

BOOK TALK INSTRUCTIONS

A book talk is similar to an oral book report, but with more emphasis on getting other students interested in reading the book on their own. It does not have to be written out word-for-word, but you must prepare notes on index cards to use during your talk. **The talk must be between three and four minutes long.** Follow the instructions below as you prepare.

1. Bring a copy of the book with you to class.
2. Divide the talk into three sections: introduction, body, and conclusion.
 - **Introduction**
Begin your talk with a hook that gets the audience's attention (e.g., an interesting quote from the book, a startling statement about it, or an interesting question). Tell the class the basic information about the book: title, author, genre, major characters, setting (both where and when).
 - **Body**
Summarize the plot without giving away the ending. Describe the basic conflict in the book, and create a sense of suspense to entice others to read it.
 - **Conclusion**
End your talk with an evaluation of the book: choose at least one aspect of it (e.g., plot, characters, or dialogue) that you either liked or disliked and explain what was good or bad about it. Finally, include a recommendation for the book, explaining who would like it, who wouldn't, and why.
3. Choose a favorite passage of 100-200 words from the book to share with the class. This passage may come from anywhere in the book as long as it doesn't give away the ending. Choose a passage you like and will enjoy reading aloud. The passage should give the class a sense of the author's style and should make them want to read more on their own. It could be a descriptive paragraph, a section of dialogue, or an action sequence.

You must decide where in your book talk to read the passage; you may read it during the introduction, body, or conclusion – wherever you think the passage best fits in your talk. Be creative and find just the right place for it.

**BOOK TALK
EVALUATION SHEET**

Student: _____

Title of Book: _____

1. Preparation

- **Introduction** (20 points) Points Earned _____
Bring the book with you.
Make note cards for your talk.
Capture my attention with an interesting hook.
Include the title, author, and genre.
Describe the setting – both where and when.
Name the major characters.

- **Body** (30 points) Points Earned _____
Summarize the story without revealing the ending.
Discuss the basic conflict in the story with specific details.
Choose a favorite passage from the book to read aloud.
End with a cliffhanger to make others want to read the book.

- **Conclusion** (10 points) Points Earned _____
Evaluate the author's style – plot, characters, or dialogue.
Make a recommendation about who would or wouldn't like it, and why.

2. Presentation

- **Posture** (10 points) Points Earned _____

- **Eye Contact** (10 points) Points Earned _____

- **Enthusiasm, smoothness, and expression** (10 points) Points Earned _____

- **Poise to and from the podium** (5 points) Points Earned _____

- **Gestures and mannerisms** (5 points) Points Earned _____

Additional Comments:

Final Grade: _____