

# STARTING A BOOK CLUB

There are lots of amazing books out there that feature LGBTQ characters and storylines. Your GSA can find many of these books at public libraries or through online platforms like Amazon and Kindle. Here are some tips on starting a successful book club with your GSA:

- 1. Pick a book!** Have group members do some research, and report back to the GSA what book they found that they think would be fun to discuss as a group.
- 2. Vote on the first book!** Remind the group that if their first choice isn't picked, that they can submit it for the next month. After the group votes, decide as a GSA how long you want to spend on each book, and create a reading and discussion schedule for the group to follow. When planning the reading schedule, remember that GSA members have school, team, work, and family commitments.
- 3. Stick to the schedule!** Commit to the GSA's reading and discussion schedule as much as possible. It's OK if not everyone is caught up on reading; members can drop in and out of the club as needed with their commitments. Remember, the book club is supposed to be fun, not just another homework assignment.
- 4. Discuss!** There is no wrong way to discuss a book, because everyone will interpret themes, characters, and situations differently. That's what makes book club so much fun! Feel free to openly discuss characters, situations and conflicts, themes, story-lines, and even the writing style itself. Here are a few questions to get you started:
  - Which character in the book can you relate to most? Why?
  - What would you have done if you were in the same position as \_\_\_\_\_?
  - What is the author trying to convey in this story? What do you think the moral or theme is?
  - How does it make you feel to read a book centered around LGBTQ themes?
  - Did you like the book? Why or why not?
- 5. Keep it going!** Once the GSA has finished the book, vote on the next and start all over again. Happy reading!



[www.IowaSafeSchools.org](http://www.IowaSafeSchools.org)

Questions about this resource?  
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