

Book clubs offer chance to socialize

June Miles

READERS have never had it so good. Books abound in every genre and many formats in the 21st century. In fact, one could say that there is no excuse not to read. While the Internet becomes our main information feed, we cannot let these clicks, texts, chats, and tweets become the only venue for our voracious minds. Reading for pleasure needs space, so give it some elbow room. Close the computer, turn off the phone, and curl up in a cozy chair with a good book.

Reading exposes us to other human stories and settings, many of which we learn from and which strengthen our own resolve to live and overcome. Adversities, problems of a harried-techno driven world are pushed back and space is given to let our minds unwind, let them explore the world of words, innuendos, intrigues. When was the last time you lost yourself in a good book?

If you find yourself needing socialization, join a book club. Being

a part of a reading group provides a sense of accomplishment, offers an exchange of ideas good books raise in our minds, facilitates a place to join together with one book as a central focus. Interaction with others who bring reading perspectives from several corners of the world is to be had here in Shanghai.

To meet with others and read a book together, check out www.meetup.com/topics/bookclub/cn/shanghai/ or explore this site from Australia: www.library.act.gov.au/learning/book_clubs.

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