



how to start a family book club

connect with your family over the magic of books



introduction

Hey there!

I'm so happy that you're starting your own book club using our eBook, **How to Start a Family Book Club**.

And I KNOW that after downloading and using this eBook that you're going to be super happy too! Why? Because, books ARE magic! Reading together as a family is such a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time together and share the magic of a good book.

In this eBook, you're going to find...

1. Step by step instructions detailing how to start your own family book club.
2. A list of 20 of our favourite chapter books for reading together.
3. A list of discussion questions to get you started. These questions should work for almost any book that you're reading.
4. A list of 10 ideas to extend the book club fun
5. A few printable posters and bookmarks with our favourite reading quotes on them!

how to start a family book club

step-by-step

01//

who's going to join the club?

You get to choose – is this book club just for your family living under the same roof, OR, would you like to invite some cousins or your grandparents?

The other thing to consider is inviting some other families from your neighbourhood to join the club.

If you are going to extend the fun beyond your own nuclear family, then send a quick email invite explaining what you have in mind. If your kiddos want to, you could get them to follow up with a snail mail invitation that they lovingly create.

02//

decide on the logistics

a time...

I think it's a great idea to set a timeline of how long you expect each book to take you. For example, our Books are Magic Club read each book over a six-week long period. We plan to take a break during December, which is always so busy, and start back at the beginning of February. Perhaps you can identify busy periods for your family and plan the book club around those times. There's nothing worse than feeling pressured to get through a book that you would otherwise enjoy by taking your time.

I always find it helpful to look at the book we'll be reading, note how many chapters the book has, and then divide that number by the number of weeks we've decided we'll take to read the book, and make a little note of that. That way, I know roughly where we should be at the end of each week, and don't feel like we need to sprint at the end!

ALSO worth considering - at what point of the book will you meet-up? If it's just your nuclear family participating, then maybe you set a night where you get together and discuss a certain part of the book. Maybe if you've got a few families in the club, then you consider one meeting at the end to get together.

... and a place

If your Family Book Club is just for the people living under your roof, then this one's pretty easy! However, if there are some others joining the club, then you need to consider where you will have your book club meet-ups! Perhaps if you have formed the book club with some other families, you can each take a turn hosting. If you've got grandparents who live far away joining, then think about scheduling some video-call discussions.



03//

choose your books

On page 10 we've included a list of 20 of our favourite chapter books. All of these books have a special place in our family's hearts, and we highly recommend them.

Here are some other great ideas for making your book selections:

- head to your local library, and ask your librarian to make some recommendations.
- ask each member of the book club to make a suggestion. You could organise it so that whichever family is hosting gets to select that book, or you could write all the titles on pieces of paper, and draw them from a hat.
- There are some really great reading lists online. Here are some of my favourite online resources for finding a great book:

- » <https://www.whatdowedoallday.com/books-for-kids>
- » <https://www.amightygirl.com/>
- » <https://www.readbrightly.com/>
- » <https://imaginationsoup.net/category/childrens-books/>

- Our Books are Magic Club has seven books selected this year for our online book club. We'd love your family to join us, and you can check out all our selections here: <https://www.moomookachoo.com/books-are-magic-club/>





04//

start reading

As I mentioned in step 2 – it's REALLY important that book club time doesn't feel like just one more thing you have to pack in to your already busy days.

Planning ahead is a great first step and will make sure your head is in the right space to tackle the book in the time you've allotted.

A tool that we really love using is Audible – or any other audiobook

option, really. Audiobooks are great – you get a professional narrator who does awesome voices (!) and, you can listen anywhere, anytime – in the car, over lunch – it doesn't matter because your audiobook is at the ready!

AND... when you're all really into a book, and want to listen for an hour or more, the narrator isn't going to have to stop because they're losing their voice!!

05// start chatting

You guys! A good book always invites its readers to WANT to TALK about it. Whether you are talking about your favourite characters, something unexpected that happens in the plot line, or something in the book that relates to your everyday life, talking about the book cements it in your family dialogue – and makes it a part of your family's story.

We have some great questions to get you started on page 11.



06// make it fun

Book club is fun! Above all, we want to make sure that your book club is a fun and enjoyable experience for ALL your members.

There are so many things you can do to add some fun and excitement to your book club reads. If you check out page 12, we've included 10 ideas.



07// celebrate!

Once you've finished your book you really deserve a celebration!

Think about what you want to do to celebrate.

