



Go Big Read

UW–Madison Common Book Program

Book Discussion Guidelines

For Book Discussion Participants

1. Begin with positive comments. Try to express what you liked most about the book and why. Everyone should have a chance to speak.
2. Avoid recapping or summarizing the book. It is assumed that everyone has read it.
3. The discussion should be about the book and the ideas it raises. Share your personal experiences as they relate to the book, but be brief.
4. Not everyone will agree with your ideas. Disagreements should be discussed respectfully. Keep an open mind, and carefully listen to opinions other than your own.
5. Respond to the comments of others, rather than merely waiting for an opportunity to share your comments.
6. Discuss aspects of the book that did not appeal to you or that you found difficult to accept. Difficulties should be expressed as questions, rather than statements.
7. Talk with the discussion participants rather than to the discussion facilitator.
8. Discuss with the group as a whole, rather than with someone next to you.
9. Most important of all, enjoy the discussion!

Guidelines were developed by UW-Madison and Madison Public Library. Some guidelines were adapted from CCBC Book Discussion Guidelines (by Ginny Moore Kruse and Kathleen T. Horning).