Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Book Talk Guidelines**

Length: 2-3 minutes

Think of a book talk as a book trailer: you are not trying to tell us everything about the book, and you don’t want to spoil the book by giving away the ending or major turning points in the book. Instead, you want to get others to want to read the book. Follow these guidelines for your book talk:

**1.**  Start with an attention-grabber. This could be reading an exciting part of the book, asking a rhetorical question (one that people don’t answer), asking the audience to imagine something, setting a mood or creating a scene, etc.

**2.** Introduce the book. What genre does it go in? How many pages are in it? Is it difficult to read?

**3.** Talk about the book. Do not give away any important parts (like the ending!). Talk about some interesting parts. Set up the plot. Give just enough information to make others want to read it.

**4.** Read from the book. Pick a short section that would make others want to read the book: something exciting, interesting, or a part that’s really well-written.

**5.** Give the book a rating (1 to 5 stars - 5 being the best) and say who might like the book (if you like the Percy Jackson series…).

**Book Talk Rubric**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent (5 pts) | Adequate (3 pts) | Needs Work (1 pt) |
| Attention Grabber | The attention grabber gets the audience’s attention. | Attempts to do an attention-grabber, but it is not interesting and does not grab the audience’s attention. | Missing or inadequate attention grabber. |
| Introduce the Book | Talks about genre, page numbers, and difficulty level. | Introduces some information about the genre, page numbers, and difficulty level. | Lists one or fewer of the book’s genre, page numbers, or difficulty level. |
| Talks about the Book | Does not give away important parts, but talks about interesting parts that make others want to read it. | Talks about the book, but may give away important parts. | Does very little talking about the book and does not include important or interesting parts. |
| Read from the Book | Pick a short section that would make others want to read the book. | Selection read is long or does not make others want to read the book. | Selection is not read. |
| Book Rating | Gives the book a rating (1 to 5 stars) and says who might like the book. | Either gives the book a rating or says who might like the book. | Does not rate the book or say who might like it. |

Mrs. Eynon’s example:

**1.**  You wake up one morning and see that you’ve slept in and missed the bus. Next you realize that it’s Friday and go to get your house shirt, but it’s dirty. You wear a plain shirt to school and go to first period. When you arrive at first period, you remember that you forgot to do your homework. The teacher asks for it at the beginning of class and you don’t even have your name written on it. Some might call this a series of unfortunate events.

**2.** The book I will be talking about today is *A Series of Unfortunate Events* by Lemony Snickets. It is a fiction book with fantasy as the genre. There are 162 pages and it is a quick read.

**3.** This book starts out when three siblings lose their parents. They go to live with their uncle Count Olaf who is very evil. He makes them slave away by cleaning his house and making him dinner. The children don’t know how to do these things, but they are so afraid of him that they have to figure out a way to make it all work.

**4.** The language of this book is full of satire. For example the back of the book is similar to how the author writes throughout the novel.

Read from the book.

**5.** I would give this book a 4.5 out of 5 stars. It’s not my favorite book, but it’s still really great. If you liked Holes, Maniac Magee, Miss Periguines school for peculiar children, I would recommend this book.