Book discussion games: six host cards

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Scene relay | 3-10 adults | proposed 8 minutes

Materials

Own book, paper, a pen

Rules

1. Give everyone a quiet minute to choose one scene within the agreed spoiler scope. 2. A willing reader names the scene and one detail. The next person adds a different detail or passes. 3. After one circuit, compare which details changed the group's first account. Do not retell the whole plot.

Stop

Stop after one circuit or eight minutes, whichever comes first.

Quiet adaptation

A participant can hand the host a short scene note instead of speaking.

Evidence pairs | 4-12 adults | proposed 10 minutes

Materials

Two prompt cards per pair, own editions

Rules

1. Work in pairs on one open question from the book's guide. 2. Each person finds a different passage that can support or complicate an answer. 3. Bring both passages back. State what each supports before choosing a preferred interpretation.

Stop

Close the search after six minutes and use four minutes to compare evidence.

Quiet adaptation

Let a person mark a chapter on paper while their partner reads the note.

Object trail | 3-8 adults | proposed 10 minutes

Materials

A blank card per person, own book

Rules

1. Choose an object that appears meaningfully in the text; no one needs a physical prop. 2. Write who holds it or notices it in two different scenes. 3. Compare what its value means in each scene, then label any symbolic reading as an interpretation.

Stop

Stop when each chosen object has two scene cues or the ten minutes end.

Quiet adaptation

A reader may post their two cues silently and let the host ask the comparison question.

Viewpoint window | 3-10 adults | proposed 8 minutes

Materials

Paper and the chosen scene

Rules

1. Agree on one short scene and name whose viewpoint controls it. 2. Choose another character who is present or directly affected. 3. Describe one detail that this other person might notice. Separate a supported inference from a newly invented event.

Stop

End after three alternative details and a check of what the actual text supports.

Quiet adaptation

A written detail is enough; no acting, voice imitation or accent performance is required.

Question exchange | 3-12 adults | proposed 12 minutes

Materials

Two blank cards per person

Rules

1. Write one question about a scene and one about the book's form. 2. Place the cards where the group can read them without names. 3. Choose a pair of questions that lead in different directions. Discuss each for a short block, leaving unchosen cards for another meeting.

Stop

Use two minutes to write, two to choose and eight to discuss. Stop without ranking the question writers.

Quiet adaptation

Anonymous written cards are the normal route, so no one has to pitch a question aloud.

Ending fork | 4-10 adults | proposed 12 minutes

Materials

Two interpretation cards, own books

Rules

1. Agree that full-book spoilers are welcome before selecting the ending. 2. Write two plausible readings of one unresolved final detail. 3. Give each reading equal time and ask for its strongest evidence. Close by naming what would distinguish them, not by eliminating one team.

Stop

Allow two minutes to frame the fork, four per reading and two to keep an open question.

Quiet adaptation

A reader can contribute a chapter cue on paper or listen without joining a side.