



Kick-Off Meeting for the ‘Year of the Sister’

Welcome! The goal of your first meeting is to introduce the women to the mission and method of Well-Read Mom, as well as the theme for the year. Nothing needs to be read prior to this approximately one-hour meeting. You will use your Well-Read Mom ‘Year of the Sister’ Reading Companion at the meeting.

Welcome and Ice-Breaker (10 minutes)

- Introduce yourself and tell a little bit about why you wanted to start (or continue) a Well-Read Mom group.

What is Well-Read Mom? (10 minutes)

Even if your Well-Read Mom group has been meeting for years, we’ve found it’s helpful to remind the women of the proposal of Well-Read Mom.

- Share the Well-Read Mom Vision

In Well-Read Mom, women read more and read well. Our hope is to deepen the awareness of meaning hidden in each woman's daily life, to elevate the cultural conversation, and revitalize reading literature from books.

- Share the Well-Read Mom Mission

Well-Read Mom accompanies women in the reading of great books and spiritual classics to encourage personal growth, friendship, and meaningful conversations in order to explore the human condition and re-orient ourselves to what is good, beautiful, and true.

- Share the Well-Read Mom method:

- **Accompany** ~ As we accompany one another, there is accountability, support, and a sense of belonging that helps to foster the habit of regular reading. Staying on pace together and reading the same books across the nation facilitates awareness of a wider and deeper cultural conversation.
- **Read** We give ourselves permission to find time and space to read the selected literature, allowing it to penetrate our mind and heart.
- **Compare** We enter into the drama of the story and examine our

own questions as they come forth, asking “What does this mean for my life?”

- **Share** We first listen to the WRM prepared monthly audio, and then discuss the book, offering something of ourselves through sharing personal insights and experiences, as well as conversation and questions that arise from the text.

Nuts and Bolts

- ❖ There’s only one rule in Well-Read Mom - Don’t apologize if you don’t finish the reading.
- ❖ Do attend the meetings - even if you haven’t finished, and soak up the conversation. You may be inspired to go home and pick up that book.
- ❖ The goal is to read more. If you can’t read every pick, select those you do want to try. (Our *Reading Companion* has tips on what to read if you can’t read the whole book.)
- ❖ That said, it’s hard to have a discussion if no one has read, so do your best!
- ❖ Your group is one of over 400 women-led, women-run groups across the United States and abroad.
- ❖ Please spread the word to your friends and family. It’s never too late to join a group. Women can search for a group on our [website](#).
- ❖ We recommend purchasing your books as soon as possible as the book prices often spike when many members are purchasing the book at the same time.

Next Steps: How does Well-Read Mom Work? (5 minutes)

(Before the meeting, consider reviewing the “Frequently Asked Questions” document under the [Getting Started](#) tab of WellReadMom.com.)

- Well-Read Mom requires all group participants to register with Well-Read Mom. No woman will be turned away due to difficulty paying the membership fee. Contact info@wellreadmom.com for scholarship options.
- Here’s what you receive when you become a member - Briefly show and mention the membership materials:
 - ❖ **The ‘Year of the Sister’ Reading Companion** with author biographies, reflections and discussion questions for each month
 - ❖ A beautiful **‘Year of the Sister’ bookmark** featuring our selected artwork for the year and the booklist

- ❖ **WRM Monthly Audios** - two audios are available on our website each month (and via text message) to introduce the books and help us dive into our reading and discussion.
- ❖ **Ongoing helps** during the year. We continue to share podcasts, readers' letters, interviews, and inspiring articles to enrich your reading experience.
- ❖ A Well-Read Mom **Summer Magazine** that includes readers' letters and reflections on books, articles, gorgeous photos, and summer book recommendations.

Drumroll, please! Play the Introductory Audio - Introducing the 'Year of the Sister' (10 min.)

Founder Marcie Stokman will introduce the books for the year and explain why they were chosen to read this year. Share your reading win and which book you are most looking forward to reading this year.

Read aloud "Martha and Mary" from page 3 of the Well-Read Mom 'Year of the Sister' Reading Companion (15 min)

Discussion: Use the "Food for Thought" on page 7, or your own questions to discuss the reading. (15 min.)

Listen to the audio introducing the September book - *Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen (5-10 minutes)

- Recommended editions can be found at wellreadmom.com and bookshop.org/wellreadmom
- Audible, Kindle and Spanish translations may also be available

Next Steps (5 minutes)

- Announce any leadership positions that are available - hosting, communication, scheduling.
- Let everyone know when the next meeting will be held.
- Outline any next steps you'd like your attendees to take before the next meeting, registering, purchasing the book, etc.

Happy reading!