**Book Talk Assignment**

For your Book Talk, you will give one 2-3 minute presentation on a book you are reading. The purpose 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.*

The book talk will cover *some* elements of the novel, but you should focus much of your time on the plot, themes and conflict in the novel. **NO SPOILERS!!! (Don’t give away anything juicy.)**

**Presentation Outline:**

**Attention getter:**

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.

**Introduction:**

Clearly introduce your book by giving the title, author and genre of the book.

**Body:**

Describe the setting, characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story.

What is the main conflict? What themes are developed? What lessons do characters learn? Please use precise and descriptive language. Don’t just give a list of characters. Don’t over-summarize. (Hint—you are doing this if you find yourself saying “and” too much.)

**Tips:**

Practice your presentation a few times before you present. Time yourself.

Use note-cards or an outline. This will prevent nerves.

**Alternative: Students can pre-record a book-talk and upload it to youtube.com. All other requirements are the same. Search “book talks” or “book trailers” on youtube.com for examples.**

Organizer:

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| Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience)  There was this beautiful princess locked in a high tower, one with mirrored walls that wouldn't shut up. There was no elevator or any other way down, but when  the princess grew bored of staring at her own pretty face in the mirrors, she decided to jump. She invited all her friends to come along, and they all followed her  down—except her best friend, whose invitation had been lost.  The tower was guarded by a gray dragon with jeweled eyes and a hungry maw. It had many legs and moved almost too fast to see, but it pretended to be asleep,  and let the princess and her friends sneak past. |
| Introduction (Title, Author, Genre)   * **Pretties** was written by Scott Westfield and is the 2nd in the series * Picks up where the first one left off * Post apocalypse * People were violent now they are not because… of control through meeting peoples wants * But, when does the human end or begin? |
| Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!)   * 1st book Tally Youngblood about to become a pretty…can’t wait * There are two sides to every coin…pretties and the smoke * This book she is on the other side with potential cures to the control of society * Control of being a stupid pretty with shallow whims and wants that keep you satisfied. * …but we are also starting to find out more and more about the world Tally lives in including more types of people, how the gov’t works and what is really going on…like peeling an onion (alla alice in wonderland) * This book is really about coming of age, finding ourselves, and identifying our roles in life * The princess is Tally, the mirror is her facing up to herself, the tower is society, and challenge…for all of us…is to find ourselves and who we are in the society around us that controls so much of our lives |
| Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific)  The first book was great but mid-way through this book I was floundering. Then the onion layers pealed away, the true strength of this book started to reveal itself and now I am in for the whole series.  This is a coming of age story made for young readers that find themselves amid confusion and lack of self (which is about all of us). It focuses on questioning the world around you, binding together with others, and working hard for what is truly important in life: relationships and the self. If you are a young reader with an interest in strong protangonists that never quite, all whilse being vulnerable and strong all at the same time…then this book is for you. |

Organizer:

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| --- |
| Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience) |
| Introduction (Title, Author, Genre) |
| Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!) |
| Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific) |

**Rubric for Book Talk**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Excellent**  **20 - 16** | **Above Average**  **15 - 10** | **Average**  **10 - 7** | **Below Average**  **0 - 6** |
| **Introduction attracts audience** | **Exceptionally 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** |
| **Discusses the plot, setting, and characters**  **Discusses the theme** | **Thorough and interesting summary of these elements**  **Makes an insightful argument about the theme** | **Inconsistent summary of these elements**  **Correctly discusses theme but fails to elaborate on the importance** | **Average summary of the elements**  **Touches upon theme without much depth** | **Missing a component**  **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** |
| **Presentation skills**  **&**  **Enthusiasm for the book** | **Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable**  **Voice is clear, words are pronounced correctly and tempo is good**  **Maintains eye-contact** | **Somewhat enthusiastic and knowledgeable**  **Voice is mostly clear and audible,**  **Mostly maintains eye-contact** | **Shows average enthusiasm and understanding**  **Sometimes hard to understand or hear the student**  **Little eye-contact** | **Not enthusiastic at all**  **Spoken word is too soft, mumble, speaking much too fast or slow.**  **No eye-contact** |
| **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: Yes / No**

**Comments: Score:**