



# The Book Hive Book Club: Rules & Guidelines

**THIS IS A 12-MONTH COMMITMENT! IF YOU ARE NOT POSITIVE THAT YOU CAN MAINTAIN THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ALL 12 MONTHS, DO NOT SIGN UP FOR THIS BOOK CLUB! OTHER MEMBERS WILL RELY ON YOUR COMMITMENT.**

## The Process:

Welcome to a new book-reading experience! This unique book club involves you joining a 12-month reading challenge that will require you to select a book (physical book - not electronic or audio) and as you read it, journal in a separate notebook your thoughts and questions. Then, towards the end of the month, you'll send both the book and notebook to the next member of your group (aka sub-hive). Since the other 11 members in the sub-hive are doing the same, you'll receive a book and a notebook every month that you'll then read and add your journaling to and then mail to the next member too. After 12 months, you'll receive your original book and notebook back. Check out this link for informational videos about the mailing process and journaling highlights: <https://literaryhive.weebly.com/thebookhivebookclub.html>

## The Rules:

- A. **Read the book.** You can't have a meaningful discussion about the book, if you haven't read it. Even if the book is typically one that you would not read, book clubs are about keeping an open mind, broadening your reading boundaries.
- B. **Journal.** This is what makes this book club unique! We all have different styles and comfort levels when it comes to writing. That's not only okay, but encouraged. But you must write something in every journal! Please see "journaling recommendations" below.
- C. **Mail on Time!** It is of utmost importance that every member mails the book/journal so that they arrive to the next member BEFORE the start date of the next reading cycle. Adhering to this timeline respects the next person's reading time. We all want enough time to read and journal and no one appreciates feeling rushed. With travel time deducted, that should give approximately 3 weeks to read and journal, so plan accordingly.
- D. **Book Ownership:** The books each member receives during the cycle are on loan to you from the owner. They do NOT belong to you, and therefore you are NOT allowed to keep them for ANY reason. If you fail to mail, you will be billed to replace the book and journal.

## The Guidelines:

1. **Book selections**
  - a. Books may be fiction or non-fiction. No self-help books. Books should be less than 400 pages in length. When selecting a book, keep others in mind. For example, *War and Peace* would not be an appropriate selection because of its length; *Fifty Shades of a Grey* would also not be an appropriate selection because of its controversial nature. With that being said, keep an open mind. All books offend *someone*.
  - b. When purchasing your book and journal, keep mailing in mind. Ideally, both the book and journal should fit in a sturdy mailing envelope. Do NOT use manila envelopes – they tear too easily in transit.
  - c. Furthermore, when purchasing your book, you may want to compare [www.thriftbooks.com](http://www.thriftbooks.com) to your regular shopping place. I have personally found them to be cheaper on books that have been published for at least a year. They sell used books too – in great condition. (I do NOT have any affiliation with this company- just trying to save you some money.)
2. **Best practices for mailing:**
  - a. Since the book and journal will come back to you, **write your name and address inside of each one**. This is also highly recommended in case it gets lost in the mail!
  - b. **Take a picture** of all your journaling! This way, in case the worse happens and your journal is lost, you'll have a back-up of your writing.
  - c. **Place book & journal in a Ziplock bag** AND then inside a mailing envelope – Do NOT use a plain manila envelope; they tend to rip in the mail and the books/journals get separated and/or lost!
  - d. **Prior to mailing your book and journal** to the next person, contact that person in your sub-hive's FB page to verify they are still participating! The last thing we want is for your book and journal to go MIA!
  - e. The **recommended mailing option is through USPS Priority Mail or Flat-Rate Priority Mail, preferably the PADDED Flat Rate Envelopes**. These are a little bigger with slightly more flexibility in the packaging. These envelopes can be preordered for FREE through [USPS.com](http://USPS.com) or picked up at your local post office branch. While Media Mail may be less expensive, our journals are priceless and since damage and loss tends to occur more often with Media Mail, we refrain from using it. I also highly recommend signing up for a free account with [PirateShip.com](http://PirateShip.com). They offer discounted prices for USPS (for example: to mail a flat rate padded envelope directly through USPS is \$10.40; through [PirateShip](http://PirateShip.com) the same package is \$8.80. That is a savings of \$19.20/year!). WOW BEES! You can also print labels directly at home and packages will be picked up via your regular mail service at your address. PLEASE NOTE: you MUST mail every month, which totals \$105.60/year. While still less expensive than buying a new book every month, this is something you should keep in mind when deciding if this club is a right fit for YOU. (Again, I do NOT have any affiliation with this company- just trying to save you some money.)

