
SEA BOOK CLUB

PARENT / GUARDIAN WELCOME LETTER

Greetings! I am so excited to have your learner in the SEA Book Club. I want to tell you a little more about what to expect and how to contact me if there are any questions or concerns.

TOOLS FOR PARTICIPATION AND INTERACTION

One of the best things about these clubs is how flexible they are in terms of interaction. We all learn differently, and we all have different preferred and comfortable levels of interaction. To support this, I offer several great options to tailor your interaction to what is right for you.

TEACHABLE:

This is the platform where our class is hosted. You sign in through your Teachable account and see the materials for the class on this platform.

Tip: Use your learner's name when you register for a Teachable account rather than your own. This will make sure that the teacher can recognize them when they participate. If you need to change the name on the account, you can do so [following these instructions](#).

Tip: If you have siblings taking the same class or both using Teachable, you can create separate accounts with separate log-ins or include all names in the registration and instruct students to sign their first name in all participation to make it clear who is interacting.

DISCORD:

This is a communication server where we will offer discussion opportunities during the month as a way to offer more interaction before our live meeting at the end of the month. There will be a set of channels specifically for discussing the book that readers will be given access to when they join the server, as well as a few general social off-topic channels. The social channels are opt-out; if you do not want your learner to have access to those, please contact me and I will adjust permissions so they only have access to the book club channels. Discord is available as a browser app, standalone download, and phone app and is intuitive to use and is a popular communication tool in many online communities.

This server is monitored by me and is used for several of my classes, so all members are current or former students who have been vetted by me. No voice or video chat will be allowed for book club members. Written chat is available to students at any time. Students are instructed on appropriate online behavior and know how to tag me if there are any problems. Violations of server rules or

repeated disrespect to server members will result in removal after appropriate warning and corrections.

I have more specific information, guidelines, and resources in the **Discord Information** lecture here on Teachable. There are also instructions on how to join the server there.

Discord requires parent permission for children under 13. If you are not comfortable with your learner using Discord, they can still participate in discussion questions directly through Teachable, however there will not be peer-to-peer interaction.

Zoom:

This is the communication tool we will use for the live meeting at the end of the month. Information on how to join the live meeting is posted as a lecture here in Teachable. Zoom is available as an application download for desktop or as a phone app and is free to use. When joining the Zoom call, please use the name that your student wishes to be called. I add my pronouns to the end of my name, and invite students to do so if they like. Mic and camera are optional based on technology availability for you and comfort of your student. I ask that students avoid noisy or visual distractions and mute mic or camera as appropriate. Text chat is available for those not comfortable with speaking on mic and is encouraged for supplementary comments while a speaker is talking.

Google Drive:

During our live meetings, I offer students a live collaboration document that shows the main points I plan to discuss. I share this document with students to add comments and thoughts as a way to encourage interactive meetings in lieu of a slide presentation. While this is optional, it is recommended that students know how to open and access a shared Google Document through a provided link so they can have access to it and contribute.

THINGS TO KNOW

The goal of this Book Club is for every family to get what they need out of it, and we know that everyone has diverse needs and interests. Here are some tips to help make sure your experience is a positive one.

- Choose your participation level - If completing all of the materials is too much for your family, it's fine to not do them all. If you don't want to do the reading guides or learning activities, you don't have to. We created these materials to provide support for a variety of interest and ability levels, and you are welcome to apply them (or not) in ways that work for you.
- Live sessions will have summaries - If you miss the live session, there will be a recorded summary for you to view in the form of an organized slide presentation. This will cover the main discussion points for your review. This presentation will be uploaded to Teachable approximately a week after the live meeting. To protect learner privacy, recordings will not be distributed to people who did not attend the session.

- Save materials for later - If you are reading at a different pace and will not complete the book in time (or if you just want the materials to review again later), you can download the reading guides and activities to save for later. To facilitate this, I have a Quick Download option where you can download all guides at once. Please do this before the classroom closes, which will be about 2 weeks after the class ends.

PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS

If you are having problems with enrollment, you can contact contact@seaonlineclasses.com .

If you have questions or concerns about this specific Book Club, you can contact Dr. Sabrina M. Weiss at smweissea@gmail.com or through Discord.