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March 2009

## 21 ideas from 21 years in a book club

1.	Have a special book club occasion once a year, eg Nollaig na mBan, May Day, Midsummer's Eve. Go out for a meal, or have everyone bring food for a meal in. Add to the fun with one of the following discussions:
2.	Favourite childhood book
3.	Favourite poem
4.	Favourite short story
5.	Book or other text that most influenced your life
6.	Best piece of writing about food
7.	Best or worst sex scene you've ever read
8.	Which fictional character would you most like to have a relationship with?
9.	Which book would you most like to have written?
10.	Which writer would you choose as your biographer?
11.	Which book would you describe as most over-rated?
12.	Which of your book club choices will still be read in 20, 30, 50 years' time?
13.	Best or worst Booker/other award-winning book you've ever read
14.	Favourite film
15.	Don't just talk - watch a film version of a book read by the group
16.	Talk about music – and hear one each of everyone's 'desert island discs'
17.	Stop talking altogether and sing, say a pome, do a recitation
18.	Pack your bags and go on a literary outing: eg the Patrick Kavanagh Centre in Inniskeen, Synge's house on Inis Meáin, Inistioge where Maeve Binchy's Circle of Friends was filmed, not to mention the Ennis Book Club Festival...
19.	Go to a book launch... Better again, write a book and have your own launch
20.	Read a good book! Over 21 years, my book club's favourite lesser-known non-fiction books have included: Mark Abley's <i>Spoken Here</i> ; John Krakauer's <i>Into Thin Air</i> ; Richard White's <i>Remembering Ahanagan</i> ; Francis Wheen's <i>Karl Marx</i> ; Elaine Showalter's <i>The Female Malady</i>
21.	Read even more good books! Among our favourite lesser-known fiction books are: Charlotte Perkins Gilman's <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> ; Jean Rhys' <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> ; Doris Lessing's <i>The Diaries of Jane Somers</i> ; Tsitsi Dangarembga's <i>Nervous Conditions</i> ; Helen Fielding's <i>Cause Celeb</i>