**Book Talk #3 Directions**

Your Book Talk assignment involves delivering a book talk to the class about a novel you have read for independent reading. The object of a book talk is to summarize the general plot and conflict (problem) of the book and to persuade the listener to read the book. However, your talk should not give away any secrets or “spoil” the ending.

**Your book talk must include:**

* An introduction that grabs our attention while sharing the title, author, and genre of the book
* General information about the novel’s plot (use characters’ names and the main conflict; refer to the setting IR it’s important to the story – i.e. if the book is historical fiction or science fiction)
* A brief passage from the book that grabs the listener’s interest or shows off the author’s style (suspenseful section, descriptive language, interesting dialogue)
* What you noticed about themes (is the book about friendship, making choices, overcoming fears, growing up, realizing that looks aren’t everything?)
* Comments about why you’d recommend it
* A satisfying conclusion (could incorporate a theme and recommendation within it)

During your talk, you may briefly refer to notes on note cards. Make sure to show your book. Prior to your book talk, mark the passage you plan to share with the audience so that it’s easy to find.

**Note: Whatever you do, do NOT give away the book’s ending.**

Example based on *Holes* by Louis Sachar:

So remember when I said if you hadn’t read *Hatchet*, you might be living under a rock? The same thing goes for *Holes*, which has been around awhile and even been made into a movie. However, if you’ve only seen the movie and haven’t picked up the book, do it now!

*Holes* by Louis Sachar is a dual story that crosses two genres - realistic fiction and historical fiction. First, there’s Stanley’s story, which is the realistic fiction segment. Stanley is sent to a juvenile detention facility known as Camp Green Lake (unfortunately, there’s no lake) because he has been accused of stealing shoes that belonged to a famous baseball player. When Stanley gets to Camp Green Lake, he serves his sentence by digging holes into the dry earth. And he digs, and he digs, and he digs. And so do the other boys - Zero, X-ray, Armpit, Magnet, and others. If they find anything interesting, they are to alert the guards, which makes a person wonder: why are they really digging? *(Read passage from book here – pages 29-30)*

The author cleverly overlaps a second storyline, the historical fiction part, with Stanley’s journey at Camp Green Lake. Stanley’s great-great grandfather, also named Stanley, is included in the plot. The author takes us back in time, sharing the stories of his grandfather’s trip to America, a female bandit named Kissing Kate Barlow, and a man named Trout Walker. I can’t tell you how the stories turn out; let’s just say some of the plot “holes” are filled in for you.

Both story lines are filled with humor, heartache, and triumph. The novel *Holes* reads easily, but it’s not just “fluff.” The novel explores the themes of crime and punishment as well as how people can redeem themselves and learn from their mistakes. I highly, highly recommend this book; every time I finish it, I can’t help but smile.

**Book Talk Planning Sheet Name:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Book title and author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Genre: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Plot Summary (be brief; include characters’ names, the conflict, and the setting – if important, and an overview of the general plot): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
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1. Possible Theme: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Passage to share – starts on page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and ends on page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative of Book Talk**

On a blank Pages document:

1. *Write what you plan to say when you are in front of the class. (Use the example on the “Reading” page of my website as a guide.) While you write, follow the rubric on my homework page. Include an introduction, middle paragraphs, and a conclusion.*
2. *Include a heading and an appropriate title. Double-space your essay, and indent paragraphs. Proofread, edit, and revise carefully.*
3. *Name your narrative: lastname.book talk3.*
4. *Practice, practice, practice so that you know your book talk well enough NOT to read the narrative. You may use note cards, but again this is a talk, NOT a reading.*
5. *Present your talk to the class. (Be natural, and have fun. You’ve got this!!)*

***Note: Again, if you read your book talk to us, you will need to “re-talk” your book talk.***

On the day of your book talk, turn your narrative in to the appropriate folder in Dropbox, and turn your planning sheet into the tray.