

Learn From the Authors: Book Discussion Group

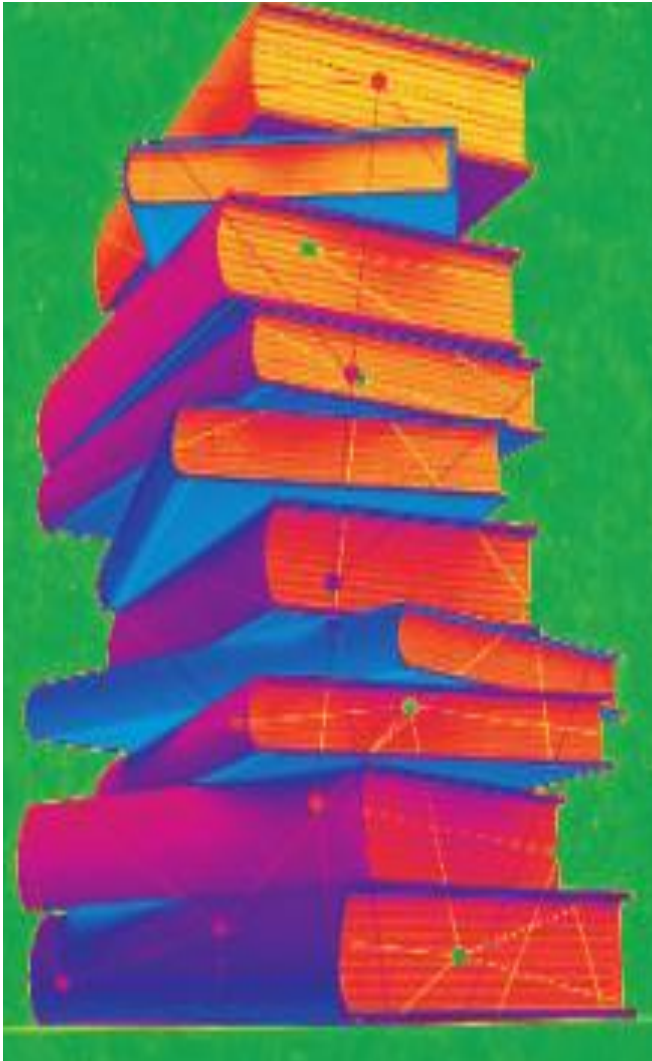


LEARN FROM THE AUTHORS: BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

This program will give students the unique opportunity to discuss books with the authors who wrote them! The book group will read an assigned book and then have a discussion with the author of that book. Six books will be discussed.

Additionally, students are invited to create one writing piece based on the author discussions -- for example, a review of one of the books, an article about the author's viewpoint, etc. -- and Susan Goodkin will review and edit the piece and suggest places where it can be submitted for publication.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW



- Discussions are held approximately every other week, at 9 a.m. Saturday morning (Beijing time) and last 60 minutes
- The group size is generally 4-6 students
- The discussion is led by the author whose book the students have read for that session.
- This is a great opportunity to practice speaking English during a discussion, which will help prepare students for college discussions



This is a great way for students to stand out from other strong students in the application process. Colleges are looking for students who enjoy reading –a frequent question asked by college interviewers is to name and discuss a favorite book, the Princeton application asks students to list their favorite book, and the Columbia application requires students to list the books they read for fun. Colleges also look for students who genuinely enjoy thinking about ideas outside of the classroom. Students participating in this group will show colleges that not only do they enjoy reading, but they look for opportunities to discuss the ideas in books in their time outside of class.

Colleges also want students who are collaborative, and who enjoy and are able to share ideas in a group. Participating in this program will show colleges that students enjoy group discussions and sharing ideas raised by their reading, and doing so in English.

It's also a unique opportunity for students who love books to talk with authors as well as other students who love reading!

SUSAN GOODKIN – PROGRAM COORDINATOR



Ms. Goodkin is a graduate of Harvard College, Harvard Law School and Oxford University, where she studied on a Rhodes Scholarship, the world’s most prestigious academic scholarship. Ms. Goodkin is a writer and college consultant whose articles have been published in magazines and leading newspapers throughout the United States. As a consultant, she specializes in helping students improve their resumes for college; she has helped many of her college advisees create blogs and publish their fiction and non-fiction work, which over the past few years alone has helped her students get into colleges including Stanford, Harvard, Yale, Caltech, MIT, Princeton, and U.Penn.



The books we’ll be reading address topics including family, friendship, the cost of keeping secrets, teen mental health issues, dystopian future worlds, gender issues, class issues, the afterlife and more. Some of the books are centered around male protagonists, some around female protagonists, and some feature both.

Although some of the books we will be reading will change from session to session, here is a sampling of four books from the first session, and some of these are likely to be included each session: *The Edge of Anything*, Nora Carpenter, *Taken*, Erin Bowman, *The Life and (Medieval) Times of Kit Sweeney*, Jamie Pacton, and *The Best Week That Never Happened*, Dallas Woodburn

