# Book Talk

A Reading and Oral Language Activity to Take the Place of Traditional Book Reports

RUNDE'S Room
live Love laugh Learn

# Book Talk - About This Resource

Lose the traditional book report and still hold your students accountable for their independent reading.

Having your students complete book talks helps them practice their oral speaking skills and allows other students in the class to hear about (and get excited about) other books.

Encourage your students to go the extra mile when presenting their book talks. I've had students dress up like a character in the book, or speak like a character in the book. I've even had students make media slideshows that play while they are presenting their material.

Hand out the guideline sheet, organizer, and student success criteria and discuss with students. Tell them the graphic organizer should be used to jot down points they wish to include in their book talk. The success criteria checklist should also be used during the planning process to make sure they have included all the necessary requirements. Display the rubric and read through with students prior to them beginning their planning.

Option: you could have students hand in the written copy of their book talk for a writing mark, but it is important to stress that when students present their book talks to the class, they must NOT simply read from a written copy.

I have also included a peer evaluation form in case you wish to have two or three students act as peer evaluators during the book talks. I usually do this in my class to help keep students focused as well as having them think about what makes a successful book talk.

I've required that the book talks be 3 - 5 minutes in my classroom, but I haven't included a time requirement in the success criteria or rubric in case you wish to have different requirements.

# Book Talk Guidelines

There are three key elements to a good book talk: the hook, the content, and the cliff hanger. Your talk should be 3 – 5 minutes. Remember to bring your book to show on the day of your talk. Use the graphic organizer to help you plan your talk.

## 1. The Hook: Present something that will grab the listeners' attention:
- Link the book to a particular movie.
- Read a gory / scary / funny section of the book.
- Use props, costumes, or sound effects.
- Get the audience to participate – ask questions, repeat / discuss key phrases, title, etc.
- Relate the events or feelings in the book to current events or feelings in the listeners' lives.

## 2. The Content: Tell about the genre, characters, plot, setting or theme in an interesting way:
- Provide facts / details from the novel, then move on to something shocking or surprising.
- Know a secret? Talk about it, but don't reveal it.
- Copy dialogue to read or share as reader's theatre.
- Tie the plot or setting into a historical event or time period.
- Get into character: dress, act and/or speak like the main character.
- Show a great picture (especially for non-fiction).
- Tell something interesting about the author.

## 3. The Cliff hanger: End it with your listeners wanting more:
- End your book talk leaving the audience wondering how the novel ends – do not give away the ending.
- Leave them wanting more so that they will want to read the book to find out what happens next.

When presenting, remember: organization, eye contact, facial and vocal expression, body actions, volume, grammar, pronunciation, and vocabulary.

# Book Talk Organizer

Book: _____

Author: _____

Presentation Due Date: _____

**The Hook** – How are you planning to hook your audience?  What information from the book will you include?  How will you present this information?

**The Content** – This is NOT a retell.  You need to include information about the author, genre, plot, setting, and characters.  How will you present this information?  How can you make it more interesting than simply listing facts about the book?  How will you organize this information?

**The Cliff hanger** – How are you going to leave the audience wanting more?  What information will you give the audience a "taste" of to make them feel they MUST go out and get the book?

**The Presentation** – Think about your actual presentation?  How will you remember what you want to discuss?  What style will you present in?  How will your presentation be unique?

# Book Talk Success Criteria

Name: _____

Book: _____

Author: _____

Presentation Due Date: _____

- ❑ I included a hook to get my audience's attention

- ❑ I mentioned the book title, author, and genre at the beginning of my presentation

- ❑ I gave details about the setting

- ❑ I gave details about the plot

- ❑ I gave details about the main character(s)

- ❑ I discussed the problem without giving away the resolution

- ❑ I included the audience in my presentation

- ❑ I left the audience wanting more at the end

- ❑ I added something special to my presentation to make it unique

- ❑ I made others want to read my book

- ❑ I practiced my presentation so it would sound natural

## Planning Reflection:

Which parts of your book talk were the easiest to plan?  Which were the most difficult?  Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

# Book Talk Rubric

Name: _____

Book: _____

Date: _____

| Criteria | Level 1 | Level 2 | Level 3 | Level 4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Introduction** | Little or no introduction. Book talk launches straight into content. | Some introduction included, but more could be done to "hook" the audience. | Good introduction and "hook" to catch the audience's interest. | Excellent introduction and creative "hook" to catch the audience's interest. |
| **Content** | Limited content included – missing a lot of information. Limited discussion of plot, setting and characters. Content was simply read from a paper. | Some content included – missing some information. Some discussion of plot, setting and characters. A large amount of content was read from a paper. | Good inclusion of content. Discussion included genre, plot, setting and characters, with a satisfactory amount of details. Some content was read from a paper. | Excellent inclusion of content. Discussion included genre, plot, setting and characters, with a thorough amount of details. Content was presented in a natural manner – not read from a paper. |
| **Cliff hanger** | Little or no cliff hanger. Presentation ends abruptly. | Some evidence of cliff hanger. Too much information may have been given, or not enough to make the audience want to read the book. | Good cliff hanger ending that makes the audience want to read the book. | Creative and unique cliff hanger ending that makes the audience want to read the book. |
| **Voice** | Volume, expression and enunciation are not appropriate for presentation. | Volume, expression and enunciation are sometimes appropriate for presentation. | Volume, expression and enunciation are appropriate for presentation most of the time. | Volume, expression and enunciation are appropriate for presentation all of the time. |
| **Grammar and Organization** | Many grammar errors. Presentation has limited flow of organization of content. | Some grammar errors. Presentation has some flow of organization of content. | Few grammar errors. Presentation has considerable flow of organization of content. | No grammar errors. Presentation has excellent and natural flow of organization of content. |

Comments:

# Book Talk Peer Evaluation

Name: _____

Book: _____

| Criteria | ★★★ | ★★ | ★ |
|---|---|---|---|
| Speaker hooked the audience at the beginning. | | | |
| Content from the novel was covered in an interesting way. | | | |
| Speaker ended the book talk in a way that made me want to read the book. | | | |
| Voice level was loud enough to be heard at all times. | | | |
| Speaker spoke directly to the audience – presentation was natural and not read from a paper. | | | |

Thank-you so much for downloading one of my resources. I sincerely hope you and your students ENJOY!

Be sure to follow me at my TPT store, my blog, or my facebook page for more classroom ideas and resources.

www.rundesroom.com
http://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Store/Rundes-Room
https://www.facebook.com/RundesRoom

Credits:

KG Fonts
Lifetime Licensed

Get Hooked!
FishScraps
DIGITAL ART FOR CREATIVE PEOPLE LIKE YOU.