Maybe it's as simple as going out for a celebratory ice cream. OR, maybe you want to throw

a party inspired by your book. Books make great inspiration for themed parties – think invitations, decorations – even your food can all be inspired by your book club choice. To really turn it up a notch, ask everyone to dress up as their favourite character from the book!



"Books are a uniquely portable magic"

- Stephen King -

// book suggestion list

This is a list of the books that our family has most enjoyed reading aloud over the last few years. We know there are so many good books

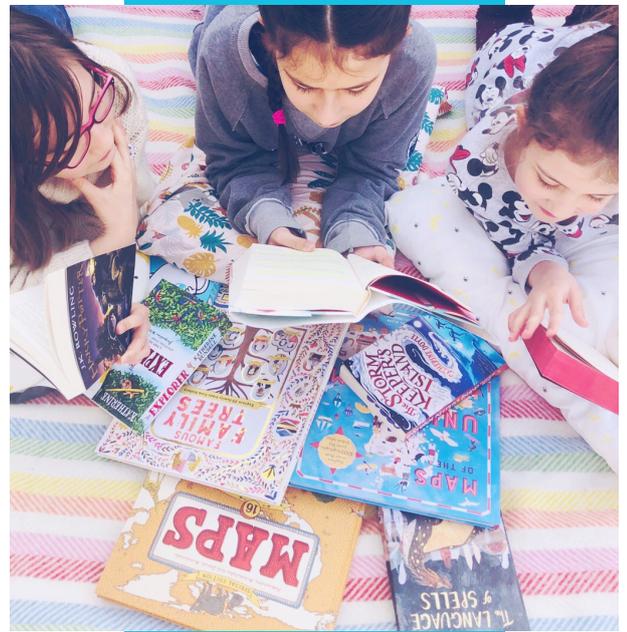
out there, waiting for us to read, and if you have a book that you just know needs to be added to our list, please let us know! You can email hana@moomookachoo.com with any and all suggestions – we look forward to it! There are quite a few of these books that are the first in a series – we love it when we discover a book we love is part of a series, because it usually means guaranteed good reading for an extended period!



1. Wonder by R. J. Palacio
2. The Extremely Inconvenient Adventures of Bronte Mettlestone by Jaclyn Moriarty
3. Nevermoor by Jessica Townsend
4. Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J. K. Rowling
5. The Storm Keeper's Island by Catherine Doyle
6. The Language of Spells, by Garret Weyr
7. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C. S. Lewis
8. Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder
9. The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
10. The BFG by Roald Dahl
11. York: The Shadow Cipher by Laura Ruby
12. Northern Lights: His Dark Materials by Philip Pullman
13. Anne of Green Gables by Lucy Maud Montgomery
14. The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
15. Wildwood by Ellis Carson and Colin Meloy
16. Mrs Frisby and the Rats of NIMH by Robert O'Brien
17. A Bear Called Paddington by Michael Bond
18. Unreal by Paul Jennings
19. The Explorer by Katherine Rundell
20. Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome



list of universal book club questions



1. What do you think was the overall lesson from the book?
2. Which character in the book did you most relate to? Why?
3. Which character in the book did you most like? Why?
4. Which character in the book did you most dislike? Why?
5. Would you recommend this book to your friends?
6. How did the book make you feel while reading it? Did you love it from the start, or did it take a while to get into?
7. What do you think happens in the book's world after the last page?
8. Was there a quote or passage from the book that you want to remember?
9. What was your favourite moment in the book?
10. What was your least favourite moment in the book?
11. Was there anything that took you by surprise in the book?
12. Would you change the ending of the book at all?
13. What is something you would ask the author if you could talk to him or her?
14. What is the setting of the book? Is the setting important to the story?
15. What three words would you use to best describe this book?
16. How did the main character change from the beginning of the book to the end?
17. What does the title of the book mean? Do you think it's a good title or would you change it?
18. What other books did this one remind you of?
19. If you could hear this same story from a different character's point of view, who would you choose and why?
20. What topics does the book make you want to explore further?



ideas to extend the fun

Just spending time together, reading good books and talking about them is such a valuable family activity. BUT if you can't get enough of this book club thing, then we've got some great ideas for you to extend the fun.



