

WOLFE PACK BOOK DISCUSSION

Moderator Guidelines

Some thoughts on what makes a good event

It's the moderator's job to generate an interesting discussion. Using questions, you can guide the members present into finding insights into the author's intent. As both the leader and the guide, you should work to bring out the opinions of your fellow readers. The moderator will have read the book more carefully than most of those present and should bring out some themes for discussion.

Bear in mind:

- Those present have likely read or re-read the book before the meeting
- Don't summarize the plot or the progression of events, chapter by chapter. The attendees should know this from a recent re-reading.
- Do illuminate a point by giving an example from the text, by reading a particularly delicious quote.
- Ask people to raise hand before speaking
- Involve as many people as possible; don't let one person dominate
- Direct your comments to all parts of the room
- Be conscious of noise levels
- Be prepared: come with an outline of discussion points, some illuminating quotations, historical background, value of the dollar then to today, vocabulary or other interesting points. Not all books will have all these possibilities, but be on the lookout for them in your reading.

Suggested topics:

- Who has the oldest printing of the book with them?
- What do the readers think of the plot?
- What do the readers think about the characters?
- Have old friends been brought back from earlier books?
- In the earlier books, you can discuss how the essence of Wolfe and Archie are presented in this book
- Consider how Wolfe and Archie's relationship is described and shown.
- In the first reading of the early books, heated discussions arose over Archie's use of sexist, ethnic, and racial slurs. Be prepared to guide any such discussions.
- The role of women: ask opinions about this subject in relation to the New York of the Thirties and later.
- Ask readers if they see changes in the later books in Archie's views and opinions of women, ethnic and racial groups

Be prepared:

- Good preparation is the key to a lively discussion.
- It's up to the moderator to guide that lively discussion.
- You may need to remind the participants, more than once, that only one person should speak at a time
- Be sure the speaker can be heard; if necessary, ask the person to speak up
- If discussion is becoming repetitive, be prepared to close that area down; you can do this by suggesting a new topic
- Remember you are in charge.
- When the discussion is slowing down, you may bring the meeting to a close.