

Beyond the Book Club Guidelines

Location: This should take place outside the classroom in a “special” place. For example, at our school we had a conference room that I was able to reserve.

Requirements: You may ask students to get to a certain page number, complete specific assignments, or get a certain percentage on a quiz in order to attend. This is a great way to hold them accountable at the listening station, and the more fun that *Beyond the Book Club* is the more likely they are to be motivated to participate!

Refreshments: Depending on the time of day or year, I like to offer some refreshments: popcorn and cider, or hot cocoa with whipped cream (something small, but out of the ordinary), and for the end of the year final *Beyond the Book Club*...pizza!

Sample Agenda

1. Students meet in the classroom and complete warm-up (5 minutes)

2. Materials are gathered to move to the meeting room (5 minutes)

3. Once in meeting room- refreshments are passed out (while teacher sets up for one of following activities a general discussion can take place-i.e. Do you like the book?) (5 minutes)

3. Possible Activity Options (40 Minutes)

- **Jeopardy-** break the students into teams, and give everyone a whiteboard, marker, and eraser to ensure maximum participation. In order to receive the points everyone on the team must have the correct answer written on their board.
- **Meme Assignment-** Students create a Meme with a character from the book and a relevant quote. This is their opportunity to present it to the class.
- **Discussion Activity-** Each student gets four discussion cards and teacher asks a discussion question- the students should not raise their hands rather try to participate meaningfully in a group conversation. I usually offer prizes or extra credit to the first three students who can use all of their conversation cards.
- **YouTube Videos-** If there are any supplementary materials that you can bring, do so—for example, when we were reading *Out of My Mind* I showed a clip from a documentary about a young girl with autism, she was nonverbal, but as soon as they gave her a communication device everyone was amazed by her communication skills. There might be other allusions in the literature that students can't relate to—this is the perfect time and way to enhance their understanding.

4. Clean up and announce the next *Beyond the Book Club* (5 Minutes)