

# LET'S TALK!

## Making Kids' Book Clubs Work

NEW YORK COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES

### Successful discussions

- The group feels comfortable disagreeing.
- There is a "good vibe" in the room – it feels like a conversation between friends.
- Everyone participates through talking *and* listening.
- The facilitator guides the discussion without taking sides or talking too much.
- The conversation continues even after the discussion ends.

### Meaningful discussions

- Participants leave with a greater understanding of their own and others' beliefs.
- Different perspectives are encouraged and discussed.
- Participants feel connected to each other and their community.
- The group leaves thinking about the conversation, even months after the original discussion.

Four tips for planning a book club

#### 1 The Right Audience

Why here? Why now?  
Why them? Why you?

- Who is this program for?
- Why do you want to serve this age group?
- Why do you want to bring these kids together at this time?

#### 2 A Big Question

Choosing a theme

- What do you want this group to talk about?
- What do you hope participants will get from a discussion about this idea?
- Why will this idea be important to them?

#### 3 Great Books

- Confront your theme in a meaningful way.
- Keep your attention even after you've finished.
- Have "snag points" – places that made you think or ask for other opinions.
- Invite different points of view.

#### 4 Facilitating the Conversation

- Plan ahead.
- Set expectations.
- Ask good questions.
- Listen with genuine interest.
- Close the conversation – but keep them thinking!



Together is a family reading and discussion program hosted by libraries and led by librarians and humanities scholars.

New York Council for the Humanities

Fall 2012 applications are due May 15.

### Find out more!

Attend one of our free informational webinars.

March 27 @ noon | April 9 @ noon | April 19 @ 2:00 pm

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