

## **GALLATIN CANYON WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB GUIDELINES GCWC READS 2019-2020**

### **MEETINGS:**

- 10 meetings a year (none in November either April or May to be determined when books are selected)
- 3rd Monday of the month; meeting dates and books being discussed posted on GCWC website
- Social part of meeting to begin at 3:45 PM followed by book discussion promptly at 4 PM; discussions to conclude by 5:30

### **SELECTION OF BOOKS:**

- Mix genres: 1 classic, 1 memoir, 4 nonfiction and 4 fiction,
- 450 pp max
- Proposer must have knowledge of book or reviews of such
- Proposals must be submitted to coordinators by end of January
- Selection committee makes final decisions regarding book selections

### **HOST AND DISCUSSION LEADER RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Keep the group to 15 participants, with wait list for cancellations.
- The hostess or person receiving the RSVPs will monitor the number of participants, let members know at once if they are part of the fifteen or on a waiting list, and notify all members if the group has reached its limit of fifteen.
- The hostess will send out a reminder to all participants about a week before the meeting.
- Plan on a 15-minute social time beginning at 3:45 with group discussion to start by 4 PM. Plan to finish by 5:30 PM.

Begin each discussion by having participants introduce themselves unless all clearly know one another.

Remind participants of the following guidelines at the beginning of each discussion:

- Encourage group to refrain from being negative about the book until the end of discussion.
- Discourage interruptions, side conversations/cross talk and whispering
- Discourage monopolizing the discussion or dismissal of other's ideas
- Keep discussion on topic of book
- Listen carefully and encourage everyone to contribute
- Be respectful of others and be gracious

**BOOK CLUB MANTRA:** The enjoyable part about book club is that each person has the opportunity to be exposed to books which she may have not known or read on her own. Have fun and grow!

### **DISCUSSION:**

Keep it simple. Consider presenting the title and author of book, the biography of the author and other books he/she has written, several reviews or summaries of the reviews, and any other pertinent information about the book.

### **POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR WORKS OF FICTION:**

- Does the title reflect the book and how?
- Which character is the voice of the author?
- Is the main character likable or not?
- How understandable are the motivations of the characters?
- What happens to the characters after the book ends?

- Did the author leave loose ends?
- Is the period of the book important to the theme?
- Are the values presented dated?
- How realistic is the setting?
- Is the plot believable?
- How is the book structured?
- Would you have read this book, if not selected by our book group?

#### POSSIBLE QUESTIONS FOR WORKS OF NONFICTION:

- What was the purpose of this book?
- If the book was intended to teach the reader something, did it succeed? Was something learned from the book?
- Was the purpose of the book to bring light to an issue? Did it succeed? Did earlier opinions about the issue change after reading the book?
- If the book addressed an issue, did the author cover both sides of the issue fairly or was the book biased or written to promote the author's own agenda?
- Was the book written in a way that was easily accessible and kept the reader's interest?
- If a biography, was there something surprising about this person's story?
- If a memoir, why was the book written?
- Did preconceived opinions of this person change after reading the book?
- Would you have read this book, if not selected by our book group?

#### QUESTIONS OF THE BOOK AT END IF BOOK WAS DISLIKED:

- What point did you give up on the book and why?
- What did you dislike the most?
- What made you keep reading?
- What could the author have changed to make the book more enjoyable for you?
- Despite not enjoying the book, did you learn something new?
- Would you read another book by this author, or have you read something by the author you did enjoy?