

SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. **Mystery List**—Provide pen and paper. Have each member anonymously write his or her top-5-things-to-do-before-I-die. Post the lists. Can you guess who wrote which list?
2. **Group List.** Get a large poster board and create a Reading Group “Life List,” where you brainstorm things each person would like to do—and anything goes...adventurous, serious, crazy, funny, etc. It’s always interesting to see how many people share the same dreams... and how many people harbor secret dreams you never knew about.
3. **Pick a List.** Have people write the things they most want to do in their lives on five separate scraps of paper, which are folded and put in a basket. Then each person picks five pieces of paper from the basket and reads them aloud, answering the questions: Are they things you’d like to do? Would any be difficult? Boring? Scary? Have you already done them? How would doing any of them affect your life?
4. **List Swap.** Everyone picks the name of a fellow reading group member from a jar, and then writes five things they think that person should do in the next five years. It’s often amazing to see what other people have in mind for you...even if they don’t know you that well...and especially if they do!
5. **Nametags.** Just for fun, buy large blank labels, and let people create nametags that not only show their names, but the top things on their “to do” lists. An example: Jane. 1) bungee jump 2) write a novel 3) eat dessert first.
6. **To Don’t List.** Ask people to bring their REAL to-do lists to the meeting in whatever form they are: a handwritten paper, a calendar off the refrigerator, date book, Palm Pilot, etc. Hand out paper and pen and ask each person to write the top three goals for their life: what they consider absolutely most important, such as “helping children in poor counties,” “raising loving, independent children,” “starting a company,” “making a million dollars,” “getting a novel published,” etc. Then challenge them to pull out their to-do lists, most of which will be filled with things that have nothing to do with the direction they want their lives to go (and is more likely errands, meetings, etc.). On a large poster board, have each member contribute one thing from their to-do list that they will give up to create a big “to don’t” list. Then challenge them to fill that spot with one thing that will get them closer to their life goals.
7. **“I’ve Never” Game.** Sit in a circle, and give each member a number of poker chips (5 or 10 works well). One person starts the game by saying, “I’ve never...” and then stating something they’ve never done and would like to, such as, “I’ve never...gotten married.” Anyone in the circle who has gotten married then tosses a chip into the center of the pile. Play continues clockwise. The “winner” is the first to get rid of all of his/her chips...but the real goal is just to have fun and get to know each other better.

8. **My Last Day.** Hand out paper and pencil and give guests a short amount of time (5 minutes or so) to write down what they'd do if tomorrow were their last day (or last week) to live, then have people share what they wrote.
9. **List Bingo**—For larger book clubs, create a grid of 4 squares across and 4 down (for 16 squares), or more or less depending on the number of people. On each square, write something people are likely to want to do: get published, go skinnydipping, visit four continents, sky dive, etc. (for a list of ideas, go to 43things.com or 2dobeforeIdie.com). Photocopy a Bingo card for each participant. As people mingle before the meeting gets underway, have them find people who have done the things on the Bingo card, and if they have, initial the square. (Variation: have people sign squares for the thing they'd most like to do.) The goal is to have every square on your card signed off.
10. **Just One Thing.** Have members write down five small tasks that are things that, 1) they enjoy doing, 2) have never done before, 3) used to bring them joy but they don't get around to anymore, 4) are afraid to do, or 5) think they don't like. What they write should be absolutely do-able given their current financial status and schedule. Read the lists aloud, and set a goal for each person to do at least one before the next meeting.