



### **Tips for setting up and running your own Hurricane Book Club meeting**

- Try to find a quiet place to meet. It could be in your local book shop or library, or perhaps a local pub without loud music or noise, cafés and members' homes work well. Have a think about refreshments – talking about books is thirsty work so a cup of tea or glass of wine on offer is always welcome. Members might want to take turns in bringing refreshments along or perhaps you may want to base yourself near a café/ bar.
- Download a book group meeting poster from [www.HurricaneBookClub.com](http://www.HurricaneBookClub.com), there is a blank space on here for you to fill out your book group meeting date and location. Print off a few of these to pop them in you bookshop window or library, cafes or community hall noticeboards.
- We are running the official Hurricane Book Club meeting every two months on the last Thursday of February, April and June (2016). This is so it gives everyone a chance to get hold of the book, or find it in the library, and to read it, no matter how slow a reader. You don't have to run your meeting on the same day but you may want to follow and take part in the discussion taking place in the central meeting at Orkney Library on Twitter using #HurricaneBookClub
- Keep a list of interested book group members and their contact details to you can keep in touch with them about meeting dates. There isn't a hard and fast rule about book group numbers but the recommended size is about eight – too few and it can be hard to get a discussion going. Also, if a couple of members don't show, you can still go ahead. Too many and not everyone may get heard. The make-up of group: a mixture of age, experience, single, married, male to female will all add to the variety of the discussion.
- We've done the 'political' work for you by choosing the first three bookclub titles for you, these are listed at [www.HurricaneBookClub.com](http://www.HurricaneBookClub.com) and there will be extra content such as Q&A's and reading guides posted up here throughout each book's 2 month slot.
- It's a good idea to take down short notes on a postcard while reading the book as it helps when it comes to later discussions. Post-it notes are another good way to mark sections of the book that interest you as you read. Points to discuss could include: your emotional response to the book, character portrayals, bigger themes, most memorable parts (descriptions/dialogue), strengths and weaknesses.
- A reading group can be as relaxed or informal as you want it to be. For more formal groups you may want to use the prepared list of questions about the book on [www.HurricaneBookClub.com](http://www.HurricaneBookClub.com) these will keep the discussion moving forward. More informal groups may prefer to let the person hosting the meeting give their opinion first and take it from there. It helps to have one person chairing the meeting though to help keep things moving.
- You could also punctuate your meeting by playing our video with the book's editor Maria Rejt – a new video will go live with every two months. You may also want to read out or take

a look at some of the other book club reviews on twitter (search using #HurricaneBookClub) and share these in the meeting – do you agree? Disagree?

- After your meeting nominate one or two members to share some of your discussion points on twitter using #HurricaneBookClub (perhaps a few book club photos!) and let other people know about your meeting.