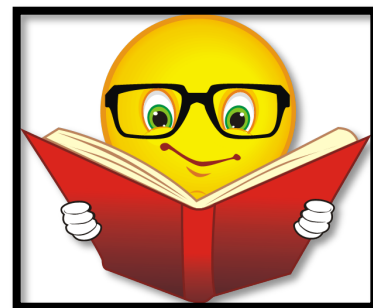


## Quarter 1: Book Talk Information

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 (events)** 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. Think about the book talks you have seen me share; yours will be similar.



### **Your book talk must include:**

- **An attention-getting opening;** use a thought-provoking question or a suspenseful or interesting sentence or two from the book. Also include the **title**, **author**, and **genre** of the book within your introduction.
- **General information** about the novel’s main characters, plot (events), and conflict (problem); give us a taste of what the book’s about, not a summary of the whole book.
- **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).
- A possible **theme** and why you feel it’s relevant (Is the book about friendship, making choices, overcoming fears, growing up, realizing that looks aren’t everything, etc.? What did you learn or realize once you’d finished the book? Refer to the “theme wall” for ideas, and be sure to explain WHY you chose the theme you did.)
- **A comment about why you’d recommend it.**

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

You will deliver TWO book talks this semester. **You may deliver both face-to-face in class, OR you may record one and share the recorded version during class.** (You would need to ask someone to record you with your iPad’s camera while you deliver your book talk – you could record at home or in a quiet place at school.)

### **Tips:**

- During your talk, you may BRIEFLY refer to notes (if you read your notes, you’ll be asked to practice and present again).
- Make sure to hold your book.
- Prior to your book talk, mark the passage you plan to share with the audience so that it’s easy to find.

An example based on *Holes* by Louis Sachar (in it’s final draft stage) is on the next page:

Anne Moege (student's name)

Mrs. Moege (my name)

Language Arts (class)

September 5, 2014 (date)

*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.

The novel *Holes* reads easily yet explores some deep themes; for example, crime and punishment and how people can redeem themselves and learn from their mistakes. Both Stanley's in the book come to understand these lessons because of their unique situations. 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. Characters: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. General Plot and Conflict Summary (be brief): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Possible Theme (not just a theme word but a lesson that includes the theme word):  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Passage to share: Starts on page \_\_\_\_\_ Ends on page \_\_\_\_\_

### **Narrative of Book Talk**

1. *On a blank Pages document, write a narrative (what you plan to say), similar to my Holes example.*
2. **Review the rubric on my website as you write.**
3. *Use at least three paragraphs.*
  - a. A catchy opening to grab listeners' attention (e.g., a question, a sentence or two from the book). Be sure to include the title, author, and genre, too.
  - b. A paragraph descriptively yet briefly summarizing the plot (including conflict), and a possible theme. Be sure to use characters' names.
  - c. A final paragraph sharing 1) a possible theme or themes and HOW the theme(s) is/are relevant to the book, and 2) your recommendation and why the book is a worthy or unworthy read.
4. *Double-space your book talk as shown on the example (see me for help). Use a heading (see the example) and a centered title (see the example). Italicize the title of the book as shown on the example.*
5. *Name your narrative: lastname.book talk (e.g., Moege.book talk).*
6. **Practice, practice, practice so that you know your book talk well enough NOT to read the narrative.**
7. *Present your talk to the class. (Be natural, and have fun. You've got this!!)*
8. *Turn your narrative in to the appropriate folder in Dropbox.*
9. *Turn your planning sheet into the tray.*