

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.