

BOOK TALK OVERVIEW

What is a book talk?

The purpose of a book talk is to “sell” the book you just read. Think of it as a commercial or movie trailer for the book. You will create a 2-3 minute talk about a book that includes just enough plot, character, setting, and conflict information to interest other students in the classroom. The main purpose of a book talk is to grab an audience’s attention and make them want to read the book.

How do I complete the book talk assignment?

1. Read the book (never try to do a book talk on a book you haven’t read).
2. Complete the Book Talk Pre-Write.
3. Write a final version of your book talk.
4. Practice your book talk.
5. Present your book talk to the class.

What is included in a book talk?

The **HOOK** (something that will grab the audience’s attention)

- Ask a question
- Connect a theme to the listeners’ lives
- Read an interesting part of the book
- Use props
- Link the book to other novels or movies

The **CONTENT** (tell about the characters, setting, and plot)

- Vividly describe the setting
- Retell an exciting part of the book
- Share memorable characters
- Give background information on the plot (not the whole story)

The **CLIFFHANGER**

- End your book talk with something unresolved. Leave the audience wanting more so that the listeners will want to read the book to find out what happens.

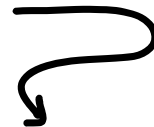
SAMPLE:

Have you ever had a secret place that you could escape to? Who would you share that place with? In Bridge to Terabithia, two fifth grade children, Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke become unlikely best friends. Jess, a boy from a large, poor family befriends the big-city girl, Leslie, who is an only child. Their home lives are totally different, but they become best friends. Together they create their own “magical” kingdom they call Terabithia. As the rulers of this make-believe world, they can escape the realities of their lives. During spring break, a tragedy strikes that threatens to destroy Terabithia. Read this book to find out if the magic of Terabithia will be lost forever.

Book Talk Pre-Write

HOOK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask a question • Give an interesting fact • Select a quote • Connect them to audience
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Title _____
Author _____
Genre _____




SETTING	CHARACTERS	
When and Where Vivid Descriptions	List Main Characters	Describe How they look and behave



PLOT	
What is the book about?	
What is the main problem in the book?	
What is the most exciting part of the book?	

CLIFFHANGER
Write your opinion of the book.
Why should others read this book?





Book Talk – Final Copy

Things to remember:

- Write an exciting and entertaining book talk.
- Include a hook, overview of the book (plot, setting, characters, theme) and a cliffhanger.
- Don't give away the ending.

Ways to “jazz up” your book talk:

- Read an excerpt from the book.
- Create a slideshow with pictures and words to tell about the book.
- Act out a part of the book.

Using your pre-write, write a **final copy** of the book talk below.

NOW...Practice, Practice, Practice!

Remember to maintain eye contact with your audience and pace your talk.

Presenting a Book Talk

Know Your Book Talk

- This is _____ the same as _____.
- _____ your book talk over and over again until you are very familiar with it.
- You can practice your book talk:
 - In front of a small _____ (friends, parents, siblings)
 - In front of a _____
 - Into a _____

Speak Loudly and Clearly

- _____ your words.
- _____ to _____ a point.
- _____ briefly after points you want your audience to _____.

Maintain Good Eye Contact

- _____ your audience as you speak.
- If you don't make eye contact, your audience will feel _____ and disconnected from your book talk.

Use Gestures

- _____ small hand gestures, when appropriate. However, too much movement can be _____ to the audience.

Be Entertaining

- Be _____ about your topic.
- Maintain the audience's attention by delivering an _____ book talk in an _____ manner.

Name _____

Book Talk Rubric

CRITERIA	1 Developing	2 Quality	3 Exemplary
SETTING	Few details about the setting.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience where and when the story takes place.	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story takes place.
CHARACTERS	The main characters are named. The audience learns very little else about the characters.	The main characters are named and described. The audience has a fairly good idea of what the characters are like.	The main characters are named and clearly described. The audience learns what the characters look and act like.
PROBLEM	The problem is not addressed or remains unclear.	It is fairly easy to understand what the problem is.	The problem is presented in a clear way.
PLOT	Some of the story is shared. The speaker seems unprepared.	The story is somewhat clear. The speaker is fairly confident with the plot.	The presenter knows the story well and has deep understanding of the plot.
PRESENTATION	The presenter makes little or no eye contact. Pace may be too fast or too slow.	The presenter maintains some eye contact. Reasonable pace.	Excellent presentation skills demonstrated!

Comments:

Total _____ / 15

Name _____

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Comments:

Total _____ / 15

Presenting a Book Talk

Know Your Book Talk

- This is not the same as memorizing.
- Practice your book talk over and over again until you are very familiar with it.
- You can practice your book talk:
 - In front of a small audience (friends, parents, siblings)
 - In front of a mirror
 - Into a recording device

Speak Loudly and Clearly

- Enunciate your words.
- Slow down to emphasize a point.
- Pause briefly after points you want your audience to remember.

Maintain Good Eye Contact

- Scan your audience as you speak.
- If you don't make eye contact, your audience will feel left out and disconnected from your book talk.

Use Gestures

- Incorporate small hand gestures, when appropriate. However, too much movement can be distracting to the audience.

Be Entertaining

- Be enthusiastic about your topic.
- Maintain the audience's attention by delivering an interesting book talk in an engaging manner.