

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 1 • WEEK OF OCTOBER 5 • 5–10 MINUTES

A library with room for more



All illustrations made for The World Desk; not photographs.

A SMALL WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Oodi library in Helsinki includes books and reading areas alongside meeting rooms, workshops, and music studios, with room for both quiet and more active uses.¹

Imagine choosing how to spend an hour in a place like that. You could look for quiet, make something, or join a conversation; which would draw you in?

ONE GOOD QUESTION

What should a shared place make possible for people?

¹ Oodi. <https://oodihelsinki.fi/en/facilities/floors/>

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 1

A library with room for more

IF THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

- What would you want to do there today?
- How could people with different preferences share it comfortably?

TRY A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

Imagine arriving for the first time. What would help you know where to go and whether you were welcome?

There is no correct answer and no need to know Helsinki. Start with the short reading, choose one question, and let the conversation end naturally.

Talking, thinking quietly, and passing are all welcome. This is an informal conversation card, not a quiz or a meeting you must join.

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 2 · WEEK OF OCTOBER 12 · 5–10 MINUTES

More than a meal



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A SMALL WINDOW ON THE WORLD

UNESCO describes Singapore’s hawker centres as “community dining rooms” where people from different backgrounds gather over breakfast, lunch, and dinner; they developed from street food culture.¹

Think about the difference between a place that serves food and a place where you feel comfortable spending time. What, if anything, makes the difference for you?

ONE GOOD QUESTION

What makes a shared meal feel welcoming rather than obligatory?

¹ UNESCO. <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/hawker-culture-in-singapore-community-dining-and-culinary-practices-in-a-multicultural-urban-context-01568>

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 2

More than a meal

IF THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

- What is a comfortable way to invite someone to join a table?
- How can a wish for quiet or privacy be respected?

TRY A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

Imagine someone new arrives and is unsure where to sit. What could make their first visit easier without putting them on the spot?

You do not need to have visited Singapore or enjoy group dining. Different preferences belong in the conversation.

Read, discuss, or simply reflect. No food purchase, tasting, or speaking turn is required.

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 3 • WEEK OF OCTOBER 19 • 5–10 MINUTES

Something worth passing on



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A SMALL WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Martine Postma organized the first Repair Café in Amsterdam on October 18, 2009.¹

At Repair Cafés, visitors bring broken items and work with skilled volunteers on repairs, sharing practical knowledge in the process.²

For our conversation, set the tools aside. Think instead about the experience of learning something from another person.

ONE GOOD QUESTION

What is a skill or piece of know-how worth passing on?

¹ Repair Café International. <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/>

² Repair Café International. <https://www.repaircafe.org/en/about/>

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 3

Something worth passing on

IF THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

- What made someone a good teacher for you?
- What would you enjoy learning, rather than teaching?

TRY A DIFFERENT VIEWPOINT

A useful skill need not be mechanical. It might involve listening, cooking, organizing, drawing, asking questions, or welcoming someone.

You do not need a special talent or a success story to join in. An imagined example is welcome.

This is a conversation, not a repair workshop. Do not bring broken appliances or attempt repairs as part of this activity.

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 4 • WEEK OF OCTOBER 26 • 5-10 MINUTES

The pleasure of an unexpected find



All illustrations made for The World Desk; not photographs.

A SMALL WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Along the Seine in Paris, booksellers known as bouquinistes sell books, engravings, magazines, and other printed material from riverside stalls.¹

Imagine browsing without a shopping list. A title, an illustration, or a conversation might lead you toward something you had not planned to notice.

ONE GOOD QUESTION

Where do you enjoy discovering something you weren't looking for?

¹ CNN's account of Paris's booksellers. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/26/travel/paris-booksellers-intl-cmd>

For residents of [Your Community]

TABLE TALK 4

The pleasure of an unexpected find

IF THE CONVERSATION CONTINUES

- Do you prefer browsing freely or asking someone for a recommendation?
- What makes an unfamiliar subject worth a closer look?

BRING THE IDEA HOME

Imagine a shared shelf or table labeled “*Something you might enjoy.*” What would you put there: a book, a question, a picture, or something else?

You do not need to have visited Paris or be a book collector. Your example could come from conversation, reading, music, or everyday life.

Participation is optional. Leave space for someone who wants to browse or think quietly.