

TEEN BOOK CLUBS- EXPRESS YOURSELF

Sarah Mae Harper, AC Bilbrew Library

There are so many possibilities for themed book clubs dealing with personal expression whether it is through music, the arts, writing, social action or spirituality. Most of the titles are YA but some of them are YT or suitable for younger teens.

WEBSITES

<http://www.colapublib.org/periodicals/index.html#lit>

Novelist Database

<http://www.multcolib.org/talk/guides.html>

Multnomah County Library book club discussion guides for young readers

<http://www.teenreads.com/clubs/index.asp>

Book Clubs on Teenreads.com

<http://www.houghtonmifflinbooks.com/features/harrisburdick/index.html>

Mysteries of Harris Burdick

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. Request copies of the book with your PROGRAMS user 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?

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Book Specific Questions

From: [Novelist Database](#)

1984

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian

Fahrenheit 451

The Sledding Hill

Godless

Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy

Elsewhere

From: Teenreads.com

[1984](#)

[Animal Farm](#)

[Brave New World](#)

[Elsewhere](#)

[The Gospel According to Larry](#)

From: Multnomah County Library

[Hoot](#)

[Hope Was Here](#)

[Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist](#)

[The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place](#)

[Shakespeare Bats Cleanup](#)

[A Single Shard](#)

[To Dance](#)

SUPPLEMENTAL ACTIVITIES

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.

Book Soundtracks

Materials Needed:

Imagination
Paper
Pens and/or Pencils
Book

Have the teens choose a book and then create a playlist for each chapter. They should pick songs that would make a good soundtrack for the action of the story. Display the soundtracks with the books.

Campaign Signs

Materials Needed:

Posterboard
Construction Paper
Crayons, markers, colored pencils
Scissors
Glue

Have the teens choose a favorite book and campaign for it. They should make a poster that expresses why every teen should read the book. Make a display with the books and posters.

Solve the Mysteries of Harris Burdick

Materials Needed:

Mysteries of Harris Burdick
by Chris Van Allsburg
Imagination

Harris Burdick started 14 stories with a title, a picture and a caption but he never finished them. Now it's your turn to finish the story. Choose one of the story-starters and finish it in any way you choose: picture book, short story, comic book, or poem.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

027.626 Dickerson, Constance B. Teen Book Discussion Groups @ the Library

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

Music:

YA Castellucci, Cecil Beige
Katy, a quiet French Canadian teenager, reluctantly leaves Montréal to spend time with her estranged father, an aging Los Angeles punk rock legend.

YA Cohn, Rachel & Levithan, David Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist
High school student Nick O'Leary, member of a rock band, meets college-bound Norah Silverberg and asks her to be his girlfriend for five minutes in order to avoid his ex-sweetheart.

YA Cohn, Rachel Pop Princess
Yearning to escape the small Massachusetts town where her family retreated after her sister's death, Wonder Blake gets her chance when her sister's manager offers Wonder a record contract on her sixteenth birthday.

YA Dessen, Sarah Just Listen
Isolated from friends who believe the worst because she has not been truthful with them, sixteen-year-old Annabel finds an ally in classmate Owen, whose honesty and passion for music help her to face and share what really happened at the end-of-the-year party that changed her life.

J Ehrenberg, Pamela Ethan, Suspended
After a school suspension and his parents' separation, Ethan is sent to live with his grandparents in Washington, D.C., which is worlds apart from his home in a Philadelphia suburb.

YA Korman, Gordon Born to Rock
High school senior Leo Caraway, a conservative Republican, learns that his biological father is a punk rock legend.

J Levine, Gail Carson Dave at Night
When orphaned Dave is sent to the Hebrew Home for Boys where he is treated cruelly, he sneaks out at night and is welcomed into the music- and culture-filled world of the Harlem Renaissance.

Visual Arts:

YA Alexie, Sherman The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
 Art by Forney, Ellen

Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.

YA Anderson, Laurie Halse Speak

A traumatic event near the end of the summer has a devastating effect on Melinda's freshman year in high school.

YA Bauer, Cat Harley, Like a Person

Fourteen-year-old Harley, an artistic teenager living with her alcoholic father and angry mother, suspects that she is adopted and begins a search for her biological parents.

YA Butcher, Kristin Zee's Way

When a store owner catches him painting graffiti on the store's wall, Zee must choose between making a statement and making art.

