



Independent Reading Book Talk Assignment

For this assignment, you will choose a book from the attached list. You will read the book and prepare a Book Talk (oral book report) for the class. It must be a book which you commit to reading with the first two weeks of the semester.

Time

5-7 minutes

Recommendation:

If you feel you need note cards for assistance, please do not read from them.

Procedures

Your Book Talk should include the following:

- 1) The title, author, publication date of your book. **You should have the book with you to show to the class.**
- 2) Briefly summarize the book (don't spend too long on this) by telling who the main characters are, what the central conflict/idea is, what the important events in the book are, and what you believe the author wants readers to take from the experience of reading the book. **It's best not to reveal too much or tell the ending**, especially if you are ultimately recommending the book as a good read.
- 3) Introduce and then read a passage from the book. This passage should be from a significant moment in the story that describes a main character in some way, illuminates the book's theme or central idea, represents an important point in the plot, strikingly reflects the author's style, or foreshadows something exciting. In other words, choose a passage that excites the imagination!
- 4) Finally, tell the audience if you would recommend the book or not, and explain your three main reasons why (or for what audience the read is appropriate).

******Remember to practice your book talk out loud before the due date!!!!******

Due Date: _____

Book Talk Grading Rubric

- _____ /5 points — Introduction includes author, title, and publication date.
- _____ /5 points — Actual book presented for visual.
- _____ /10 points — Book summary is not too long, but provides enough details to develop an understanding of the book's main characters/ideas; summary suggests speaker has full knowledge of the book being discussed.
- _____ /10 points — A passage is read with sufficient energy and explanation.
- _____ /5 points — Recommendation for or against book is supported by at least 3 well-reasoned points.
- _____ /5 points — All behaviors of good public speaking are demonstrated, including sufficient voice volume and modulation, few “umms” and “likes,” use of note cards for outline only (no reading from note cards), eye contact with audience is maintained, speech is 5-7 minutes in length.
- _____ /40 **TOTAL SCORE**