



English Department: Summer Independent Reading Extra Credit

Reading for fun has many significant benefits. For instance, students who read for pleasure have improved reading, writing, and vocabulary skills. Studies also show that reading for pleasure can positively impact “a student's general knowledge, improve [his/her] understanding of other cultures, increase [his/her] community participation, and enable a greater insight into human nature and decision-making” (Clark, Christina, and Kate Rumbold. "Promoting Reading for Pleasure in the Primary School." (n.d.): n. pag. National Literacy Trust, Nov. 2006. Web.).

For this EXTRA CREDIT assignment, you are to read a book you select and have approved by a parent. After you've finished the book, you need to create a **book talk** presentation.

Your book talk should include the following information:

- Author, title, and genre
- Description of the main character(s)
- Description of the setting(s)
- Major conflicts
- Discussion of the life lessons (or themes) in the book
- Explanation of why you would or would not recommend the book

You may present your book talk in one of the following ways:

- Create a video of your book talk and share with your English teacher via email
- Write a 500-word **book talk** essay.

These presentations are due no later than Friday, September 4, 2020¹ if you'd like to start the school year strong with EXTRA CREDIT!

Please do not confuse **book talks** with a book summary or a book report. Book Talks are “teasers” given **enthusiastically** as a way to entice others to read a particular book. They are very similar to movie trailers, which show just enough information to convince you to watch. You will include some summary in your **book talk**, but consider this presentation a persuasive speech, not just a report. You are trying to convince others to read this book.

¹ Your book talks will align with the following school-wide expectations: 2B.1, 2A.2, and 2A.4 (the book talk essay aligns with only 2B.1 and 2B.4).

Rubric for Book Talk

Criteria	Excellent (8)	Above Average (6)	Average (5)	Below Average (4)
<i>Introduction attracts audience</i> (aligns with 2A.2)	Exceptionally creative beginning with an excellent quotation; includes title and author	Creative beginning with a good quotation; includes title and author	Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quotation; includes title or author	Not a very good beginning with no quotation; does not include title or author
<i>Discusses the plot, setting, conflict, tone, characters, and theme</i> (aligns with 2B.1)	Thorough and interesting summary of these elements	Somewhat thorough and interesting summary of these elements	Average summary of the elements	Does not summarize these elements or is missing a component
<i>Progression</i> (aligns with 2A.2)	Presents ideas with logical sequencing and seamless transitions	Presents ideas and information in sequence with clear transitions	Occasional lapses in logical sequencing or lack of transition	Transition between ideas is not evident
<i>Effectiveness/Projected Audience</i> (aligns with 2A.4 and 2B.1)	Enthusiastically and clearly explains what is enjoyable about the book and the audience most suited for the book	Explains what is enjoyable and identifies the best audience	Does not explain what is enjoyable about the book or the best audience	Does not explain what is enjoyable about the book and does not identify the best audience
<i>Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)</i> (aligns with 2A.2)	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

*** In any given category, zero points will be awarded for not meeting the minimum requirements or for inaccurate information.**

Tips:

1. Start off with an interesting passage from the book to capture your audience's attention. (Make sure you include an explanation of the quotation!)
2. Be sure to clearly state the title of the book and the author's name at the beginning of your Book Talk.
3. Spend the majority of your time discussing the plot and conflict, but include setting, major characters, and a theme. Do not give away too much of the story!! NEVER tell the ending!
4. Do not just list characters—remember this Book Talk is essentially a persuasive speech—you are convincing your audience to read the book.
5. Have the book with you to use as a visual or print off a copy of the book's cover.
6. Work on appropriate presentation skills: make eye contact, use body language to communicate your message, speak loudly and clearly, etc. Use note-cards or an outline for organizational purposes but do not read from them.
8. Feel free to use different voices or wear a costume. Ham it up! Have fun!
9. Practice your book talk a few times before you present.

Presentation Outline:**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious passage to start off your presentation. This passage will get the reader's attention. Don't just pick any old passage; choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the passage (related to theme or author's purpose?).

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? What is the author's purpose and point of view? Please use precise and descriptive language. Don't just give a list of characters. Don't just summarize the plot. This would be an excellent place to incorporate a passage to enhance your description.

CONCLUSION

Without giving away the ending, convince the audience that this is a book they would want to read. Make some predictions about what kind of student would enjoy this book ("if you like..., you'll love..."). This would be an excellent place to share your favorite passage if it doesn't give away the ending.