

Harrison County 4-H Book Club Program

What is the Harrison County 4-H Book Club Program?

This program is intended for classroom teachers and 4-H club leaders to use as a way to encourage reading and agriculture education.

How does it work?

This program is in the pilot phase at this time. A set of books (20-30) will be obtained by the Harrison County 4-H program. The 4-H Youth Development Educator will put together a discussion guide and list of questions. Teachers and club leaders may check out the discussion guides and books for their group.

Teachers are asked to follow the discussion guide in weekly format and allow time for in club or in school discussion. The first book is a 7 week program. Students and members will form groups of 3-5. Teachers will go over the ground rules of the book club and act as moderator if any group feels they need intervention. (See guidelines) For this reason, teachers are encouraged to read the book along with the youth.

Each student or member will receive a copy of the book. The books should be used respectfully. The better cared for the book is, the more youth will have the opportunity to read it.

What books will be used?

Books will be taken on recommendation from Indiana Farm Bureau's Ag Literacy Initiative.

On which grade levels is this program focused?

This program will focus on middle school and junior high grade levels at this time.

Are the books approved for Accelerated Reader?

Some books will be eligible for Accelerated Reader credit.

How do we sign up?

Please call the Purdue Extension office in Harrison County at 812-738-4236. You will be placed on a waiting list for the program. The 4-H Youth Development Educator will let you know when the books have been returned from the previous class and can arrange drop-off or pick-up.



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Book Club Guidelines

1. Books are the property of the Harrison County 4-H program. The books are on loan, in good faith, to the youth of Harrison County, for the betterment and education of those youth.
2. Classrooms or clubs will divide into groups of 3-5.
3. Each person will read a question in order of the discussion guide. The participant that reads the question is the discussion leader for that question.
4. Each youth will have the opportunity to answer each question.
5. If the question asks the group to discuss, each participant should contribute to the discussion.
6. Your group is your team.
7. Be respectful of one another's opinions and views. It is likely that everyone in your group will have a different answer, view or opinion, AND THAT IS OKAY.
8. If the discussion leader feels that the discussion is lacking or is getting too animated, they may ask for a moderator. The moderator may ask additional questions to encourage participation or mediate discussions with differing points of view.

Book Club Objectives

1. Youth will learn how to lead a discussion.
2. You will learn how to participate in discussions that may or may not align with their own point of view.
3. The youth will learn about agriculture and its challenges and rewards.



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The Beef Princess of Practical County

By Michelle Houts

(9 week program)

In class Introduction- Prologue

Read in class or in groups.

DISCUSS

1. Who appears to be the main character?
2. What is happening in this scene?
3. What thoughts or feelings do you have about the book so far?
4. Do you anticipate enjoying the book?

Week 1- Chapters 1-4

1. Where is the story's setting?
2. What challenges do we see for the main character in this chapter?
3. Are they internal or external challenges?
4. What qualities does Libby describe that makes Carol Anne a good friend? Do you agree or disagree that these qualities are desirable in a friend? Why?
5. Who are the Darlings?
6. What do you think about Grandad's advice to "stick to the facts"?
7. What challenges does Libby face in these chapters? Are the new or reoccurring?
8. What do you learn about agriculture that you did not know before?

Week 2- Chapters 5-8

1. What changes do you notice in Harrison County during harvest time?
2. What is Libby's relationship with her siblings?
3. What traditions does Libby's family observe during the holidays? What traditions do you observe in your own families? What traditions do you observe in Corydon?
4. What do Libby and Carol Ann learn about the Darling sisters' character during Thanksgiving?
5. Why does Ronnie advise Libby against naming her show calves? Do you agree or disagree with this advice?
6. What advice does Dad give Libby about Mule?
7. How does Libby react to this advice? Do you think that she should listen?
8. What did you learn about agriculture that you did not know before?

Week 3- Chapters 9-12

1. What do Libby and Mom have in common? What do Libby and Dad have in common? How are they each not alike?
2. How does Libby feel about the Beef Princess Pageant?
3. What happened to Libby's calf? How did she react?
4. Does Dad seem insensitive about Piggy? Why? Why not?
5. Does Carol Anne seem insensitive about Piggy? Why? Why not?
6. How does Carol Anne feel about the Beef Princess Pageant?

Week 4- Chapters 13-16

1. What qualities does Libby begin to notice about Mule?
2. How does Ronnie help Libby?
3. How has Libby's relationship with Mule changed?
4. Discuss Libby's conversations with Dad in Chapter 15.
5. How does Libby react?
6. How are Libby's values changing in Chapter 16?
7. What announcement does she make?
8. How does her family react? What do you think about her choice?

Week 5- Chapters 17-20

1. What did Libby do with Mule? What do you think about this choice?
2. How does Granddad react to Libby's decision to be a vegetarian?
3. What advice does he give?
4. What is hard work and self-sufficiency?
5. What did Libby find at Another Man's Treasure?

Week 6- Chapters 21-24

1. Who is Roberto?
2. What happens to Roberto?
3. How do the different Darling sister's react to this?
4. What does Libby learn about Ohma?
5. How is the beef show different for Lil and Libby?
6. What does Libby discover in the parking lot?

Week 7- Chapters 25-28

1. What is integrity? Who shows the most integrity at the fair? Why?
2. What is pride? How is each character proud at the end of the fair?
3. What decision does Libby make regarding vegetarianism?
4. Who is Wayne? What is Wayne's story? How does the crowd react?
5. What is Mom's story? Does she have regrets?
6. What skills did Libby acquire in the past year?

Final Discussions

1. What have you learned about agriculture while reading this story?
2. What lessons did Libby learn about
 - a. Relationships?
 - b. The beef industry?
 - c. Loyalty?
3. What questions would you like to ask a farmer or 4-H member about agriculture?