

## **Book Talk Assignment- DUE NOVEMBER 16th**

For your Book Talk, you will give one 3 minute presentation on a book you've finished reading. The purpose of a book talk is to tell the other readers about the book, and to recommend it to others if you enjoyed it.

*Your book talk should be written in first person (you are talking about the book from one of the character's point of views.*

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.

#### **Introduction: (first paragraph)**

Introduce your book with a brief description of who you are as the character.

#### **Body: (second and third paragraphs)**

Describe the setting, other characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story. What is the main conflict your character has? What themes are developed? What lessons does your character and other 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.)

#### **Conclusion:**

Without giving away the ending, conclude your book talk with some other details that might convince your classmates to read this book.

\*\*Don't forget to end the book talk with the title, author, and a recommendation to other readers.

\*\*\*Students are to complete this AT HOME on paper. Once their assignment is turned in on Friday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> we will as a class type them and also record the on Flip Grid to finish the assignment.

Organizer:

Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience)  One line
Introduction (Introduce the character with character traits and description)  Paragraph 1
Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!)  Paragraphs 2-3
Conclusion (Title, Genre, Author, and recommendation. Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific)  Paragraph 4

An example of a short Book Talk on *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman:

**(Attention-Getter)**

"There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife."

**(Intro)**

This is the story of Nobody, actually it really is because that is my name, Nobody Owens. Most call me Bod. I like to consider myself as a friendly and intelligent, and I also have some other qualities that may seem a little strange. After all, I was raised by ghosts!

**(Body)**

At just 2 years old, my parents were brutally murdered. I made my narrow escape by calmly climbing out of my crib and toddling out of the house into a nearby cemetery. There I was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens (childless and dead for 250 years!) who gladly care for me and protect me from harm.

With loving ghostly parents, teachers, friends, and protectors, I spent the next 13 years in the graveyard. I learned to read and do numbers, and I also learned some ghostly skills. But not all the residents of the graveyard were friendly like my parents. There were witches, ghouls and creatures and let's not forget Jack - the evil fiend who is out to finish the job he started.

**(Conclusion)**

There were some days when I was unsure if I would survive. Could my loving family and friends really protect me from the evil that resided in the graveyard? Could I make a narrow escape once again from Jack, who once took all that I loved away from me?

*The Graveyard Book* is a fictional novel by Neil Gaiman, who also wrote *Coraline*. The *Graveyard Book* won the Newbery Award in 2009, and the awards said that the book is a "delicious mix of murder, fantasy, humour and human longing," according to Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Librarian for The Washington Evergreen Young Adult Book Award, 2011

## Rubric for Book Talk

Criteria	Excellent 20 - 16	Above Average 15 - 10	Average 10 - 7	Below Average 0 - 6
<p><b>Introduction attracts audience</b></p> <p><b>Talks about a main character</b></p>	<p><b>Exceptionally creative beginning with an excellent quote</b></p> <p><b>Introduces the character in 1<sup>st</sup> person with at least 3 traits.</b></p>	<p><b>Creative beginning with a good quote</b></p> <p><b>Introduces the character in 1<sup>st</sup> person with at least 1 trait.</b></p>	<p><b>Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quote</b></p> <p><b>Introduces the character in 1<sup>st</sup> person.</b></p>	<p><b>Not a very good beginning with no quote</b></p> <p><b>Does not introduce a character.</b></p>
<p><b>Discusses the plot, setting, and characters</b></p> <p><b>Written in first person</b></p>	<p><b>Thorough and interesting summary of these elements</b></p> <p><b>Written from a character's point of view.</b></p>	<p><b>Inconsistent summary of these elements</b></p> <p><b>Written in 1<sup>st</sup> person, but not throughout.</b></p>	<p><b>Average summary of the elements</b></p> <p><b>Talks about the characters but not in 1<sup>st</sup> person.</b></p>	<p><b>Missing a component</b></p>
<p><b>Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)</b></p>	<p><b>Very enticing conclusion – draws the listener to read the book</b></p> <p><b>Includes title, author, and genre.</b></p>	<p><b>Somewhat interesting conclusion- listener might want to read the book</b></p> <p><b>Includes title, author, and genre.</b></p>	<p><b>Concluded but did not draw the listener to read the book</b></p> <p><b>Includes at least one: Title, Author, Genre</b></p>	<p><b>Very boring conclusion or no conclusion at all</b></p> <p><b>Does not include title, author, or genre.</b></p>
<p><b>Presentation skills &amp; Enthusiasm for the book</b></p>	<p><b>Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable</b></p> <p><b>Voice is clear, words are pronounced correctly and tempo is good</b></p> <p><b>Maintains eye-contact</b></p>	<p><b>Somewhat enthusiastic and knowledgeable</b></p> <p><b>Voice is mostly clear and audible,</b></p> <p><b>Mostly maintains eye-contact</b></p>	<p><b>Shows average enthusiasm and understanding</b></p> <p><b>Sometimes hard to understand or hear the student</b></p> <p><b>Little eye-contact</b></p>	<p><b>Not enthusiastic at all</b></p> <p><b>Spoken word is too soft, mumble, speaking much too fast or slow.</b></p> <p><b>No eye-contact</b></p>

**Comments:**

**Score:**