1. Create a special reading nook. This could be a permanent spot in your house, or maybe you surprise the kiddos one day by telling them to build a blanket fort for you all to snuggle into and read your book for that one day.
2. Cook a meal together, inspired by the book you're reading.
3. Make a poster with your favourite quote from the book.
4. Has the book you're reading inspired a movie or tv show? If so, watch it!
5. Work together to write a review for the book and send it to your family and friends.
6. Write a letter to the author.
7. Have a party based on the book. Get everyone to dress up as their favourite character.
8. Start a family reading journal. You can record all the books you're reading and write your thoughts on each book. It's such a great record to look back on!
9. If you have any drama-lovers in your family, think about putting on a play, inspired from a portion of the book. You don't have to share it with anyone – or maybe you want to!?
10. Make a craft or some sort of activity inspired by the book you're reading. For example, if you're reading one of the Little House books, maybe you'll try making butter. If you're looking for book-related activity ideas check out [our website](#).

// bookmarks



A book
is a
dream
that
you
hold in
your
hand.

- Neil Gaiman -

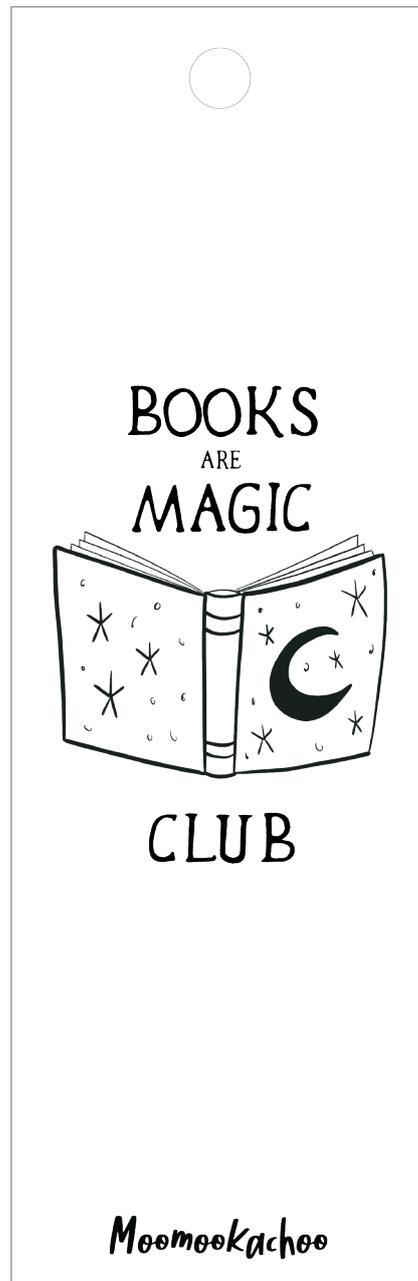
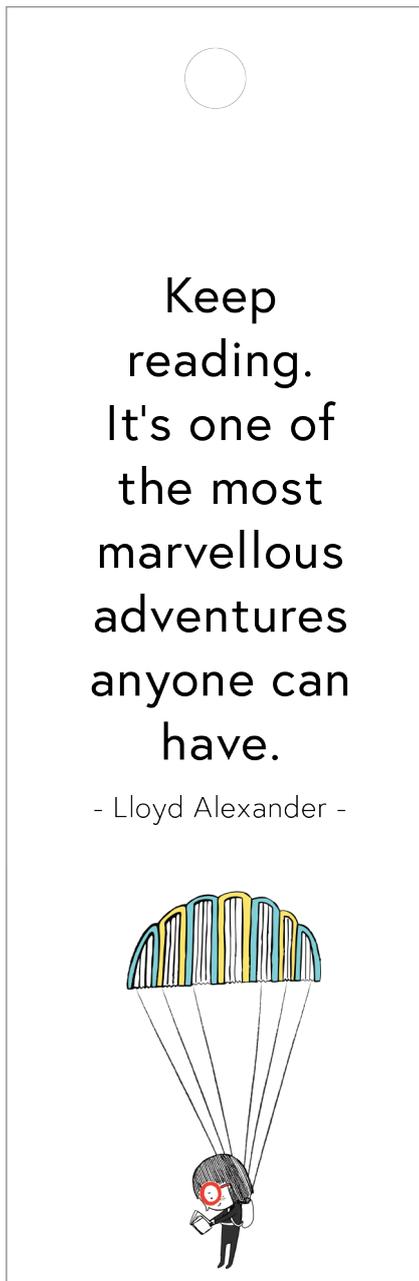


You know
you've read a
good book
when you
turn the last
page and
feel a little
as if you've
lost a friend.

