



**Madison Public Library presents:
BOOK DISCUSSION KITS
for teens in grades 6-9**

Forming a book discussion group for teens has never been so easy. Madison Public Library has book discussion kits geared to teens in grades 6-9. Each kit contains 5-10 copies of the book, a book summary and discussion questions and a brief biography of the author.

GRADES 6-9

A Step From Heaven. Na, An.

When she is four, Young Ju's family leaves their small fishing village in Korea for a new life in America. Once in America, Young Ju's family battles economic hardships and worse. Finally, Young Ju, aided by the strength of her mother, heads for college. Recommended for Grades 7-10. mc, rf

Acceleration. McNamee, Graham.

Stuck working in the Lost and Found of the Toronto Transit Authority for the summer, seventeen-year-old Duncan finds the diary of a serial killer and sets out to stop him. Recommended for Grade 8-10. my, su

Airborn. Opper, Kenneth.

Matt, a cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to prove the existence of fantastic winged creatures sited by Katie's late Grandfather. A fast-paced fantasy adventure. Recommended for Grades 6-8. fa, ad

The Amazing Maurice and his Educated Rodents. Pratchett, Terry.

Maurice, the cat, is ringleader for a gang of talking rats and a kid who work together to pull off a Pied Piper scam, until they try to con the wrong town. Recommended for Grades 6-8. fa, hu

Among the Hidden. Haddix, Margaret Peterson.

Population Police enforce the law limiting a family to only two children. Luke, a third child, has lived all his twelve years in hiding on his family's farm, until he meets another "third." Recommended for Grades 6-8 sf, su

Breaking Through. Jimenez, Francisco.

Continuing his story from *The Circuit*, fourteen-year-old Jiménez attempts to further his education while facing poverty and prejudice, and working to help his family in the 1950's. Recommended for Grades 6-9. mc, hf

The Circuit. Jimenez, Francisco.

Francisco Jimenez uses stories from his own childhood to portray the life of a migrant child who must alternately hide from truant officers and immigration officials. Book Discussion Guide from Scholastic. Recommended for Grades 6-9. mc, hf

The Demon in the Teahouse. Hoobler, Dorothy & Thomas.

In 18th-century Japan, fourteen-year-old Seikei's adoptive father places him in a teahouse to investigate the connection between murder, arson, and a geisha. Recommended for Grades 6-7. mc, hf

Elsewhere. Zevin, Gabrielle.

On her way to help a friend pick out a dress for the Senior Prom, Liz is hit by a taxi and killed. She awakens aboard a cruise ship headed for Elsewhere. Recommended for Grades 7-10. fa, hu

Eragon. Paolini, Christopher.

The day Eragon discovers the sapphire-blue dragon's egg, he takes his first unwitting steps towards becoming a dragon rider and changing the course of history in his embattled land, Alagaesia. Recommended for Grades 6-10. fa, ad

Fever, 1793. Anderson, Laurie Halse.

At sixteen, Matilda Cook finds herself alone and temporarily homeless in the midst of the yellow fever epidemic in 1790s Philadelphia. Recommended for Grades 7-9. hf, ad

The First Part Last. Johnson, Angela.

Sixteen year old Bobby's carefree teenage life changes forever when he discovers his girlfriend, Nia, is pregnant and he is going to be a father. An unusually realistic look at teen fatherhood. Recommended for Grades 9-10. rf, ro

Flipped. Van Draanen, Wendelin.

Ever since the 2nd grade, Bryce's oddball neighbor, Juli, has had a crush on him. Now, in 8th grade, Juli has taken to sitting in trees and selling eggs, and Bryce is finding her attention even harder to take. Recommended for Grades 6-8. hu, ro

Girlhearts. Mazer, Norma.

When Sarabeth's mother dies suddenly, she is left lost, orphaned, and facing an enormous number of unknowns such as where to live and whether to contact family she's never met. Recommended for Grades 6-8. rf

The Giver. Lowry, Lois.

Jonas lives in a perfect world, a future world where there's no hunger, no poverty, no unemployment, no divorce. But hidden behind this perfect world is a terrifying secret... Recommended for Grades 6-9. sf, su

The Golden Compass. Pullman, Philip.

