



## Macmillan Collector's Library

### Why Read the Classics in Your Virtual Book Club?

Throughout history, book clubs have served as a forum for great minds to come together to share and discuss literature, as well as current events and issues. The Socratic circles, Ben Franklin's Junto Club, Stratford-on-Odeon, The Algonquin Round Table, and Oprah's Book Club are just a few famous ones.

It doesn't matter if your book club is seriously academic, highly social, or anything in between, recommend reading a classic next time! Classic literature is filled with gorgeous writing, complex plots, unforgettable characters along-side social and political issues that are still relevant today, making them great options for both fun and meaningful discussions—especially when stuck in quarantine!

Enjoying books with your friends is the perfect way to remain connected to your family and friends during this time of uncertainty. Though you may be physically apart, don't let social distancing cheat you out of good discussions about books!

### Tips for Hosting a Virtual Book Club

- Choose a platform to host your book club. Video chat apps like Zoom, Google Hangouts, Houseparty, Skype, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, and FaceTime are the most popular and easiest to use.
- In-person book club tends to get loud and sometimes side conversations take over the book discussions. This happens even more when you host an online book club. So, come up with a hand signal, like a thumbs up or holding up the book, so everyone knows who has something to say. Take turns or have the host call on members to talk in the order they signaled.
- Try out a book club ice breaker questions to get everyone comfortable in front of the camera. Here are a few of our favorites:
  - If you could be in quarantine with any literary character, who would it be and why?
  - What is your favorite quote from a book?
  - If you only had one book to read for the rest of your life, what would it be? Why?
- While reading, encourage your members to share their favorite quotes and passages from your book with each other. This will help to keep you motivated and connected while in quarantine reading the book.
- Have everyone contribute to the virtual book club by coming up with a question they want everyone else to answer. This will keep everyone on task, as well as give each member a chance to lead a discussion.
- In addition to normal questions, it's also fun to incorporate literary games in your virtual book club. One of the most fun ones we've played is Book ABC's. Take turns naming a character, event, setting locale, or object from the book that begins with each letter of the alphabet. Start with A and work your way through the alphabet letting everyone take a turn until you reach Z.
- The most important thing about a virtual book club is for members to have fun! Everyone is trying to come up with fun, engaging, and innovative activities while social distancing. Reading and discussing books online helps us do the things we love while away from our family and friends by connecting with them.
- Don't forget to SHARE by letting everyone know what your virtual book club is up to. Take screenshots during the meetings, tag members, make up a hashtag for your virtual book club, and use popular bookish hashtags when you post, like #ShareMyMCL #MyMCL #ReadTheClassics #VirtualBookClub #Bibliophile #BookCommunity #ILoveToRead #ReadingInQuarantine #StayHomeAndRead

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