

EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

Book Talk Assignment

Upon return to school in September of 2017, you will be asked to give a **book talk** to the class or to a small group for one of the books you have read during the summer. A book talk involves delivering a brief presentation where you convince the listener to read the book you are recommending. A book talk is very similar to a trailer for a film, which shows just enough information to convince the audience that he/she should watch the movie. **Remember, you do not want to give away all that happened in the book because your goal is to encourage others to read it.**

A book talk should last approximately 3 minutes and include the following:

- The book title, author, and genre (mention if it is part of a series), and length (number of pages)
- A brief summary of the book without giving away the ending (Use SWBS- see *How to Give a Book Talk* sheet)
- An interesting or exciting excerpt from the book that will entice the audience to want to read your book.
- Things your peers would connect to that may help them better understand the book (for example, other similar books, why your age group would like it, etc...)
- A recommendation for reading (see examples on the *How to...* sheet)

Book Talk Planning:

- Carefully select one of the independent reading books that you read over the summer to present to your 2017-2018 ELA class.
- The book should be reading level and grade level appropriate. (See *Suggested Book List* and *Resources* pages to get help in selecting an appropriate book.)
- Although you may choose any book you want, your presentation will be better if you give a talk on a book that many have not already read. Remember, your goal is to encourage others to read it!
- Prepare for giving your book talk by using the attached resources (*How to Give a Book Talk* sheet, Video links to sample book talks, *Book Talk Scoring Rubric*, etc.)
- Practice, practice, practice! Give your book talk aloud to your friends, family, pet, or even in the mirror a few times before school starts.
- Be ready to present during the first two weeks of school. (You will schedule your book talk time slot with your 2017-2018 ELA teacher. You will also have time to work with your new teacher in September if you have any questions!!)

EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

Option #2*: New York Times Summer Reading Contest

***This option is only available to students who are 13 or older when entering the contest.**

As a second option for summer reading you may enter the New York Times Summer Reading Contest which asks students to respond to New York Times content **between June 16 and August 25 (final question posted on August 18)**.

First: Review the rules for entry at <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/27/learning/the-eighth-annual-new-york-times-summer-reading-contest.html? r=1>

Next:

Adhere to the following additional criteria in order to get full credit upon return to school in September.

- Submit 3 separate blog entries in 3 separate weeks.
- When submitting your entry online, use the following code pattern so that your teacher can verify that it is your entry: the word “Bengal”, incoming grade level, first name, and six-digit birthday. For example “**bengal8James011404**”
- Print a screen shot of your entries once they are posted on the New York Times website to hand in to your English teacher in September 2017.
- In addition to the screen shots, please have your 3 entries typed in a separate word document with your full name and your coded name.
- When you return to school, you will be asked to take part in a discussion group where you will share your NYT contest entries with your teacher and other students.

Students Entering Honors Level ELA:

In addition to the book you choose for your **book talk** or your participation in the **NYT contest**, you will **also** be required to read the book, ***The Chosen*, by Chaim Potok**. Come prepared with notes on your reading including marked text references (sticky-notes, annotations, etc.) that can be used in seminar discussion at the start of the 2017-2018 School year.

We hope you enjoy your summer reading! Read as many books as possible, and we look forward to hearing your talk in September.

If you have any questions during the summer months, please contact Suzanne Johnson, Supervisor of English Language Arts. sjohnson@bloomfield.k12.nj.us

READ! READ! READ!

EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

Book Talk Resources

Choosing a Book:

- <http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/>
 - Search this site to find out levels of books or to find lists of books for certain levels.
- www.arbookfind.com
 - Search the site to get valuable reading level information and to find out whether the book is included in the Accelerated Reader program.
- www.teenreads.com
 - Author interviews and reading lists, questions of the month, and a look at what other kids are reading.
- <https://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/teen>
 - Good reads is a great resource for reputable recommendations.