When Lyra's friend disappears she sets off on a North-bound journey to find him. Along the way she meets witches, an armored bear, and other strange beings. Recommended for Grades 6-8. fa, ad

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince. Rowling, J.K..

The Harry Potter saga continues with Harry delving deeper into the childhood of Voldemort with the help of Dumbledore and the appearance of a mysterious Potions textbook with all the right answers. Recommended for Grades 6 & up. fa, ad

Heir Apparent. Velde, Vivian Vande.

While playing a total immersion virtual reality game of kings and intrigue, Giannine learns that protesters have damaged the equipment to which she is connected, and she must win the game quickly or else. Recommended for Grades 6-8. sf, fa

Homeless Bird. Whelan, Gloria.

Thirteen year old Koly must leave her struggling family to marry a man she has never met. Once married, she learns that her husband, Hari, is terminally ill. With Hari's doomed fate, Koly has to learn how to survive on her own within the limits of India's society. Book Discussion Guide from Harper Children. Recommended for Grades 6-7. mc, rf

The House of the Scorpion. Farmer, Nancy.

When Matteo Alacran learns that he is the clone of El Patron, the lord of a country called Opium, he is sure El Patron is educating him to take his place as leader, but El Patron has other, more sinister plans for Matt. Recommended for Grades 6-8. sf, su

Interstellar Pig. Sleator, William.

Barney's vacation at his family's summer home gets a little too exciting when his three neighbors introduce him to a new addictive game called Interstellar Pig. Recommended for Grades 6-7. sf, my

The Lightning Thief. Riordan, Rick.

Percy Jackson's summer is turned upside down when he learns he is a demigod, is sent to summer camp for demigods, then sets out to prevent a war between the gods. Recommended for Grades 6-9. fa, my, hu

Make Lemonade. Wolff, Virginia Euwer.

Fourteen year old LaVaughn takes the babysitting job to earn money for college. The problem is that Jolly, a seventeen year old single mom who has trouble keeping a job herself, is LaVaughn's boss. Recommended for Grades 7-10. mc, rf

Mortal Engines. Reeve, Philip.

In a future where cities roll on wheels looking for other cities to "consume" in order to survive, Tom is pushed out of the City of London and must learn to survive in the out-country. Recommended for Grades 6-10. sf, ad

My Life in Dog Years. Paulsen, Gary.

Paulsen tells the stories of the many dogs that have touched his life and even saved his life, while revealing tidbits from his own childhood and past. Book Discussion Questions from Enotes. Recommended for Grades 6-8. nf

The Other Side of Truth. Naidoo, Beverly.

When their mother is murdered, their father decides to smuggle twelve year old Sade and her brother Femi out of Nigeria to London. When they get to the city, they are abandoned with no one to trust and no idea when-or if-they will ever see their father again. Recommended for Grades 6-8. mc, hf, rf

The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place. Konigsburg, E.L.

After being rescued from summer camp by her favorite uncles, Margaret Rose learns that the town plans to tear down the towers they've been creating for over 40 years. Recommended for Grades 6-7. hu, hf, rf

Phineas Gage: A Gruesome but True Story About Brain Science.

Fleischman, John.

Using the premise of railroad worker Phineas Gage's amazing head injury, history, science, and the brain are all informatively discussed. Book Discussion Questions from William Allen White. Recommended for Grades 6-9. nf

Ruby in the Smoke. Pullman, Philip.

In this Victorian mystery, sixteen year old Sally Lockhart's father has been murdered, leaving her in imminent danger until she can solve the mystery of his death. Recommended for Grades 6-8. hf, my

Rules of the Road. Bauer, Joan.

Through her job as a driver for an elderly shoe store president, sixteen-year-old Jenna discovers new skills as a salesperson and faces her family issues, such as an alcoholic father. Recommended for Grades 8-10. rf

Sabriel. Nix, Garth.

Sabriel journeys into the Old Kingdom, a place of dangerous magic and frightening half-dead creatures, to battle a powerful sorcerer and rescue her father from the land of the dead. Recommended for Grades 6-10. fa, ad, su

The Sea of Trolls. Farmer, Nancy.

