

**Purpose:** I like to use the analogy of a movie trailer. The purpose of a book talk is to "sell" the book. You want to give enough of the plot to interest the listeners to entice them to read it. You don't want to give away the important parts of the book. Book talks are presented orally to our class. The book talker presents the book talk and incorporates a visual aid. For tips on how to prepare and present a book talk, see tips on how to rock a book talk below.

**The Book:** Choose a book you haven’t read. Pick something you are interesting in reading. The book must be a grade level chapter book. No graphic novels. Your book must be approved by Mrs. Rinkel.

**Graphic Organizer:** Complete the graphic organizer to help you prepare for your book talk. This will be turned in after your book talk.

**Presentation:** Time limits: 3 – 5 minutes. You must have some kind of visual when you give your book talk. Your visual aid must also be incorporated into your presentation. It can be a prop, a PowerPoint, etc... Be creative. Do not leave the explanation of your visual aid until the very end. You must have the book with you when you present, but this does not count as your visual aid.

**When:** Youwill give our book talk in January. A sign-up sheet will be in Mrs. Rinkel’s room.

**How to Rock a Book Talk**

There are three key elements to a good book talk: the hook, the content, and the closing with cliffhanger.

**1. The Hook – Catchy beginning, something that will get the attention of the audience.**

* Start with a thought provoking question
* Use props
* Use sound (music, book on tape, sound effects)
* Read a quote or passage from the book
* Relate the events/feelings in the book to current events/feelings in the listener’s lives
* Include book title and genre. Why did you choose this book to read?

**2. The Content – Tell about the characters, setting, plot, conflict and author.**

* What is this book about?
* Setting - Tell us about where and when the story takes place. Give us some detail about the setting so we can imagine what it was like.
* Problem- Every story has a problem or conflict. Give us a brief summary of the story and explain what the conflict was.
* Describe the plot in one or two sentences. You don’t need to explain everything that happened, and you don’t want to give away the exciting stuff.
* Character analysis- Help us get to know the main characters. Tell us who they are, a little about his/her personality, and any other important information we should know.
* Protagonist (the “good guy”) - Explain why you think this character is the protagonist.
* Antagonist (the “bad guy”) - Explain why you think this character is the antagonist.
* Provide facts, then move to something shocking or surprising
* Know a secret, talk about it, don’t reveal it
* Theme- What is the message the author is trying to get across in this story? Also, explain how you decided on the theme.
* Make connections to other books, movies, your life or the world
* Tie the plot into a historical event or time period
* What did you learn about the world or human nature from this book? Did this book remind you of yourself, something or someone around you, or something else you’ve read?
* Tell something interesting about the author
* What other books or series has the author written?

**3. The Closing & Cliffhanger – Close your book talk with something unresolved. Leave them wanting more, so the reader will want to read the book to find out what happens next.**

* Would you recommend this book?
* Describe the feeling you had while reading. Were you happy? Were you scared?
* Is there an image in the book, or a passage, or a particular moment that captures why you liked the book so much?
* Who would you recommend read this book? Why?
* What would your rate this book on a scale of 1 to 5?
* Create a cliffhanger. Leave your listeners with a compelling reason for checking out the book you recommended.