

# Technology and Reading

How to...

Create an online book group



## Summary

This resource will show you how to create a Social Network with Ning.com. Social networking sites focus on the building of online social networks for communities of people who share interests and activities. They provide various ways for people to interact and are therefore perfect for setting up an online book group.

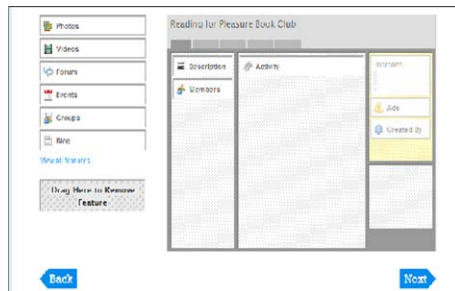
**Please note that access to some Web 2.0 applications (such as social networking sites) may be blocked within learning institutions or organisations.**

## How to create your social network

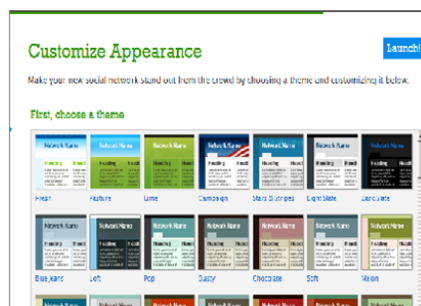
1. To create your social network, go to [www.ning.com](http://www.ning.com)
2. You will be asked to name your social network (e.g. Reading for Pleasure Book Club) and to pick a web address (e.g. readingforpleasurebookclub.ning.com). Then click on the “**Next**” button.

3. You now need to decide whether you want your book club to be public or private. If you are using it with a group of learners you will probably want to select “**Private**”. You will also need to write a short description of your book club. When you have done this, click “**Next**”.

- Now the fun bit – you get to design your book club site.



- Now customise its appearance by picking your theme template, fonts and colour schemes.



- Now all you need to do is click on the launch button and you can start inviting members and using your online book club.





# More ideas...

- Ask members to post alternative endings
- Create your own literary awards and ask members to vote for their best reads
- Use the online nature of your book group to hyperlink to further information to enhance discussion

## Discussion Points

Having a good list of discussion points can help keep things focused, interesting and makes for a more productive and enjoyable discussion.

## Links

- Babbling Books  
<http://www.bookgroup.info>
- *The Guardian* “book talk”  
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/books>
- *The New York Times*: Books Reading Group  
<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/books>
- *Love Libraries*  
<http://www.lovelibraries.co.uk/>

Please note that this resource does not intend to recommend certain products, it rather presents options to explore when supporting and encouraging reading for pleasure.

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## The Reading for Pleasure suite of materials:

- CPD modules: Reading for pleasure in a number of contexts
- Storytelling: CPD unit with lesson ideas
- Families, Learning and Storytelling: Using archives for community cohesion
- Take Your Partner: Engaging emergent adult readers
- Technology and Reading: How to use blogs, wikis, iPods and e-books to promote reading
- Putting two and 2 together: Creating a bridge between literacy and numeracy learning
- Resources for libraries: Guidance on how to engage families to read for pleasure