



# Our Online Book Club Experience

Philadelphia Reading Council  
Winter 2012-2013



# Our Rationale

- ➔ Overall goal -- a meaningful winter event with no need for snow dates
- ➔ Theme for the year -- CCSS, starting with Dr. Michael Bell's presentation in the fall of 2012



# So...

- ➔ First -- board members tried out an online discussion with a professional article
- ➔ Then -- we decided that a book would lead to deeper discussion
- ➔ Decision -- we chose a book that was applicable to all grade levels, informative, thoughtful, and reader-friendly



# Logistics - Behind the Scenes

- ➔ Decide on a book that is timely, engaging, and available at a reasonable cost
- ➔ Select a website, such as GoodReads, for your platform
- ➔ Develop a timeline for the discussion



# Getting Started

- ➔ Publicize and promote the book club
- ➔ Hold a face-to-face kickoff meeting
- ➔ Follow up with a flier with specific directions on how to participate
- ➔ Start the ball rolling with initial responses to the book



# Maintaining Momentum

- ➔ E-mail participants periodically to remind them to respond
- ➔ Remind participants of where we were on the timeline
- ➔ Welcome “out of sequence” responses
- ➔ Continue posting and responding to others



# Finishing Up

- ➔ Send thank-you notes to participants at end of established timeline, along with survey directions
- ➔ Analyze survey results to use for future planning



# Our Next Steps

- ➔ Based on feedback and our experience, we plan to do this again next winter
- ➔ Spring newsletter included suggested titles as well as request for others
- ➔ Include a mix of open-ended and direct questions to spark more discussion





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