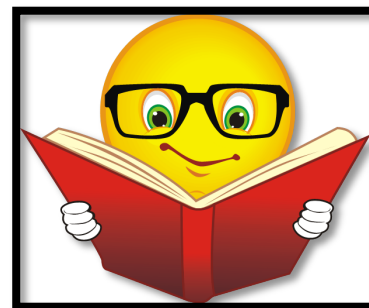


Quarter 2: Book Talk Information

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 other students and 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.

This will be the SECOND of TWO book talks this semester. **You may deliver this one face-to-face in class, OR you may record it and share the recorded version during class (unless you already did so first quarter).** (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 *The Saturday School* by David Fleming (in its final draft stage) follows:

Anne Moege (student's name)

Mrs. Moege (my name)

Language Arts (class)

October 5, 2014 (date)

The Saturday Boy by David Fleming

The entire time I read *The Saturday Boy* by David Fleming, I pictured my 11-year old nephew - a little boy who is on the verge of adolescence, a bit caught between being a little kid and being a big kid. You, my dear students, are also in a similar situation as Derek, the protagonist of this realistic fiction story.

Derek is that little kid turning into a big kid. And yes, he has some big issues to deal with, including difficulty in expressing his anger and the absence of his father who is deployed to Afghanistan. The story also focuses on relationships with his mother, his Aunt Josie, a teacher Ms. Dickson, and his best friend/arch rival Budgie. Let's just say if Budgie is his best friend, who needs an enemy? For example, Budgie and other kids trick Derek into climbing a tree on school grounds by saying one of them carved his name into a top branch. When Derek doubts the feat, Budgie and the others taunt him until he decides to climb the tree. Once he's perched high above the schoolyard, he realizes all of the kids have abandoned him and that he's missed the bus ride home. In addition to his social issues at school, the author also explores how Derek misses his father. He writes to his father regularly and retreats into his own imagination to cope with his father's absence and the "not knowing" when or if his father will come home.

At first I thought *The Saturday Boy* would be too "young" for 7th graders. However, though the main character is younger you, the theme of "growing up" is intense and emotional. This little boy Derek, who is caught between knowing and not knowing and being a kid and growing up, touches our hearts. And because life doesn't hand us endings wrapped up in neat little packages, we hope for the best for Derek at the story's end as he steps into his adolescent years.

Book Talk Planning Sheet

Name: _____

1. Book title and author: _____
2. Genre: _____
3. Characters: _____

4. General Plot and Conflict Summary (be brief): _____

5. Passage to share: Starts on page _____ Ends on page _____
6. Possible Theme (not just a theme word but a lesson that includes the theme word): _____

Narrative of Book Talk

1. *On a blank Pages document, write a narrative (what you plan to say), similar to my 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, an interesting first thought). Be sure to include the title, author, and genre, too (see my example).
 - 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.*

Book Talk: Summary Review

To write a book talk summary on your planning sheet, you need to include:

- Who the book is about – stick to the main character(s)
- What the characters do and the problems (conflicts) they face (be general; you do not need to cover the whole book)
- Transitions and/or AWUBIS conjunctions to tie the ideas together (at the start, in the beginning, later on, after, next, also, finally, etc.)

Sample Student Summary: *Stolen Children* by Peg Kehret

After Amy's dad dies, she signs up for a babysitting class to help her mother out with money. Amy gets to babysit a three-year-old girl named Kendra. While Kendra was taking a nap, Amy dozed off by the pool outside. Amy wakes up to a loud bang and rushes up to Kendra's room to find out Kendra has been kidnapped. Amy panics and goes outside to look for her. Then Amy is taken into a vehicle where she finds Kendra, and that is where the rest of the story begins.

Sample Mrs. Moege Summary: *Shooting Kabul* by N.H. Senzai

The book begins in Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan and centers around a 12-year boy named Fadi. After Fadi's father is approached by the Taliban to help them, the family realizes they need to flee their home, so they plan to escape to safety in the United States. Unfortunately, the plan unravels when Fadi's 6-year old sister Mariam is left behind in a chaotic scene. Once in the United States, the family tries to adjust to a new life yet does everything they can to enlist the help of family members still in Afghanistan to locate Mariam. Fadi himself feels enormous guilt and tries several different schemes - including stowing away in a taxi and also entering a photography contest - to return to his home country and find his sister.