

Book Talk Assignment and Rubric Grade 6

Your Book Talk assignment involves delivering a 3 minute book talk to the class about the novel you have read for independent reading. The object of a book talk is to convince the listener to read the book you are recommending. This book talk is essentially a persuasive speech to convince the listener that they should read a specific book. A book talk is very similar to a trailer for a film, which shows you just enough information to convince you that you should watch the movie

Your presentation must include a **visual aid**, such as a drawing, collage, map, original book cover, etc to present to the audience. You may use notes to make your presentation. The book talk will cover the some elements of the novel, but you should focus much of your time on the plot and conflict of the novel.

Introduction: Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious quote to start off your presentation. This quote will get the reader's attention. Don't just pick any old quote... choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the quote. Clearly introduce your book by giving the name and author of the book.

Middle: The middle of the presentation will cover the setting, characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story. Tell a little where the book is set, what kind of action or conflict is involved in the book, and what it is about in general. See if you can mention the theme of the novel. Under **no circumstances** should you give away the ending of the novel. Do not just list the characters and the setting and don't give a drawn out summary of the book.

Resolution: Without giving away the ending, convince the reader that you loved this book and that this is the book they want to read next. Make some predictions which student in the class would enjoy the book.

An example of a short book talk on *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman



1. "There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife."

So begins the story of Nobody Owens, known as Bod. On the night his parents are brutally murdered, 2 year old Bod calmly climbs out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into a nearby cemetery. There he is adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens (childless and dead for 250 years!) who gladly care for the child and protect him from harm.

With loving ghostly parents, teachers, friends, and protectors, Bod grows from age two to fifteen in the graveyard. He learns to read and do numbers, and he also learns some ghostly skills. But not all the residents of the graveyard are friendly. There are witches, ghouls and creatures and let's not forget Jack - the evil friend who is out to finish the job he started.

Filled with great illustrations, this is a funny, exciting and suspenseful story. How will Bod survive? Or will he? Can his loving family and friends really protect him from the evil Jack? This delightfully gruesome and very English tale will certainly appeal to both boys and girls who like adventure stories, suspense and some action. *The Graveyard Book* won the Newbery Award in 2009, and the awards said that the book is a "delicious mix of murder, fantasy, humour and human longing.. (by Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Librarian for [The Washington Evergreen Young Adult Book Award](#), 2011)

Rubric for Book Talk

Criteria	Excellent 20 - 16	Above Average 15 - 10	Average 10 - 7	Below Average 0 - 6
Introduction attracts audience	Exceptional creative beginning with an excellent quote	Creative beginning with a good quote	Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quote	Not a very good beginning with no quote
Maintains eye contact	Always maintains eye contact and engages audience	Almost always maintains eye contact	Sometimes maintains eye contact	Never maintains eye contact
Discusses the plot, setting, and characters	Thorough and interesting summary of these elements.	Somewhat thorough and interesting summary of these elements	Average summary of the elements	Does not summarize these elements or is missing a component.
Discusses the theme	Correctly discusses theme and makes an educated argument for the theme of the novel	Correctly discusses theme but fails to elaborate on the importance	Discusses theme but is incorrect or not very thorough in their elaboration of theme	Does not discuss theme or makes a very general statement about the theme.
Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)	Very enticing conclusion – draws the listener to read the book	Somewhat interesting conclusion- listener might want to read the book	Concluded but did not draw the listener to read the book	Very boring conclusion or no conclusion at all.
Demonstrates enthusiasm for the book	Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable	Somewhat enthusiastic and knowledgeable	Shows average enthusiasm and understanding	Not enthusiastic at all
Audible	Voice is clear, words are pronounced correctly and tempo is good.	Voice is mostly clear and audible, Pronunciation is mostly correct.	Sometimes hard to understand or hear the student. Mispronounces common words.	Spoken word is too soft, mumble, speaking much too fast or slow.
Visual aid	Visual aid is well done, colorful, and very helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is colorful, and helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is completed and might be helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is not done or very poorly done
Stays within time limit	Within time limit 3 minutes			Too short or too long

Comments:

Total score: