

about BOOK TALKS

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 A 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 SHOULD I INCLUDE IN my 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 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.