

Become a Book Talk Star!

Materials Needed First!

- A book the student has recently finished reading and enjoyed.
- Paper or index cards for notes.
- Pencil or pen.
- Optional: A timer (to practice keeping the talk brief).
- Optional: Fun props related to the book (e.g., a hat the character wears, a map of the setting).

Introduction: What's a Book Talk? (5 minutes)

Have you ever read a book SO good you just HAD to tell someone about it? That's basically what a book talk is! It's like a movie trailer, but for a book. The goal is to get someone else excited about reading it *without* giving away all the secrets (especially the ending!). It's your chance to share your opinion and be a book recommender!

Step 1: Choose Your Book! (Already done!)

You've picked a book you recently finished. Great choice!

Step 2: Brainstorm Key Points (15 minutes)

Let's think about what makes this book special. On your paper or index cards, jot down answers to these questions:

- What is the title and who is the author?
- Who are the main characters? Describe one or two briefly.
- Where and when does the story mostly take place (the setting)?
- What is the main problem or adventure in the story (the plot)? Try to explain it without giving away the ending!
- What was your favorite part? Why?
- What did you think of the book overall? (Did you love it? Like it? Think it was just okay?) Give a reason!
- Who would you recommend this book to? (e.g., kids who like mystery, fantasy fans, animal lovers).

Step 3: Organize Your Talk (10 minutes)

Now, let's put those ideas in order for your talk. A good book talk usually flows like this:

1. **Hook:** Start with something exciting! Maybe a question ("Have you ever wondered what it's like to...") or a cool fact about the book or a character. Mention the title and author.
2. **Taste (Characters/Setting/Problem):** Briefly introduce the main character(s) and the setting. Hint at the main problem or adventure. Remember, no spoilers!
3. **Your Opinion:** Share what you liked best and why. Give your overall feeling about the book.
4. **Recommendation:** Tell who you think would enjoy reading this book.
5. **Closing:** End with a strong concluding sentence, maybe reminding people of the title.

Use your notes from Step 2 to structure your talk on your index cards or paper. Don't write out every

word, just key points to remind you.

Step 4: Practice! (10 minutes)

Read through your notes. Practice saying your book talk out loud. Try to make eye contact (even if you're talking to a stuffed animal!). Speak clearly and with enthusiasm. If you want, use a timer to keep it short - maybe 2-3 minutes max.

Step 5: Showtime! (5 minutes)

Present your book talk! Your audience could be a parent, sibling, grandparent, or even your toys. Relax, have fun, and share your love (or like!) of the book. Use your notes if you need them. If you have props, now's the time to show them!

Wrap-up: Reflection (5 minutes)

Great job! How did it feel? What part was easiest? What was trickiest? What would you do differently next time? Giving book talks gets easier and more fun with practice!