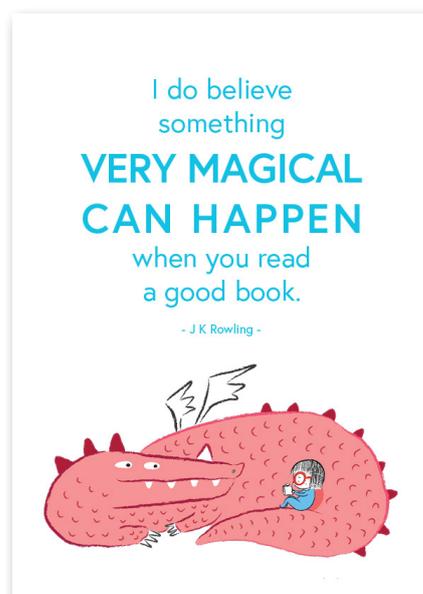
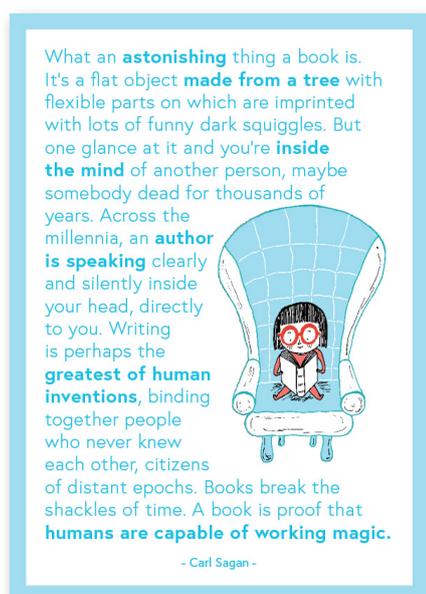
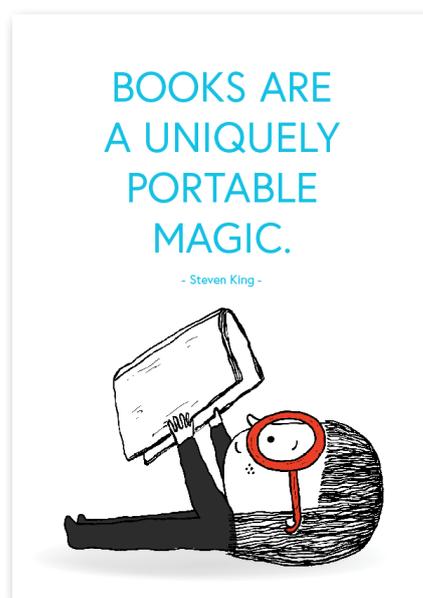
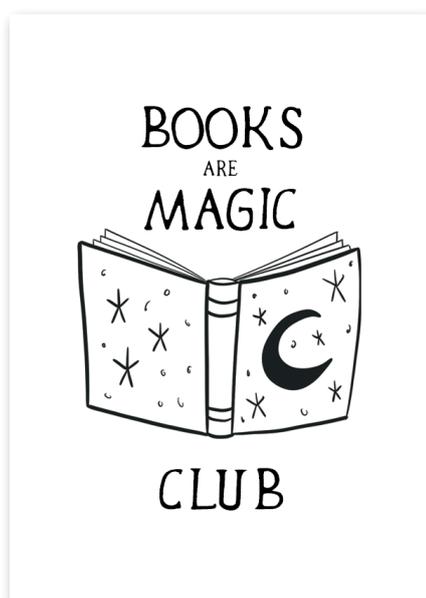
- Paul Sweeney -



