

"WHY A READING GROUP?"

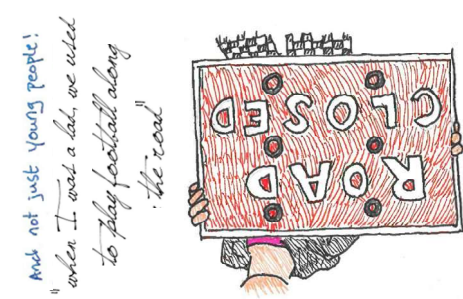
## How to run your own YoCLI reading group!

Invite your friends or classmates! Invite young people with an interest in the environment, climate change and reading. Offer a space to share with people and make new friends.

Read out portions of the text that you like. Let your discussion meander. Wander far from the book! A lot of our discussion ended up being about colonialism, real-world racism, sexism, poverty and other issues related to climate justice.

If you would like a more detailed guide or advice please contact us!  
Email: [yocliproject@gmail.com](mailto:yocliproject@gmail.com)

[Reading together] is a really powerful tool in teaching about climate justice and encouraging receptiveness to others' struggles.  
- Charlie



1. Climate imaginaries are ways of imagining the future during climate change, that are grounded in real life.  
2. Lots of young activists hold up the sign: "systems change, not climate change!" But if we're having systemic change, what would new systems look like? Building climate justice means dismantling wealth, gender, racial inequalities and many others.

## What is a climate imaginary??

Please hold a YoCLI reading group!  
Base it on three principles:

### Equality

Be active and **build** equality! Address hierarchies of power in your group at the very start. Let readers know in advance that they are encouraged to ask questions of each other. Share and share alike!

### Support

Please ask each other, at the outset, what you all want to get out of the process. Making friends? Help with CVs? We did a lot in the reading group to support each other. The communities we build are full of opportunities for giving and getting kindness.

### Creativity

Be creative! A YoCLI reading group is a space to create ideas, and there shouldn't be a requirement to complete a test or quiz, to be assessed on the books or (honestly!) even to read the book at all.

(if you're a teacher who has to test your students and want advice on how to do this, email us please! [yocliproject@gmail.com](mailto:yocliproject@gmail.com))

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"Our reading groups were more than just a space to envision alternate worlds; they also served as a space to sit with rage, frustration and the helplessness of witnessing the multiple injustices in the world."  
- Pooja

## Suggested books for your group:

- The Parable of the Sower (Octavia E. Butler)
- Democracy of Species (Robin Wall Kimmerer)
- Green Rising (Lauren James)
- Ministry for the Future (Kim Stanley Robinson)
- The Last Zoo (Sam Gayton)
- The Marrow Thieves (Cherie Dimaline)

## Games to play:

- Ecosystem (card game)
- Carbon City Zero (card game)
- Wingspan (board game)

## What to do next?

If you would like to run a reading group, please reach out to us! We would love to hear from you, and share resources if we can. You can email us any time on [yocliproject@gmail.com](mailto:yocliproject@gmail.com).

"All flourishing is mutual"  
- Robin Wall Kimmerer



YoCLI is a research project for young people about climate change. It's based on reading groups, but we did some other things too, including writing academic papers and toolkits for teachers. The research team cooperated to imagine what a better world could look like.

Our project was inspired by young activism on climate change, but also the frustration so many young people feel. Adults in power keep saying, "thank you! this is so inspiring" and then they turn around and do nothing... and adults in power will frequently tell young people "you are our future!" but deny young people the opportunity to imagine the futures they want and need.

What is the YoCLI project?

imagine  
a future  
reading groups  
for a  
better world

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