Read With Me

The Buddy Read & Book Club for Two Companion - one book, two readers, and a conversation that lasts the whole book

Free sample - three real pages from the journal: The Buddy Read Method (p.3), the Pace & Checkpoints Planner (p.7) and Checkpoint 1's Where We Both Stand page (p.11). Enough to plan your real buddy read tonight: the method, the schedule, and your first checkpoint. One purchase prints two copies - one per reader. Print at 100% on US Letter or A4.

The Buddy Read Method (How This Journal Works)

1. Choose together, on the record. Use the Pair Dossier (p.5) and the Buddy Pact (p.6) before page one: which book, which edition, and the rules you both agree to - spoilers, pace honesty, and the right to quit being real and mutual. A pact made in advance is what makes week three survivable.

2. Read to checkpoints, not to the end. Divide the book into four to six checkpoints on the Pace & Checkpoints Planner (p.7). Neither reader reads past a checkpoint until both have arrived. The checkpoint, not the calendar, is the unit of togetherness - a slow week just moves a date, and page 7 shows you how to move it without blame.

3. Write before you talk, and seal it. At each checkpoint, both readers first complete their own Where We Both Stand page and their sealed Notes to Open Together - in their own copy, before any conversation. Your unfiltered first reading is the valuable thing; talk is where it gets tested, not where it gets written.

4. Talk at the checkpoint, disagree on paper. The Talk Page gives the conversation its shape - and the Disagreement Page (p.28) gives the argument a form: position, evidence, what would change my mind. Signed, dated, and kept. In a year, those pages are the book you will actually remember.

5. Finish together, judge together. The last checkpoint, two verdicts side by side, one joint review, and the Buddy Read Honours (pp.35-38). Then choose the next book by the only fair method two readers have: the ballot on page 39, campaign speeches allowed.

Our chosen reading mode (tick one - page 8 explains all three): [ ] Same couch [ ] Same city, separate shelves [ ] Long distance

Our one non-negotiable as a pair (e.g. "never past a checkpoint," "no book talk before coffee," "the postcards are sacred"):

_____

Pace & Checkpoints Planner

Divide by chapters, not pages (editions differ; chapters don't). Four checkpoints suit a short book or a fast pair; six suit a long one. Space them by the slower reader's honest week, not the faster one's best week - a checkpoint both readers reach is a celebration, and a checkpoint one reader misses twice is a schedule asking to be renegotiated, which page 24's Checkpoint Verdict exists to do without blame.

Checkpoint	Chapters	Planned date	Reader One arrived (date)	Reader Two arrived (date)	Talk held (date)

My honest pace, stated plainly (one line each): Reader One _____ - Reader Two _____

The slower reader sets the checkpoint spacing - whose pace governs this book: _____

Sanctioned Pause record (one per reader per book): Reader One - dates _____ to _____, resume date _____ - Reader Two - dates _____ to _____, resume date _____

Our catch-up rule (what happens after a missed checkpoint - e.g. "the date moves, the chapters don't"): _____

Where We Both Stand - Checkpoint Cycle 1 of 4

Checkpoint number: _____ - Chapters covered: _____ to _____ - Date I arrived: _____

Before any talk (the page is headed, in print): "Complete this page alone, in your own copy, before the checkpoint conversation. Write your reading, not the reading you expect your buddy to have."

Where the book stands for me, in three sentences: _____

The scene I would defend as the best so far (page/chapter): _____ - and why: _____

The character I have changed my mind about since the last checkpoint: _____ - from _____ to _____

What I think my buddy will say about this section (write it before you hear it - page 38 scores this too): _____

My running verdict so far (tick): [ ] Better than expected [ ] As expected [ ] Worse than expected [ ] Completely different book than I signed up for

One thing I am NOT saying in the talk unless it comes up (write it here so it exists somewhere): _____