YA 741.5973 Castellucci, Cecil Plain Janes
 & Rugg, Jim Janes in Love

When Jane moves to the suburbs, she thinks her life is over, but she meets three friends who form a club P.L.A.I.N., but can art really save a group of misfits from high school?

J Frizzell, Colin Chill

Chill has always been different, but the way he deals with his disability, and his art, have given him the power to survive the horrors of high school. (YT)

YA Gallagher, Liz The Opposite of Invisible

Artistic Seattle high school sophomore Alice decides to emerge from her cocoon and date a football player, which causes a rift between her and her best friend, a boy who wants to be more than just friends.

YA Myers, Walter Dean Autobiography of My Dead Brother
 Art by Myers, Christopher

Jesse uses his sketchbook and comic strips to make sense of his home in Harlem and the loss of a close friendship.

J Park, Linda Sue A Single Shard

Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge in a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself. (YT)

YA Sones, Sonya What My Girlfriend Doesn't Know
Fourteen-year-old Robin Murphy is so unpopular at high school that his name is slang for "loser," and so when he begins dating the beautiful and popular Sophie her reputation plummets, but he finds acceptance as a student in a drawing class at Harvard.

Dramatic Arts:

YA Bennet, Cherie & A Heart Divided
 Gottesfeld, Jeff

When sixteen-year-old Kate, an aspiring playwright, moves from New Jersey to attend high school in the South, she becomes embroiled in a controversy to remove the school's Confederate flag symbol.

J Blackwood, Gary The Shakespeare Stealer
A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of *Hamlet*, but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship and loyalty.

YA Lockhart, E. Dramarama
Spending their summer at Wildewood Academy, an elite boarding school for the performing arts, tests the bond between teens Sadye and her best friend Demi.

YA Selfors, Suzanne Saving Juliet
Seventeen-year-old Mimi Wallingford's stage fright and fight with her mother on the closing night of Romeo and Juliet are nothing compared to the troubles she faces when she and her leading man are transported to Shakespeare's Verona, where she decides to give the real Juliet a happy ending.

YA Wood, Maryrose My Life, The Musical
Sixteen-year-old Emily Pearl's obsession with Broadway shows, and one musical in particular, lands her in trouble in school and at home, but it might also allow her and her best friend, Phillip, to find a dramatic solution to the problems.

Writing:

YA Craft, Elizabeth & Bass Ackwards and Belly Up
 Fain, Sarah

When one of four best friends lies and says she will pursue her dream of writing a novel rather than start college, two others join in, one by going to Los Angeles to become an actress and one by backpacking through Europe to find herself, while the fourth goes to college, joins her hero's ski team, and tries to fall in love.

J 811.6 Grandits, John Blue Lipstick
A teenage girl expresses herself through concrete poetry

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 811.6 Hemphill, Stephanie Your Own, Sylvia
The author interprets the people, events, influences and art that made up the brief life of Sylvia Plath.

YA Kephart, Beth Undercover
High school sophomore Elisa is used to observing while going unnoticed except when classmates ask her to write love notes for them, but a teacher's recognition of her talent, a "client's" desire for her friendship, a love of ice skating, and her parent's marital problems draw her out of herself.

YA Koertge, Ron Shakespeare Bats Cleanup
When a fourteen-year-old baseball player catches mononucleosis, he discovers that keeping a journal and experimenting with poetry not only helps fill the time, it also helps him deal with life, love, and loss.

YA Wizner, Jake Spanking Shakespeare
Shakespeare Shapiro navigates a senior year fraught with feelings of insecurity while writing the memoir of his embarrassing life, worrying about his younger brother being cooler than he is, and having no prospects of ever getting a girlfriend.

YA Wyeth, Sharon Dennis Orphea Proud
While reciting her poetry at a club in Queens, New York, seventeen-year-old Orphea recounts her childhood in Pennsylvania, leaving after her parents and the girl she loves die, and learning about her family and herself while living with her great-aunts on a Virginia mountaintop.

Social Action:

J Bauer, Joan Hope Was Here
When sixteen-year-old Hope and the aunt who has raised her move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor. (YT)

FIC Bradbury, Ray Fahrenheit 451
A totalitarian regime has ordered all books to be destroyed, but one of the book burners suddenly realizes their merit.

YA Carvell, Marlene Who Will Tell My Brother?
During his lonely crusade to remove offensive mascots from his high school, a Native American teenager learns more about his heritage, his ancestors, and his place in the world.

