



English and Dutch Book Clubs Project Concepts

Brief Information

The English lessons and Dutch language Book Clubs are designated to accelerate the participants' process of language learning, who are assigned a short story or novel that they discuss afterwards as a group. This project compliments the Language Lessons also offered by UID.

What is it about

Through the language lessons and book club, participants gain confidence in their speaking and listening skills, and practice their conversational skills in a group discussion. This two-prong project attracts people coming from different places and with different backgrounds, so those involved are able to expand their social network.

Target Group

The target group of the Book Clubs are people already possessing some language skills (At least A1 level), so that they are able to participate in the discussions. The English Lessons are open to all language levels, even A0 (we use the help of interpreters to get them to A1 level). The Book Club and language lessons are open to everyone who wishes to participate (including refugees). Our Dutch book club in particular has seen a very good mixture of Refugees and other types of foreigners and local Dutch people.

Frequency

Twice a week (Dutch)

Twice a week (English)

The English club ended around June of 2018, as the participants preferred English lessons the book club. The Dutch book club continued until a November 2019. We may resume again in 2020.

Date and Time: Chosen according to availability of teachers, book club leaders and project participants.

Content

1. A novel or short story is selected by the Book Club leaders
2. Initially, they chose the books by recommendation of the Hague library attendant Annemie. Subsequently, all participants work together to choose books they like, according to their Dutch level.
3. Guidelines of discussion: It has to be inclusive, there is usually food and drinks, or at least drinks. People who do not feel comfortable yet, are allowed to keep quiet till they can feel comfortable to discuss.
4. Club day should always open with asking one another about their week or day. Basic pleasantries, so everyone feels heard.

5. Books are provided as donations from our partner bookstore ABC, some are given on a very reduced cost. Others are paid for by supporters or loaned to us by the Hague Library.
6. The main locations for the book club and English lessons have been at the American Book Center of The Hague and The Hague Central library.

Participation average

English book club: 6

Dutch book club: Has had about 30 Participants in total.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

At the end of the course, participants are given feedback forms.