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### 3. Journaling Recommendations:

Here are some ideas of what to include in your journal, but these are ONLY recommendations – NOT requirements! Feel free to add, delete, or change as you see fit!

- a. Begin your journal with a quick bio. That way we have an idea of who we're "talking" to in our journaling.
- b. When journaling, it may be best to journal as you read, identifying chapters, sections, or parts as you go, that way the next reader can follow along, without reading your spoilers.
- c. Speaking of spoilers, please write "SPOILER" if your writing gives something away. That way the next person has the option to skip over that comment until they've read that part of the book.
- d. If you want people to respond to a particular question, leave space in the journal for them to do so – enough for every member's response.
- e. You may want to comment on...
  - i. The title and/or cover before you even start to read
  - ii. Pertinent information about the author regarding why he/she wrote the book
  - iii. The setting(s)
  - iv. Characters – major and/or minor. Are they static? Dynamic? Do you like them? Dislike them? Is the reader "supposed" to feel a certain way about them? Do they do and or say something that you admire? That displeases you? Would you feel differently if you obtained the information from a different point-of-view?
  - v. Authors writing style or voice?
  - vi. Favorite quotes or lines – include page number, and a brief recap of context.
  - vii. Subject matter(s), topics, themes
  - viii. Potential symbol(s)
  - ix. Significance to our society, the world now, your local town?
  - x. Personal connections to people, places, events, or even words
  - xi. "If I were in \_\_\_\_\_'s position, I'd".....
  - xii. Questions
- f. If the book you're reading does not hold your interest, don't give up until you've read at least 1/3 of it... and then journal why!
- g. Some people enjoy annotating inside books; some people don't want any writing in their books. This book is yours, on loan to others, so please specify your preference. We want to respect your wishes.
- h. Avoid foul language in journaling. As avid readers, we can all figure out a different word to use that isn't a curse word.

### 4. Miscellaneous:

- a. Be respectful. Period. It's ok to disagree, just do it respectfully. This applies to both journaling and posting/commenting within either FB Group.
- b. If you damage or lose a book (including "lost in transit"), it is YOUR responsibility to replace it.
- c. In order to help this book club run smoothly, I've created a group on Facebook called "The Book Hive Book Club." Once your membership is approved, if you do not receive your invite to this group, please text me through Facebook Messenger me. I hope that this FB group will allow us to share our experiences and troubleshoot any problems as they arise.
- d. Although this particular book club is based on reading, writing and then mailing a physical book/journal, that doesn't mean you can't continue your discussion on your subgroup's or sub-hive's FB page, which I've also created in addition to The Book Hive Book Club's main FB group. This sub-hive page is especially helpful with notifying other members that a book/journal is on the way to them. It is also great for strengthening the bond between members in your sub-hive.
- e. At the end of the reading cycle, I'll ask each member if 1) they want to continue in the same group, 2) they want to change groups for another round of new perspectives, or 3) they'd like to withdraw from the book club.
- f. Life happens. If you find yourself in the position where you can't continue the book club for whatever reason, please contact me at thebookhivebookclub@gmail.com or text me through Facebook Messenger. **Due to the nature of the club, I can NOT find a replacement for you**, but we need to make sure your book/journal get back to you immediately, and any book/journal you have continue on their journey. But please do NOT take this decision lightly – leaving a group has a long-lasting ripple effect on the rest of the sub-hive.

### 5. Have fun!

If this sounds like a commitment you'd like to make, submit your information via the following link or QR Code:  
<https://forms.gle/epYpopQABEQxpwn6> . **By doing so, you agree to accept these rules and guidelines of The Book Hive Book Club.**



Thank you.

Julie Blasofsel, The Queen Bee  
Founder of The Book Hive Book Club

