

Booktalk Guidelines

“A book talk is a short, exciting glimpse of a book or other text delivered with enthusiasm, expressive excerpting, and a conclusion that keeps listeners guessing”
(Zambo & Brozo, 2008: 110).

- Please read a book and prepares a book talk that incorporates the following features:

1. **An attention-grabbing introduction**
2. **Broad-stroke information about the book**
3. **Contextual information about a scene to be extracted**
4. **An exciting excerpt read aloud**
5. **A conclusion that leaves listeners eager to learn more**

- The successful “Booktalker”:

- ✓ **Rehearses, practicing to keep the talk within a timeframe of 5-7 minutes**
- ✓ **Shows enthusiasm**
- ✓ **Uses an effective oral reading voice**
- ✓ **Uses appropriate simple gestures and props**
- ✓ **Makes frequent eye contact with all students**
- ✓ **Shares the book’s photos and illustrations**
- ✓ **Makes the book available to the audience in the end**

- The successful “Booktalker”:

- ❖ Does not say too much about the book
- ❖ Does not give away the end
- ❖ Does not use notes or scripts, as the booktalk should simulate natural and spontaneous conversation

Sources:

Zambo, D. & Brozo, W. G. (2008). *Bright Beginnings for Boys: Engaging young boys in active literacy*. Newark: International Reading Association.

Atwell, N. (2007). *The Reading Zone: How to help kids become skilled, passionate, habitual, critical readers*. New York: Scholastic.