

As a part of our literacy initiative, RHS faculty and staff strongly encourage students, parents, and community members to read as much as possible. Research about reading and its link to achievement, self-esteem, and academic success is very strong and very clear: the more one reads (even if it is only two or three books through the summer), the easier it is to learn anything so the more confident one feels. To that end, Rugby Junior/Senior High School is excited to announce Summer Book Clubs as an opportunity for adult volunteers to share a book reading experience with students entering grades 7 through 12 in 2020-21.

Now we need your help! We are asking for community volunteers to lead these book clubs.

Here is how it works:

- Let Leah Johnson know if you want to volunteer. (email: leah.johnson@rugbyschools.org)
- Select a book that you have read and loved for your group to read, and identify the grades for which the book is appropriate. (Anything goes! New, classic, fiction, nonfiction--whatever you like! Maybe your enjoyment was sparked by a great story, interesting insights, or exciting plot twists. Whatever the reason, you want to share this book with students.)
- Select a meeting date, time, and location. You could meet at your home, the school, a church, a park, or a restaurant. Keep gatherings to about an hour. Students will be asked to contact you if they cannot make the gathering. The book clubs are specifically for students. Some teenagers can feel very intimidated by unfamiliar adults in a small group setting, and these clubs are really about the students, not the adults.
- Fill out the Google form Mrs. Johnson will send you once you volunteer. This form needs to be completed by March 18.
- Mrs. Johnson will let you know who signed up for your club by the end of April.
- Meet with your group on the date you selected and have a great time!
- Once you have your book club, simply send me a quick email telling me about it. Feedback about the process is going to be very helpful as we kickstart this, so your insight will be invaluable!

The purpose of the book club is to simply talk about the book and enjoy discussing it together. Research tells us that students who watch adults read, talk about books with adults, and learn about why adults spend time reading can enrich the students' reading lives. If you want a list of ideas for discussion from Mrs. Johnson, simply let her know, or you can develop something on your own. Realize that students will be timid at first, especially if they don't know you well. You might spend some time simply visiting as a group first, having them talk in small groups about the book, or doing a similar ice-breaker. (And food is always helpful for this!)

Information about the meeting time and location will be listed on the sign-up sheet, so students know this information before signing up. By doing this, students can avoid signing up for clubs they can't attend. Students are not required to sign up, but we hope they will make this simple and very effective choice to maintain their reading growth.

We hope you will choose to volunteer!