

# Book Club Essentials

Honors World Literature (Ebarvia)

*The purpose of book talks is to recommend books to the rest of the class. We will have many opportunities this year to "book talk" titles to one another; in fact, book talks will comprise an important part of our reading community. Although book talks may vary in style and substance, they should generally follow the model below:*

- A. Begin by **HOLDING THE BOOK**. Show the cover. Sometimes an interesting cover will make the book itself seem more interesting. Show us the book and tell us how many pages are in the book. Tell us the name of the author. Consider offer some background on the author if you think it's relevant or might be of interest to the class.
  
- B. Make sure you **KNOW THE BOOK**.
  1. Explain why you chose the book
  
  2. Summarize the book (without spoiling the end!). Summary points you may wish to address:
    - Genre
    - Point-of-view
    - Setting
    - Protagonist/antagonist - What type of person is he or she? How do other characters view him or her? Does he remind you of any other characters that the class may know? Be descriptive.
    - Conflict - Tell us enough of the story so that we understand what the major conflict is going to be. Remember that sometimes that conflict can include both external and internal conflicts. Tell us about those conflicts and what causes them, but remember not to tell us how they get resolved (after all, we'll have to read the book find that out!)
    - Theme - What questions or "big ideas about life" does this book explore or attempt to answer?
    - Other interesting details (author's writing style, structure, inclusion of visuals, for example)
  
  3. Explain what you liked about the book.
  
  4. Compare it to similar books, if possible.
  
- C. **READ AN EXCERPT** (or two)  
Choose an excerpt ahead of time. Find a place where the action is heated or the prose is breathtaking. Set it up for us. Read it slowly and clearly. Add emphasis where needed.

Most book talks will be about 5 minutes. \*Note: when presenting as a group, book talks may take about 1- minutes in order to allow enough time for each student in the group to explain his or her personal response to the book.