How It Works

For the host

A silent reading night is the simplest club there is: everyone brings a book, everyone reads it, and nobody has to perform. This kit runs on two silent hours with a talking break in the middle: doors open at 7, the first hour of reading starts at 7:15, the talking break runs 8:15 to 8:30, and the second hour runs 8:30 to 9:30. Then goodnights, and the swap table on the fourth Friday. That is the whole format, and it works because the silence is the point — no presentations, no assigned book, no homework. Bring whatever you are reading.

This kit covers five Fridays in January 2027: 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 January. Each night has its own theme below. Run all five as a series, or pick the Fridays that suit your group — the kit works either way. January is the right month for it: the holidays are over, the nights are long, and everyone has a book they meant to finish.

The schedule for each night

Time	What happens	Notes
7:00	Doors open, tea and settling in	Phones in the basket by the door
7:15	First silent hour begins	Sixty minutes, on the clock
8:15	Talking break (prompts on page 6)	Ten minutes, then back to silence
8:30	Second silent hour begins	Sixty minutes, on the clock
9:30	Goodnights and the swap table	Week 4: bring a book to pass on

Keep the lights low and the phones away — a basket by the door for phones is the one rule worth enforcing.

The Five January Nights

January 2027 — every Friday

Friday 1 January 2027 — New Year's Day — First Pages Night

New Year's Day. Bring the book you are starting the year with — or the one you meant to finish last year. Drink: hot tea, something bright, to wake the year up. Snack: shortbread. Ritual: the talking break is for first pages — read your opening paragraph aloud and let the group guess the book.

Friday 8 January 2027 — Second Friday — Back to Your Book Night

Back to routine. Bring the book you are in the middle of. Drink: cocoa, made properly, with a square of dark chocolate on the saucer. Snack: oat biscuits. Ritual: the talking break is for middles — what keeps you turning pages, and what is slowing you down?

Friday 15 January 2027 — Third Friday — Mid-Month Check-In Night

Mid-month check-in. How is the reading year going? Drink: mulled apple juice, warm, with a cinnamon stick. Snack: clementines, peeled at the table. Ritual: the talking break is for resolutions (page 5) — keep them, change them, or drop them honestly. This is also the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday 18 January — a good week to pick up a book about a life that changed things.

Friday 22 January 2027 — Fourth Friday — Swap & Recommend Night

Swap night. Bring a book you loved and are ready to pass on. Drink: sparkling water with orange, and tea for anyone who wants it. Snack: cheese and crackers. Ritual: the talking break is a swap table — pitch your book in thirty seconds, then trade. The book you take home is the book you were meant to read next.

Friday 29 January 2027 — Fifth Friday — Finish & Begin Night

The fifth Friday — a bonus night. Finish something, or start something new. Drink: hot tea again, the one you liked best, and cocoa for the finishers. Snack: something warm from the oven, if you have time. Ritual: the talking break is for February — what are you reading next, and who is joining you?

10 Prompts for the Talking Breaks

Ten minutes, then back to silence

The talking break runs 8:15 to 8:30 — ten minutes, one question, everyone answers. Pick the one that fits the night, or let the host choose on the spot. These are the same ten prompts the kit has carried since its first edition; they are written for any book, any reader, any night.

1. Read your first paragraph aloud. What does it promise?
2. What page are you on, and what is keeping you there?
3. Describe your book in five words. No cheating with hyphens.
4. Which character would you want at this table, and which would you hide from?
5. What is the last book you finished — and did it earn its ending?
6. What are you reading next, and why that one?
7. Which book do you recommend so often that your friends are tired of hearing about it?
8. What is the best first line you have read this year?
9. If your current book were a place, would you want to live there?
10. What did you read as a child that still shapes what you pick up now?