// bookmarks



// posters



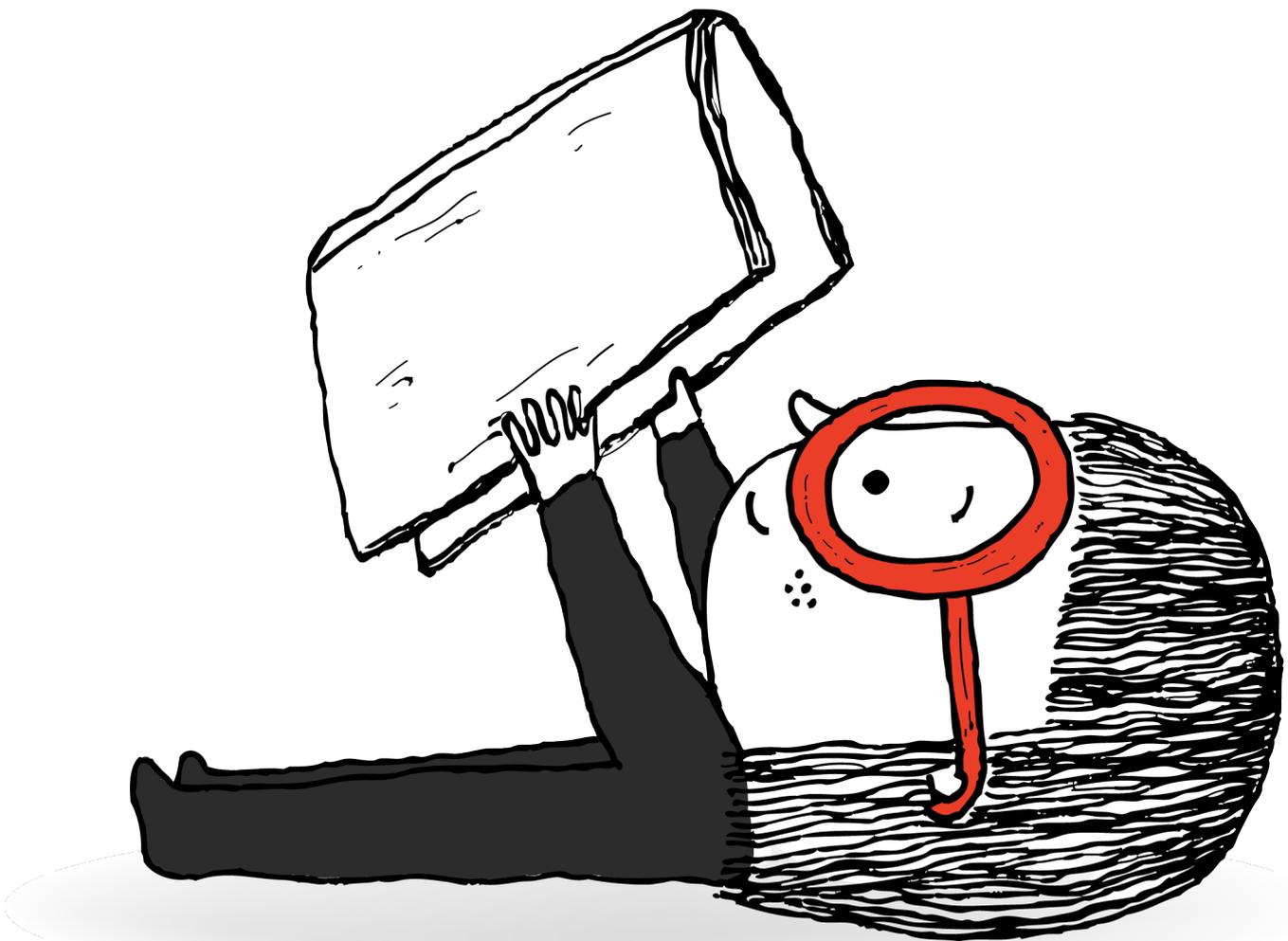
BOOKS
ARE
MAGIC



CLUB

BOOKS ARE
A UNIQUELY
PORTABLE
MAGIC.

- Steven King -



What an **astounding** thing a book is. It's a flat object **made from a tree** with flexible parts on which are imprinted with lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're **inside the mind** of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an **author is speaking** clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the **greatest of human inventions**, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that **humans are capable of working magic.**



- Carl Sagan -

I do believe
something
VERY MAGICAL
CAN HAPPEN
when you read
a good book.

- J K Rowling -



...and they all lived happily ever after...

Yahoo - you made it to the end of our guide!

I hope that you feel equipped and inspired to begin your own family book club.

There is so much research out there to tell us why reading together as a family is so good for our kids.

But to be honest, I don't need to look at the research. As a mum of three, I know that some of my most precious memories of spending time with my children is the shared experience of reading a book together.

I really believe there is something magic in that experience, and I want you to feel that too. I would love to hear how your family book club goes. Please connect with me on social media, or email me at hana@moomookachoo.com

I'd love to hear all about your triumphs and struggles. And if you are looking for extra inspiration, head to <https://www.moomookachoo.com/books-are-magic-club>

Happy Reading,

Hana xo

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