



Please read the comments from
some of our members....they say it
all about the groups!

From the Tuesday Advanced Group

- “I’ve been deeply drawn to the joyful vibe in both of the reading groups (the Tuesday Advanced reading group and Wednesday High-Intermediate group) I joined. I feel warm and supportive each and every group member, and in particular from our group leaders who are super nice and sweet all the time. And most importantly, I enjoy the thought-provoking/inspirational discussions on whatever book we choose with dear ladies, where I can get to know more about each other and the different cultures and traditions, which is amazing, isn’t it?”

■ Zaiyi - China

"Being far from our families and friends is always hard, but the book club made me feel part of a community! It is more than a space to read and discuss interesting topics, the club creates a community of support and it is a place to learn and share. I'm really grateful to participate in discussions, sharing foods, problems, and happiness. It has been very enjoyable!"

Aline - Brazil

“I have been part of the reading group for many years now and I will never forget how much joy it brought to my life! Each person that was/is part of this group is special to me. The books and the real life stories that were brought together, the foods, laughs, discussions, and excellent selection of books, all of them I am bringing with me. Thanks for being such a beautiful hostess in the city of trees and I wish you a wonderful life”

Gladis – Brazil

- “This one of the newer book reading groups in IN has stayed small with about 10 members. It became my comfort zone over the years. One of the reasons I think is that many books we have read are non-fiction. We read Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis by J.D. Vance in 2016, the previous election year. This book revealed manufacture working class’ fall in certain areas, and helped me to understand Trump’s win after. With fewer members, more interaction between each other leading the discussion to a deeper level is something guaranteed to happen. Eye Opening are the key words for this group”

Joan - China

From the Mystery
Book Group
(High-
Intermediate):

- “In our group, it’s always so much fun to me to read mystery books together, discuss the plots, share comments, and make some guesses on “who did the crime?” I also learned a lot from the knowledgeable ladies in the group about literature, world culture, as well as local life information, cooking techniques”

Jessie – China

- “I am so excited to have learned a whole new way to read, for pleasure, yes, but that I have always done. Now, I read with a more critical eye to the characters, the settings, the culture in which the stories are set and trying to figure out the clues to solve the mystery! What an enriching read”

Tina – USA

“I enjoy the Mystery Book Club so much specially now that we are reading authors from different countries. This has been so fun! I also love our weekly zoom meetings. I feel like I can get away from the craziness of the pandemic and talk about other things, this makes everything lighter”

Dunia – Brazil

“Our mystery book club is not just for reading detective stories. We exchange views on social issues, share tips for everyday life, and travel all over the world through our reading. Most of all, we are good friends. We’ve been supportive even during this hard time, and this small group always makes me smile”

Debbie – S. Korea

From the
Wednesday High-
Intermediate
Group:

- ***“For me our book reading group is a place to be social with girls from different countries, sharing our feelings and thoughts with each other without pressure on reading books. There is a connection when we do something together, think about the scene that having a plate of food, a cup of coffee, and talking nonstop, that is the atmosphere I miss”***

Joan – China

- ***“I always remember your warm welcoming at the first meeting. And I am always impressed with your kind, embracing e-mail to us. Thank you for you and Marian, I think, our bookclub became a wonderful group! Thank you beyond the words”*** ***Miri – Korea***

“The COVID-19 pandemic is massively disrupting our daily life since people have to stay at home to avoid any potential contact and infection. Fortunately, video communication technology allows us to experience a virtual face-to-face discussion. As a former International Neighbors member, I’m so glad to rejoin the reading group and share our perspectives with all lovely ladies during this difficult time. I think the International Neighbors reading groups are doing the great thing to bring people together and life each other up in this frightening time”

Enya – Taiwan

“Our book reading group to me is a place to socialize with friends from different cultures and learning more each day. To have fun discussion about the books that we are reading with great food and a wonderful company”

Ronit – Israel

“Joining this big family is one of the most correct choices I’ve made during my four-year stay in Ann Arbor! Will always cherish this memory”

Xiaochen – China

“During my stay in Ann Arbor it was really a chance for me to participate in the Reading Group that International Neighbors offered. It has been an opportunity to discover new authors and above all, share the different points of view the participants contribute to the group. The possibility to continue virtually these discussions, despite distance and home confinement offers the possibility to maintain the connection and ties with people all around the world, it enriches our own readings and opens the mind to other life conceptions. I really enjoy the connections and I learn a lot. The contributions are always very interesting. It will be a great decision to maintain the zoom book discussion. I will fondly thank Carole and Marian for your availability offering us your time and your effort, kindness and savoir faire organizing the discussions above the unexpected and involuntary inconveniences. I really appreciate your ability to turn an inconvenience into an opportunity”

Eulalia - Spain

“One of my favorite regular activities is participating in our book group meetings. Thanks to Carole that she decided to start a book group many years ago and I joined the group many years ago too. In our group, we can learn from diverse perspectives, become a better reader, become a good listener and conversationalist, and most important grow good relationships and make good friends. Thanks Carole and Marian for your leadership and friendship”

Serpil – Turkey

“Tasty, enlightening and joyful are the three words I can think of right away to describe our reading group. You can always find homemade food delicious and comforting, thanks to our members’ excellent cooking skills and the hosts’ hospitality. You will always find the discussions on books inspiring and enlightening. Surely, you will feel happier, more jubilant or you even won’t be willing to leave when the meeting ends. This is where you are able to get a sense of belonging and to meet friends for life.”

Zaiyi – China

The background features several concentric circles in shades of grey and white, some solid and some dashed, creating a ripple effect. A prominent pink callout box is centered on the page, containing a testimonial. The box has a rectangular top and a pointed bottom, resembling a speech bubble or a drop cap.

“Little did I know when I joined this Reading Group that I would gain valuable international perspectives and warm friendships along the way. For me it’s a place to come participate in open discussions to listen, learn and appreciate one another’s insights on worldly matters! Our Zoom Meetings have been exceptionally informative! I’ve been further enriched by all our members, Carole and Marian who have given us a place to learn and a sense of belonging. A truly rewarding experience!” Genny – Sri Lanka

From the Thursday
Low-Intermediate
Group:

“Reading Group turned out to be a great personal enrichment, both for the learning of the English language and for its two group leaders, who allow me to explore beyond reading.

Meet and share with women from different countries around the world. Share and learn about their culture. Thank you for allowing me to be part of International Neighbors”

Alegria – Ecuador

From the (now)
Thursday
Advanced Group:

- ***“This is an Awesome group of ladies coming together to read, discuss about the books, life, kids, husbands and of course always eats. I learned to motivate myself to read again because of this group. This a wonderful opportunity for me. Thanks to you all for sharing your Wednesdays with me”***

Linh – Vietnam

- **“I love being a part of the book group. What a wonderful group of ladies that all bring something special to the group. Each month, a different member picks a book to discuss. This has helped diversify my reading list. Being more of a fiction reader, I was excited to finally read memoirs this year. Educated by Tara Westover and Becoming by Michelle Obama. Both wonderful books which have motivated me to read more in genre. I enjoy our discussions and being exposed to different subjects and various viewpoints”**

Joanna - Ireland