The Power of the...
Booktalk noun (buk) (tawk)

1. A conversation about a book that one has read, infused with joy and emotion.

Best if done daily.
Why include Booktalks in your reading program?

• Students respond to teachers and peers who are enthusiastic about specific books.

• Students are more likely to actually read and complete books they choose.

• Students who read books for pleasure are more likely to become adults who read.
Common Core Standards

Booktalking utilizes reading, writing, listening and speaking skills that directly relate to any language arts curriculum and state standards.
Common Core Standards

- Students must find a **theme** for their Booktalk and establish a **point of view**.

- They make a **connection** between the text and themselves, their **community** and the **world**.

- They **write** a short narrative that **persuades** others to read their book.
Common Core Standards

• They **transfer** their written piece to an **oral** presentation.

• They provide a **concluding statement** related to their **opinion** presented.
“About 90 percent of the titles students name in June as favorite reads of the school year were the subjects of book talks, mine or theirs.”

Nancie Atwell, *The Reading Zone*, 2007 (pages 66-73)
Create a Student Log

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<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Rating (1-10)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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What if...?
“Dished out daily, book talks give kids an opportunity to share their enthusiasm for books and discover what different books taste like!”

Alan Boyko, President
Scholastic Book Fairs
Booktalk Tips
Booktalking Tips

• **Select a book you love.** You need to love the book you Booktalk so that your passion and enthusiasm comes through to your audience.

• Read the entire book before giving a Booktalk.

• Keep it short—great book talks are only 2 to 3 minutes long.
Booktalking Tips

• Talk about what made this book special to you. On a scale of 1-10 your choice shouldn’t be lower than a 8 or 9.
• Open strong
• Find a hook. Grab the attention of your audience by sharing parts of an outstanding scene.
Booktalking Tips

• Don’t tell too much so that you give away the ending or a dramatic moment in the book.

• Always try to connect to other great “reads:” If you loved *Bud, not Buddy*, a Newberry Medal Winner, you are going to love “The Mighty Miss Malone!” Connecting text to text is a skill students will use throughout their school career.
Activity

• Find a partner at your table.
• Select a book found at your table that interests you and your partner.
• Read the book together.
• Use the Booktalk tip sheet to prepare a Booktalk on your selected picture book.
• Be prepared to share your Booktalk with your tablemates.

Time: 10 - 15 minutes
Activity continues

• Partner pairs share their Booktalk with their tablemates.

• Selected Partner pairs share their Booktalk with the entire group.

Time: 10 - 15 minutes
Essential Questions Activity

- Tables are assigned an essential question.
- Tablemates brainstorm possible answers to the question.
- Select a designated writer/speaker.
- Use chart paper to write down brainstormed answers.
- Be prepared to share your answers with the group.

Time: 20 minutes
Activity

Essential Questions

1. How and when can you use Booktalks to motivate and encourage students to read?
2. What is the value of the Booktalk for both the speaker and the listener?
3. How did the Booktalk tip sheet help to guide the Booktalking presentation?
4. What are some opportunities you can use to have older students help younger students become book talkers too?
5. Why is a Booktalking Record Keeper important to use with students? What kind of simple record keeper could you develop to use with your students? Nancie Atwell’s students entitled their list of books they wanted to read as “Someday.”

Time: 20 minutes
Extenders Make the Most of a School-wide Booktalk Culture.
How to Give a Great Booktalk
Select a book you love.
Write your booktalk first.

Put your main ideas on an index card.

It will help you organize your talk.
Think about how to start your booktalk.

The first line is important.

Write about the main characters and give a few details.
Keep your booktalk about two minutes long. If it’s too long, your audience will be bored. If it’s too short, they won’t be interested in the book.
Practice, Practice, Practice. Memorize your booktalk.
Practice your booktalk in front of anyone who will listen to you. Ask them how you can make your booktalk better.
Remember to give the Title and Author’s Name at the beginning and end of your Booktalk.
Speak loud and clear so everyone can hear you.
Be confident.
Keep Eye Contact with your audience.
Smile! Look Happy. People won’t want to read your book if you look bored.
Show Expression. Change your tone of voice at the right moment to intrigue your audience.
Use a Prop to Draw in the Audience!
A prop helps the listener to be more interested in your booktalk.
Find a Good Hook.
Make your audience want to read your book.
A hook catches your attention. Think of something you can say that will make your audience wonder what happens next.
Tell your audience how you connected with the story.
Ask your readers questions like: “Will he or she...? This will make your readers want to find out what happens next.
Always keep your smile on!
When you smile, it shows your audience how much you loved the story.
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Access, Choice, and Reading Practice

• As a school leader, you have the power to connect kids with books they want to read.

• www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/principals/resources.asp
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• www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/principals/resources.asp
Thank you!

When you develop a Booktalking culture at your school, you will build lifelong readers.

www.scholastic.com/bookfairs