



ERG Synergy Project BOOKS@WORK

What is Books@Work?

Books@Work invites everyone – at every level of the organization – to build communities of openness, respect, inclusion and belonging. Using facilitated conversation around a story, colleagues explore new ideas and deepen the relationships that anchor healthy and productive teams and organizations.

Why books? Literature invites us to connect to characters and reflect upon our diverse perspectives. In discussing them, we share our experiences and step into each other's shoes. Stories unlock the conversations we don't often have at work, helping us to make sense of the world we share – individually and together.

What do participants say about it?

"[Books@Work] brings a different kind of diversity that's about embracing our differences and understanding them."

"Every voice was appreciated. Everybody, whatever they said, received a lot of respect."

"We really do touch on some very sensitive things at times – racial issues, religious issues – and they're brought up in a way that we can have this open discussion in a safe environment... What you're getting is the human piece, the human interactive piece. Actually being able to confront things that you weren't going to confront in any other way."

Curious to learn more?

Check out this introductory video, but know that we will read short stories and not full length books.

<https://www.booksatwork.org/welcome-booksatwork/>

What's in it for you?

REFLECT: Take a breather

GROW PERSONALLY: Learn from and with your colleagues

BE YOU, NOT YOUR JOB: Get to know your coworkers as people, not just roles

... for the team?

DIALOGUE: Promotes strong, open communication

CONNECTION: Establishes bonds between coworkers

PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY: Discuss difficult issues in an open environment

... for the organization?

LEARN TOGETHER: opportunity to collaborate and think critically together

BELONGING: creates an inclusive work environment for everyone

SOCIAL WELLNESS: fosters a sense of connection and community

Nuts and bolts.

Where: Location will be S7-436

When: Wednesdays from noon-1:00 on March 20, 27, April 3, 10, 17, 24. Lunch will be provided.

How: To sign up for Books@Work <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UMassBooksatwork>

What do we read?

Short stories of all genres and styles, but never business or self-help.