Jack and his little sister Lucy are captured by Viking Berserkers and taken to the home of King Ivar the Boneless and his half-troll queen, leading Jack to undertake a vital quest to Jotunheim, home of the trolls. Recommended for Grades 6-7. fa, ad

The Silenced. James DeVita.

Consigned to a prison-like Youth Training Facility because of her parents' political activities, Marena organizes a resistance movement to combat the restrictive policies of the ruling Zero Tolerance party. Recommended for Grades 8-10. sf, su

Silent to the Bone. Konigsburg, E.L.

When Branwell finds his baby sister, Nikki, unconscious and calls 911, he is unable to speak. Bran is unjustly accused of injuring Nikki, and Connor, Bran’s best friend, must find a way to communicate with him to discover what really happened the day Nikki was hurt. Recommended for Grades 6-8. rf, my

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants. Brashares, Ann.

Best friends Carmen, Tibby, Bridget, and Lena are spending their first summer apart from one another. To keep them together in spirit, they form the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants, a club where each gets to wear “magical” jeans for a period of time. Recommended for Grades 9 & up. hu, rf, ro

Skeleton Man. Bruchac, Joseph.

Molly comes home from school one day to find that her parents have disappeared without a trace. Molly must rely on herself and the wisdom of her Mohawk ancestors to save herself and her parents. Recommended for Grades 6-7. mc, fa, su

So Hard To Say. Sanchez, Alex.

Mexican American, Xio, and Frederick, the cute new boy, quickly become friends, but when Xio wants more than a friendship Frederick has to figure out what he really wants. Recommended for Grades 7-9. mc, rf, ro

So Yesterday. Westerfield, Scott.

Cool-spotter Hunter Braque, paid to spot “cool” trends for major corporations, finds himself searching for a missing corporate agent, and uncovering an anti-consumerist conspiracy. Recommended for Grades 7-9. rf, my

Stargirl. Spinelli, Jerry.

When Stargirl enrolls at Mica High, she captures the attention of junior Leo Borlock. Leo and Stargirl become a couple, and Leo learns what it’s like to be shunned. In hopes of gaining acceptance Leo encourages her to become normal. Recommended for Grades 7-9. rf, ro

Tangerine. Bloor, Edward.

Even though Paul Fisher is legally blind, he’s still a great soccer goalie, but Paul can’t understand why no one else can see the truth about his brother Erik, the football star. Recommended for Grades 6-8. sp, rf

Ties that Bind, Ties that Break. Namioka, Lensey.

Born into the Tao family at a time of great change in China, the rebellious Ailin refuses to have her feet bound. She seems doomed to a life of servitude and “low standing” until at fourteen she becomes a governess and embarks on a new life. Recommended for Grades 7-10. mc, hf

Trickster’s Choice. Pierce, Tamora.

Captured and enslaved, Alianne must call forth her mother’s courage and her father’s wit in order to survive on the Copper Isles in a royal court rife with political intrigue and murderous conspiracy. Recommended for Grades 6 & up. fa, ad, my

True Believer. Wolff, Virginia.

LaVaughn learns to navigate through changing friendships, first love, and school challenges and triumphs in this sequel to Make Lemonade. Recommended for Grades 7-10. mc, rf

Uglies. Westerfeld, Scott.

Tally should be getting the mandatory operation that will turn her Pretty, then her best friend, Shay, runs away and Tally learns about a whole new side of the pretty world — and it isn’t very pretty. Recommended for Grades 6-9. sf

Virtual War. Skurzynski, Gloria.

Along with two other genetically engineered teenagers, Corgan must fight a virtual war to save the Western Hemisphere, but he’s beginning to question that which he’s always been taught. Recommended for Grades 6-8. sf, su

When My Name Was Keoko. Park, Linda Sue.

Ten year old Sun-hee and her brother Tae-yul tell a story of life in Korea during the Japanese occupation of the 1940’s when Koreans were forced to give up their customs. Difficult conditions worsen with the impact of World War II. Recommended for Grades 6-7. mc, hf

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hf = Historical Fiction
ad = Adventure
rf = Realistic Fiction
su = Suspense
ro = Romance/Friendships
sf = Science Fiction

fa = Fantasy
my = Mystery
sp = Sports Fiction
nf = Non-Fiction
mc = Multi-Cultural
hu = Humor



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