

- After completing the novel, the teacher provided some booktalks as examples and thoroughly discussed the "Booktalk Assignment Guidelines."
- Booktalks could be typed or hand-written and were graded on a 50-point rubric as described in the assignment guidelines: the beginning, lead-in, hook, closing, and mechanics.
- The best booktalk for each Young Hoosier Book Award book was selected for videotaping.
- The library media specialist worked with the top writers to record (videotape) the booktalk. (To decrease typical middle school embarrassment, students were the voice over as the camera focused on the book jacket/cover, which also increased familiarity of the book with the audience)
- Every day that morning announcements did not include a special presentation, award, or speech, a booktalk was aired.

Academic Standards That This Lesson Meets:

- 7.3.4 Identify and analyze themes
- 7.3.5 Contrast points of view
- 7.4.8 Review, evaluate, and revise writing for meaning and clarity
- 7.4.9 Edit and proofread one's own writing...
- 7.5.2 Write responses to literature...
- 7.5.5 Write summaries of reading materials...
- 7.5.6 Use varied word choices to make writing interesting and more precise
- 7.6.5 Demonstrate appropriate English usage
- 7.5.8 Use correct capitalization
- 7.7.3 Organize information to achieve particular purposes and to appeal to the background and interest of the audience.
- 7.7.5 Use speaking techniques...
- 7.7.11 Deliver persuasive presentations...

Booktalk Assignment Guidelines

ROUGH DRAFT DUE: _____

FINAL COPY DUE: _____

- **KNOW YOUR AUDIENCE:**
Your audience for this booktalk is other middle school students. This includes sixth, seventh, and eighth graders.
- **READ THE BOOK!**
You can't have enthusiasm for a book you haven't read!
- **LIKE THE BOOK YOU BOOKTALK!**
Your audience will read (or not read) the book based on what you say about it. This is your time to make a personal recommendation!
- **DON'T TELL THE ENDING!**
Don't spoil the book for your audience. Your goal is to get them to read the book themselves.
- **WHAT TO LOOK FOR:**
 1. What appealed to you about the book?
 2. Make notes about the basics of the plot, characters, and setting.
 3. Write down any passages or quotes you liked.
 4. The more you can record while the book is fresh in your mind, the better.
 5. Find the hook: somewhere in the book will be a plot, scene, circumstance, or event that "caught" you and you want to share that with your audience.
- **RUBRIC/GRADING**

BUILDING YOUR BOOKTALK:

1. *The Beginning* (10 points)
This is the entry into the book for your audience. It leads them to the book and introduces the novel.
2. *The Lead-in* (10 points)
This is the background you need to give the audience before you lead up to the hook. You need to give just enough information for the hook to make sense.

3. *The Hook* (10 points)
This is the critical scene that will entice the audience into the book. They will want to find out how a conflict it is resolved or meet more interesting characters.
 4. *The Close* (10 points)
If your hook is strong enough, you may not need much more and a full closure will be unnecessary. At the very least, give some final thoughts on the book to end the booktalk, and remind your audience why you loved the book. REMEMBER, DON'T GIVE AWAY THE "SECRETS" OR THE ENDING OF YOUR BOOK!
 5. *Mechanics* (10 points)
As always, I will be looking for complete sentences, correct capitalization and punctuation, correct spelling, and correct grammar.
- **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO YOUR INTRO AND CONCLUSION.**
The first sentence captures your audience and the last sentence leads them to the book. Using just the right wording in those two key places can make your booktalk special.
 - **LENGTH**
Your booktalk (when read aloud) should be approximately 30 seconds – 1 minute. On your final copy this will be approximately one page (front and back) written or one page (front only) typed.
 - **PLEASE WRITE YOUR BOOKTALK IN THIRD PERSON.**

OTHER NOTES:

** TOP BOOKTALKS IN EACH CLASS WILL BE READ ON MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS. MRS. PREDDY WILL TAPE YOU READING YOUR BOOKTALK WHILE VIDEOTAPING THE BOOK COVER. BOOKTALKS WILL BE APPEARING ON ANNOUNCEMENTS ONCE A WEEK AFTER THIS PROJECT IS COMPLETED!!!!

Source: Langemack, Chapple. The Booktalker's Bible: How to Talk About Books You Love to Any Audience. Westport, CT: Libraries Unlimited, 2003.

BOOKTALK RUBRIC

Name: _____ Period: _____

Book Title: _____ Date: _____

Beginning (10 points) _____

COMMENTS:

Lead-in (10 points) _____

Hook (10 points) _____

Closing (10 points) _____

Mechanics (10 points) _____

TOTAL (50 points) _____

Grade _____

BOOKTALK RUBRIC

Name: _____ Period: _____

Book Title: _____ Date: _____

Beginning (10 points) _____

COMMENTS:

Lead-in (10 points) _____

Hook (10 points) _____

Closing (10 points) _____

Mechanics (10 points) _____

TOTAL (50 points) _____

Grade _____

BOOKTALK RUBRIC

Name: _____ Period: _____

Book Title: _____ Date: _____

Beginning (10 points) _____

COMMENTS:

Lead-in (10 points) _____

Hook (10 points) _____

Closing (10 points) _____

Mechanics (10 points) _____

TOTAL (50 points) _____

Grade _____