteen Princess [v. 7 1/2]
Princess on the Brink
Princess Mia

Fourteen-year-old Mia, who is trying to lead a normal life as a teenage girl in New York City, is shocked to learn that her father is the Prince of Genovia, a small European principality, and that she is a princess and the heir to the throne. (YT)

YA Calonita, Jen Secrets of My Hollywood Life
Longing to experience the life of a "normal" teenager, sixteen-year-old actress Kaitlin Burke assumes a false identity to attend a local high school.

YA Cross, Shauna Derby Girl
When sixteen-year-old rebel Bliss Cavendar, who is miserable living in a small Texas town with her beauty pageant-obsessed mother, secretly joins a roller derby team under the name "Babe Ruthless," her life gets better, although infinitely more confusing.

YA Elkeles, Simone How to Ruin My Teenage Life
Living with her Israeli father in Chicago, seventeen-year-old Amy Nelson-Barak feels like a walking disaster, worried about her "non-boyfriend" in the Israeli army, her mother, new stepfather, and the baby they are expecting, a new boy named Nathan who has moved into her apartment building and goes to her school, and whether or not she really is the selfish snob that Nathan says she is.

YA Flake, Sharon Bang!
A teenage boy must face the harsh realities of inner city life, a disintegrating family, and destructive temptations as he struggles to find his identity as a young man.

YA Friedman, Robin The Girlfriend Project
New Jersey high school senior Reed Walton has never had a girlfriend, but once he gets his braces off, gets contact lenses, and turns into a "hottie," his two best friends set up a website to remedy the situation.

YA Giles, Gail Right Behind You
After spending over four years in a mental institution for murdering a friend in Alaska, fourteen-year-old Kip begins a completely new life in Indiana with his father and stepmother under a different name, but he has trouble fitting in and finds there are still problems to deal with from his childhood.

YA Grimes, Nikki Bronx Masquerade
While studying the Harlem Renaissance, students at a Bronx high school read aloud poems they've written, revealing their innermost thoughts and fears and finding friendship and understanding as a result.

YA Perkins, Mitali First Daughter: Extreme American Makeover
Sameera's father is running for the Republican Presidential nomination but his campaign staff thinks she needs a makeover to become more American. At first she goes along but draws the line at the airhead blog. Will America accept the real Sameera?

YA Portman, Frank King Dork
High school loser Tom Henderson discovers that "The Catcher in the Rye" may hold the clues to the many mysteries in his life.

YA Triana, Gaby Cubanita
Seventeen-year-old Isabel, eager to leave Miami to attend the University of Michigan and escape her overprotective Cuban mother, learns some truths about her family's past and makes important decisions about the type of person she wants to be.

YA Wittlinger, Ellen What's in a Name?
Each of ten teenagers living in Scrub Harbor, Massachusetts, explores his or her identity at the same time that the local residents consider changing the name of their town.

Metamorphosis:

YA Coville, Bruce (editor) Half-Human

A collection of fantasy stories exploring such creatures as mermaids and centaurs, who are part-human and part-animal or part-plant, and their struggles to understand their true identity.

YA Davidson, MaryJanice Jennifer Scales and the Ancient Furnace
Jennifer Scales and the Messenger of Light

Fourteen-year-old Jennifer Scales learns the secrets of her family's past and her own terrifying present, realizing that everyone around her has something to hide.

YA Flinn, Alex Beastly

A modern retelling of "Beauty and the Beast" from the point of view of the Beast, a vain Manhattan private school student who is turned into a monster and must find true love before he can return to his human form.

J Harrison, Mette Ivie Mira, Mirror

Long after the disappearance of Snow White's stepmother, the witch trapped in her mirror manipulates a desperate peasant and a merchant's daughter to seek the magic she needs to gain her freedom, but the girls show her a power far greater. (YT)

YA Johnson, Kathleen Jeffrie A Fast and Brutal Wing

A series of journal entries, emails, stories, and newspaper articles reveals the strange events that led to the disappearance of a reclusive author on Halloween night and the involvement of a teenager and his friends--a brother and sister some say can transform into animals and back again.

FIC Kafka, Franz The Metamorphosis

Metamorphosis of a traveling salesman into a monstrous cockroach, [Kakerlaken] to the horror of his family.

YA 741.5973 Kuper, Peter The Metamorphosis

In graphic novel format, reworks Kafka's tale of family and alienation featuring traveling salesman Gregor Samsa, who awakens in his family home one morning to find himself turned into a giant bug.

YA Lockhart, E. Fly on the Wall: how one girl saw everything

In this modern take on Kafka's Metamorphosis, Gretchen Yee becomes a fly on the wall in the boy's locker room at her high school.

J Pullman, Philip I Was a Rat!

A rat is transformed into a page boy but doesn't get changed back. Now he's a boy who doesn't know how to be a boy. Retelling of Cinderella.

YA Thomson, Celia The Fallen
The Stolen
The Chosen

The Nine Lives of Chloe King series. After accidentally falling down from San Francisco's highest tower, Chloe King's life becomes anything but normal: Suddenly guys are prowling around her, she's growing claws, and someone's trying to kill her.

Transformation/Make-Over:

YA Bondoux, Anne-Laure The Killer's Tears

A young boy, Paolo, and the man who murdered his parents, Angel, gradually become like father and son as they live and work together on the remote Chilean farm where Paolo was born.

YA Burgess, Melvin Sara's Face

Seventeen-year-old Sara wants so much to be famous that when a legendary, plastic-surgery-addicted rock star offers to take her under his wing and pay for her to have surgery too, she jumps at the chance despite her misgivings.

YA Peters, Julie Anne Luna: a novel

Fifteen-year-old Regan's life, which has always revolved around keeping her older brother Liam's transsexuality a secret, changes when Liam decides to start the process of "transitioning" by first telling his family and friends that he is a girl who was born in a boy's body.

YA Singer, Marilyn (editor) Make Me Over

A thought provoking approach to a current culture of readily available plastic surgery, makeovers and underlying obsession with beauty, 11 stories delve into the theory, truth, and even occasional humorous side to fascination with reinventing oneself from the outside in.

YA Westerfeld, Scott Uglies
Pretties
Specials
Extras

What if you lived in a world where everyone got plastic surgery when they turned 16? Would you go along and become a Pretty or would you run away?

YA Wittlinger, Ellen Parrotfish

Grady, a transgendered high school student, yearns for acceptance by his classmates and family as he struggles to adjust to his new identity as a male.