

HOW TO HOST A GREAT VIRTUAL BOOK CLUB



invitd



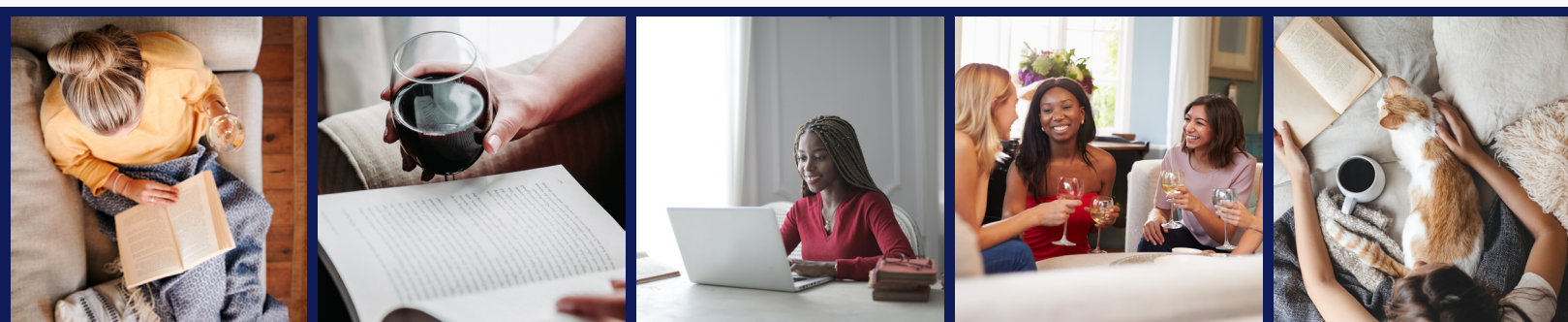
Virtual book clubs are a great way to bring readers together, foster meaningful dialogue and sit back to enjoy a thriving discussion on the latest reads! Today we will be giving you all the tips on **How to Host a Great Virtual Book Club**. Whether you're a newbie or an aficionado, these steps will ensure that your next meeting runs as smoothly as pages of a new book!

STEP 1: GATHER THE BOOKWORMS

Whether your physical book club is transitioning to the virtual world or you are creating a new online platform, be sure to reach out to potential attendees to gauge interest! Many of us are looking for new ways to connect, so don't sleep on reaching out to friends, acquaintances, and spreading the word online. If you are organizing a book club for the first time, consider the size of the group. We recommend smaller circles of 10-12 attendees to host an engaged discussion! The bigger the group, the more difficult it can be to foster conversations where everyone has the room to speak.

STEP 2: SET A TIME AND PLACE

Keeping in the spirit of face-to-face interactions, choose a conferencing program that members can easily set-up. There are a number of platforms that can support video conferencing including Zoom, Google Hangouts, Skype, and more. All of these applications are supported on a desktop, tablet, and mobile. Each has its advantages and disadvantages - so do your research before deciding! Once the place has been arranged, shift your focus to the time. While virtual book clubs give us the freedom to connect book lovers across borders, being cognizant of time zones is important. If you have individuals joining from various regions, find a time that is suitable for all members (particularly if the time is recurring). Creating a free [doodle poll](#) can help to avoid back and forth by having attendees vote for time slots.





STEP 3: PICK AN ACCESSIBLE BOOK

This may indisputably be the most exciting element of book club! While the majority of novels can be purchased online both for physical order and in digital formats, choose a book that is readily available in paperback, e-book, and audio to meet members' preferences. If you would like to encourage members to buy local, you can direct them to Bookstore Finder—a great tool that will help you find a Canadian Independent Bookstore near you—[here](#). The next step is to decide whether books will be chosen in rotation by each member or if all members will vote on each book club pick. We recommend narrowing down choices (there's just so many great stories!) by establishing a genre for each season. This gives the club more direction and allows you to diversify your bookshelf! Here are a few genres to start: Romantic Comedies, Historical Fiction, Thrillers, #OwnVoices, Fantasy.

STEP 4: CHECK INVITD

Once you've selected your book club pick, be sure to [check Invitd](#) to see if your chosen author is available to attend your meeting! Having an author in attendance for your book club discussion is the perfect way to take your chat to the next level. Find out how it works [here](#) and start preparing to have an author attend your meeting!

STEP 5: CREATE A FLEXIBLE AGENDA

One of the biggest worries for book club organizers is making sure the allotted time runs smoothly. Creating a flexible agenda ahead of time helps in ensuring that you are making most of the virtual hour. An agenda should be a loosely structured outline of the discussion that leaves room for natural conversation. You can plan time for greetings, check-ins, impressions of the novel, and discussion questions. Designating a host for the meeting puts the responsibility of sharing the agenda, dictating discussion questions, and making sure the conversation stays on track, with one individual. This has always been a common, basic practice for book clubs, and is a great way to make sure meetings are well conducted. Hosts can also share the agenda on their screens for all attendees. This way, everyone is in the loop!

STEP 6: ADD SOME FLAIR

Many of us already spend a significant number of hours staring at our screens—why not spice it up? You can personalize the book club experience by adding some bookish backgrounds to your meeting. Choose a background that matches the essence of your book club (we've shared some of our favourites below!). Additionally, virtual polls can make book club an interactive experience. Webinar platform Zoom allows hosts to create virtual polls that they can showcase at the meeting. Some fun questions include: Who was your favourite character? Which scene had you hooked? What genre would you like to read next? (Check out our book club questions guide on the [Resources](#) page for additional questions). Another favourite way to spice things up might be literary-themed cocktails. It's five o'clock somewhere, right? Make the most of it by having members prepare their cocktails and share recipes before diving into the discussion.

DOWNLOAD WALLPAPERS FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING HERE:

[For the Old-School Book Lovers](#)

[For the Whimsical Book Club](#)

[For the Club that Loves Color](#)

[For the Ones That Keep it Simple](#)

