

## Young Adult Book Discussion Kits

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits are available to library patrons for use by home and community discussion groups, as well as teachers in the classroom setting. Each kit contains a set of thirty identical soft-cover books accompanied by a book discussion guide. The guides feature information about the author, reviews of the book, discussion questions, suggested further readings, and other pertinent information. Each kit is packaged in a canvas tote bag and may be borrowed for six weeks.

Young Adult Book Discussion Kits may be reserved and sent to the library branch of your choice for pick up. If you would like to reserve a kit, please stop by your local library branch or call **574-1611**. The kits may also be reserved through our website [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org). A list of all the kits may be found in the LFPL catalog by typing **Book Discussion Kit Young Adult** at the title prompt.



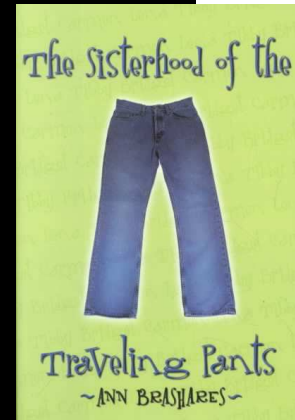
**Children's & Young Adult Services**  
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*Information for this flyer was partially gathered from the following resources:*

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) (07/21/03)

<http://www.bookbrowse.com/index.cfm?page=author&authorID=691>  
(07/21/03)

"The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants" in *Novelist*. Ipswich, MA.: EBSCO Publishing, 2002. <http://novelst3.epnet.com/novel/> (07/21/03)



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A Reader's Guide to  
Young Adult Book  
Discussion Kit #233  
**The Sisterhood of the  
Traveling Pants**  
By Ann Brashares

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Xtreme Reads  
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**Young Adult Book  
Discussion Kits**



When Carmen first buys a pair of worn jeans at a second-hand shop on an impulse, she has no idea that they will travel around the world and back. Strangely enough, the pants fit four friends perfectly, despite their different body types. Separated for the first summer of their lives, the friends use the jeans as a way of keeping together even though they are apart.

### **About the Author**

Ann Brashares grew up in Chevy Chase, Maryland. She studied Philosophy at Barnard College, part of Columbia University in New York City. Expecting to continue studying philosophy in graduate school, Ann took a year off after college to work as an editor, hoping to save money for school. Loving her job, she never went to graduate school, and instead, remained in New York City and worked as an editor for many years. Last year, Ann made the transition from editor to full-time writer and wrote her first novel, *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.

Ann lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her husband, Jacob Collins, an artist, and their three children, Sam, Nathaniel, and Susannah, their newborn, who is an honorary member of the Sisterhood.

### **What the Critics Say...**

“The pants were magic--worn, thrift-shop jeans that made each of the four best friends look absolutely fabulous. Obviously they were life-changing pants. Thus the plan: route them to each of the four at their various summer destinations, with appropriate rules attached, of course, and watch wonderful things happen”.... “Young teens will identify with one, or even all four, of these interesting, funny young women, and they’ll be on the lookout for their own pair of traveling pants.”

- Frances Bradburn, *Booklist*

“Brashares deftly moves from narrative to narrative, weaving together themes from the mundane to the profoundly important, from death to raging hormones, from stepfamilies to dead-end minimum-wage jobs:...” All four girls are completely realistic, and even the secondary and adult characters are fully drawn. The result is a complex book about a solid group of friends, with each one a strong and courageous individual in her own right. They form a true sisterhood of acceptance and support, resulting in a believable and inviting world.”

- Linda Bindner, *School Library Journal*

### **Awards and Recognition**

2001 Off the Cuff Award (Promising New Author-tie)

2001 Off the Cuff Award (Most Eye-Catching Jacket)

2001 Off the Cuff Award (Best Book Title)

2002 Book Sense Book of the Year

### **Discussion Questions:**

1. Of the four main characters, which is the most like you? Carmen, Tibby, Lena or Bridget? Whom do you most admire?

2. Why do you think the author titled the book *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* instead of *Sisterhood of the Traveling Jeans*?

3. Besides the existence of the traveling pants, what held the friendship together over the summer?

4. Each character had something major happen to them during the summer, how would you have handled their issues without a friend nearby?

5. Who do you think was the loneliest character? What might you do differently than she did to combat lonesomeness?

6. Do you think the romances that Bridget and Lena experienced will change the friendship of the four girls in the future? Have issues about romance affected any of your current friendships? If so, how?

7. Why do you think the author chose a pair of jeans to be magical element that held the friendships together? What other objects might have done the same thing?

### **Suggested Titles for Further Reading**

*The Second Summer of the Sisterhood*

by Ann Brashares (YP)

*Someone Like You*

by Sarah Dessen (YP)

*Kissing Doorknobs*

by Terry Spenser Hesser (YP)

*A Time for Dancing*

by Davida Hurwin (YP)

*Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*

by Louise Rennison. (YP)

Note: other books in the Georgia Nicholson “confession” series by Rennison are good choices also.