Video Resource:

How to Give a Book Talk, by Thomas Burby: a step by step video with a sample book talk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=klN1mTngLq4>

Video Samples:

These videos can be very helpful, but please keep in mind that not all of the samples below follow the Bloomfield Rubric requirements.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUChXoQ0-OA> - Great examples of short, enticing book talks. This presenter is a fast talker but does a great job of providing summaries without giving too much away! She also provides great connections to why the books are appealing.
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1p1_eo7nks&list=PLEF05B5E6D859A4D9&index=3 – Male middle student book talk.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e24gsF6bnjQ> – Female middle school student book talk.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzJN13wfh5c> - A funny teacher trying out giving a book talk for the first time.

Web Links:

Here are some great sites with tips for giving good book talks:

from Scholastic - <http://schools.nyc.gov/documents/d75/ais/booktalktips.pdf>

from Pikes Peak Public Library in Colorado - <http://ppld.org/booktalking/tips>

EIGHTH GRADE SUMMER READING

An example of a short book talk on *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman

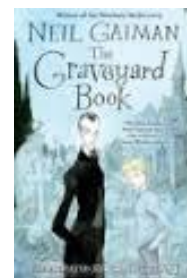
"There was a hand in the darkness, and it held a knife."

So begins the story of Nobody Owens, known as Bod. On the night his family is brutally murdered, 2 year old Bod calmly climbs out of his crib and toddles out of the house and into a nearby cemetery. There he is adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Owens (childless and dead for 250 years!) who gladly care for the child and protect him from harm.

With loving ghostly parents, teachers, friends, and protectors, Bod grows from age two to fifteen in the graveyard. He learns to read and do numbers, and he also learns some ghostly skills. But not all the residents of the graveyard are friendly. There are witches, ghouls, and creatures. As well, let's not forget Jack - the evil fiend who is out to finish the job he started. **(Read the excerpt on pages 17-18 "To the man Jack...the man Jack who was troubled." to entice the reader.)**

This book very much reminds me of the first Harry Potter book because it is also about a how a baby who is left with no parents or family is able to survive due to the kindness and love of strangers. As well, Neil Gaiman brings the reader into a whole new world that us regular people never knew existed just as J.K. Rowling did with the muggles and the magicians.

Filled with great illustrations, this is a funny, exciting and suspenseful story. How will Bod survive? Or will he? Can his loving family and friends really protect him from the evil Jack? This delightfully gruesome and very English tale will certainly appeal to both boys and girls who like adventure stories, suspense and some action. *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.*"



(Adapted from Diane Ferbrache, Hazen High School Librarian for [The Washington Evergreen Young Adult Book Award](#), 2011)

How to Give a Book Talk

Book Selection

- Choose a book that interests you and that you genuinely enjoyed reading. This will make it much easier to entice your peers to want to read it.
- Do not talk on a book you have not read!

Preparation

- Read the book!
- Take notes (either as you read or when you are finished). Try using sticky notes during reading to mark interesting excerpts.
- Plan and write out your book talk. Decide which method you will use to remember your talk. You may use notes during the talk. But, you will definitely want to practice and rehearse.

Introduction

- Be sure to include required information: title, author, genre, # of pages (length).
- Tell the audience why you chose this book.

Summary

- Keep the summary brief but enticing and do not give away the ending.
- Try **SWBS (Somebody Wanted, But, So)**. You may decide not to include So... if it gives too much away.

Somebody Wanted...	But...	So...
Name the main character and what his/her desire is (You can discuss more than one character)	What happens that interferes with the character's attempts to get what he/she wants? (Problem/Conflict)	What does that character do about it?

Connections/Recommendations

- Give the audience information about the book that they can relate to. For example, "This book reminded me a lot of Harry Potter just without the magic and sorcery."
- Discuss what kinds of readers would like this book (If you are interested in ... then this book is for you.)
- Consider a ranking system – I give this book 5 out of 5 stars.

Don't forget to bring your book with you to your presentation!