

Book Talk Builder

Title: _____

Author: _____

Genre: _____

Describe the setting.

List the main characters, with a sentence describing each one.

Summarize the plot in a sentence or two. What conflict is present in the book?

What were the three most exciting or interesting moments of the book? Later, you can use this to help you decide what part to read aloud.

List three reasons why you think others will enjoy this book.

So, let's talk structure.

Your book talk should have three main sections: **the Book, the Hook, and the Quick Look**. You can call them whatever you'd like, but the mnemonic helps, I promise.

First, the **Book**. You want to introduce your book, with the title, the author, and the genre. This is a good time to tell people if your book has won any awards, or any other special things about it. You should bring a copy with you so that your audience can see the cover, too.

Now, the **Hook**. This is the part of the presentation that gets and holds your audience's attention. This is the cliffhanger! The Hook is the passage you will read aloud, and you'll want to choose it carefully. Hooks are like the passages I chose for the first part of every post. The main thing about a Hook is that it needs to be exciting! A passage describing the central conflict in the plot, perhaps, or a moment of intense action. I also like to use the opening paragraphs of books—that is often a good place to find a Hook.

And, speaking of finding Hooks, here's some advice: the tricky part about Hooks is finding them after you've already finished the book. It can be difficult to go back through the entire book, hunting for a specific passage that you know that you've read. I've done that and it takes forever. If you can remember when you're reading, it helps if you keep track of likely passages—just mark them in some way and then you'll be able to find them after you've finished!

Finally, you need your **Quick Look**. Since book talks are generally very short, this section is just an overview of the important literary elements and some reasons why you thought it was a worthwhile read. I like to summarize the plot (not the ending!), talk about the characters, setting, and the main conflict in the story. Then, I talk about what makes the book special! This your time to champion your book! Was the narrator hilariously sarcastic? Did you like the creative setting? Did the characters feel real to you? Tell us!