My book club recently celebrated one year of what we like to call “Reads and Eats.” Even though we hail from all over the country, we share a common interest in food – cooking it, eating it, and learning about it. We also all happen to be Penn alumnae. Even though we didn’t all know each other during our undergraduate years at Penn, our continued residence in Philadelphia has helped bring us together. Our busy schedules dictate an every-other-month meeting, and we rotate meeting sites in each of our homes in different neighborhoods of the city to balance out the hostess duties. Every meeting is a potluck-style meal with dishes representative of that month’s book selection, so there is an obvious stipulation: the book must revolve around food. We have read within a number of genres, from memoirs to “magical realism” to historical research. (Read about our most recent book club meeting here - my sister and I document our own food adventures, including recaps of our book club meetings, on our blog, Two Eat Philly.) Our favorite so far: A Homemade Life by Molly Wizenberg.

The best part of getting together on a regular basis is catching up on each other’s lives and inevitably talking about the best new restaurants in the city or a particularly good recipe one of us recently found. The food doesn’t hurt either, with special thanks to the fantastic bakers in the group!