

# Reader's Dinner Club

This strategy can help:

- Build enjoyment of reading.
- Provide time for family and friends to talk about literature.
- Develop listening and speaking skills.

One way to bring the whole family together during the summer is by having a weekly/monthly Reader's Dinner Club. The idea is to talk about what you have read during the last week or month.

## **How to Prepare:**

1. Begin by choosing a topic. This needs to be something that is fairly wide open so that everyone can find a book or article that is at their reading level.
2. Each person in the Reader's Dinner Club will pick an article or book to read about the topic.
3. Set a date for the Reader's Dinner Club. This is when everyone will come together for a special meal to talk about what they read.
4. Read your book/article.
5. Also during this time, plan the meal around the topic. For example, if the topic is "college", you might have everyone wear their favorite college colors and serve foods that college students love to eat (you can begin with mac-n-cheese or pizza). Decorate the dinner area like a dorm room or college classroom.
6. Come together for a slow purposeful meal where everyone shares about what they read while the others ask probing questions.
7. Before the meal ends, decide on the next topic, date, who will find recipes, and any other tasks to ensure it is a group effort.

## **Possible Topics:**

- Helping others
- Asia, United Kingdom, Spain, Europe, South America,
- The Amazon, Serengeti, Black Hills
- Outer space
- Sports
- The arts
- Animals
- Dream vacation
- Best job
- Heroes
- Biography/Autobiography
- Adventure story
- Mystery
- Greatest time in history

**Materials Needed**

- Articles/books at various reading levels on the same topic.
- Paper, crayons, markers, colored pencils, and other art supplies to create dinner decorations
- Recipes to fit the topic.

**Ways to support early readers and struggling readers:**

- Read together.
- Read the book/article more than one time to help with recall.
- Talk about the book/article to ensure comprehension.
- Help younger readers prepare what s/he will share during dinner.
- Find a book or article together.

**Resources**

1. NewsELA: <https://newsela.com/home/>  
This site requires you to create a user name. Articles may be read at various reading levels by changing the Lexile level (lower Lexile number = lower reading level, higher Lexile number = higher reading level).
2. Food Network: <https://www.foodnetwork.com/> Free recipes

(We are not affiliated in any way with the resources. Please use at your own discretion.)