

## Guidelines for a Book Talk Grades 3-8

### **Summer Book Talk**

Incoming students will be giving a book talk during the first days of school. All incoming students grades 1-8 will be expected to read over the summer, and be prepared to talk about one of the books that they read and really enjoyed.

### **What is a book talk?**

A book talk is simply an opportunity for students to talk for 2-3 minutes to their friends and classmates about a book they have enjoyed reading. Students share a little about the book (without giving away the ending!) and give reasons why they would recommend this book for their peers to read.

### **Why do we want students giving book talks?**

Though seemingly simple, a book talk is a powerful tool to build enthusiasm around reading. Classroom teachers work hard at building students' excitement about books, yet often the best motivator for reading is a friend or classmate. The book talk also requires students to think carefully about what was most important about the book, including characters, setting, main ideas and details: all important components to good comprehension. Book talks also cause students to evaluate what they have read, and why. Evaluating what they read encourages students to value their own opinions about books, and to think more closely about how and why authors write. This kind of reflection fuels thinking about their own writing.

### **Guidelines for a Book Talk**

Below are some guidelines that students should consider when preparing for their book talk. The book talk should be given on a book that students really enjoyed. One that they would rate a 9 or 10 on a scale of 1-10.

#### If the book is fiction:

- Tell the title and author of your book
- Who is/are the main character(s)? What is his or her problem or challenge?
- What is the setting?
- What is the theme of the book?
- Briefly summarize the story (students may read an excerpt or share a page, or quote from the book if they choose).
- DON'T tell the ending!! Try to convince your classmates that this is a book they want to read!
- Tell why you rate this story a 9-10

#### If the book is nonfiction:

- Tell the title and author of your book
- Briefly summarize the book (students may read an excerpt or share a page, or quote from the book if they choose).
- Tell at least 3 things you learned by reading this book.
- Give 2 reasons why you think someone might read this book.
- Why did you rate this a 9-10?