YA Crutcher, Chris The Sledding Hill
After his father leaves and his mother becomes brainwashed by the reverend of a local church, Eddie's only source for compassion and advice is Billy who, despite being deceased, is still his best friend. Billy, recently deceased, keeps an eye on his best friend, fourteen-year-old Eddie, who has added to his home and school problems by becoming mute, and helps him stand up to a conservative minister and English teacher who is orchestrating a censorship challenge.

YA Doctorow, Cory Little Brother
After being interrogated for days by the Department of Homeland Security in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco, California, seventeen-year-old Marcus, released into what is now a police state, decides to use his expertise in computer hacking to set things right.

J Hiaasen, Carl Hoot
Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.

FIC Huxley, Aldous Brave New World
The year is 632 A.F. (After Ford) in a Utopia where rigid controls condition everyone to think alike. An outsider's arrival raises questions about individual freedom in the face of scientific advancement for the common good.

J Konigsburg, E. L. The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place
Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her great-uncles have been building in their backyard for more than forty years. (YT)

J Levine, Ellen Catch a Tiger by the Toe
In the Bronx, New York, during the McCarthy era, twelve-year-old Jamie keeps a terrible secret about her family, but when the truth is exposed, her parents lose their jobs and she is fired from the school newspaper.

YA Levithan, David Wide Awake
In the not-too-distant future, when a gay Jewish man is elected president of the United States, sixteen-year-old Duncan examines his feelings for his boyfriend, his political and religious beliefs, and tries to determine his rightful place in the world.

YA Nye, Naomi Shihab Going, Going
In San Antonio, Texas, sixteen-year-old Florrie leads her friends and a new boyfriend in a campaign which supports small businesses and protests the effects of chain stores.

FIC Orwell, George 1984
A chilling portrait of totalitarian society under the ever-watchful gaze of Big Brother, where love, privacy, and individuality are banned.

FIC Orwell, George Animal Farm
A satire on totalitarianism in which farm animals overthrow their human owner and set up their own government.

YA 741.5944 Satrapi, Marjane Persepolis
Persepolis 2
The great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor and the daughter of ardent Marxists describes growing up in Tehran in a country plagued by political upheaval and vast contradictions between public and private life.

J Schmidt, Gary D. Lizzie Bright and the Buckminster Boy
Turner Buckminster hates his new home of Phippsburg, Maine, but things improve when he meets Lizzie Bright Griffin, a girl from a poor island community founded by slaves that the town fathers want to change into a tourist spot.

YA Tashjian, Janet Gospel According to Larry
Josh finds himself the leader of an Internet following after developing a popular website campaigning against waste and consumerism, yet when things get out of control, he has to devise a plan that will set him free from the masses.

YA Tashjian, Janet Vote For Larry
Not yet eighteen years old, Josh, a.k.a. Larry, comes out of hiding and returns to public life, this time to run for President as an advocate for issues of concern to youth and to encourage voter turnout.

Spiritual:

YA Abdel-Fattah, Randa Does My Head Look Big in This?

Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.

YA Brande, Robin Evolution, Me & Other Freaks of Nature

Following her conscience leads high school freshman Mena to clash with her parents and former friends from their conservative Christian church, but might result in better things when she stands up for a teacher who refuses to include "Intelligent Design" in lessons on evolution.

YA Crutcher, Chris Deadline

Given the medical diagnosis of one year to live, high school senior Ben Wolf decides to fulfill his greatest fantasies, ponders his life's purpose and legacy, and converses through dreams with a spiritual guide known as "Hey-Soos."

YA Hautman, Pete Godless

When sixteen-year-old Jason Bock and his friends create their own religion to worship the town's water tower, what started out as a joke begins to take on a power of its own.

YA Jolin, Paula In the Name of God

Determined to follow the laws set down in the Qur'an, seventeen-year-old Nadia becomes involved in a violent revolutionary movement aimed at supporting Muslim rule in Syria and opposing the Western politics and materialism that increasingly affect her family.

J Rylant, Cynthia God Went to Beauty School

A novel in poems that reveals God's discovery of the wonders and pains in the world He has created. (YT)

YA Staub, Wendy Corsi Lily Dale: Awakening

Lily Dale: Believing

Lily Dale: Connecting

When seventeen-year-old Calla's mother suddenly dies, she goes to stay with her psychic grandmother in Lily Dale, a spiritualist community in western New York, where she discovers some disconcerting secrets about her practical, down-to-earth mother, and realizes that she herself may also have some psychic abilities.

YA Zevin, Gabrielle Elsewhere

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live."