

Book Talks: Short, Simple Sweet

Enjoy sharing fun books? Want to hear what other people enjoy reading? **Book Talks** (also called **Book Buzzes**) are fun to give and fun to watch!

Our goal is to make our favorite books sound fun, pick interest, and leave the details of each book for the next reader to “discover.” That is part of the fun of enjoying great books. Book talks work well when we try to keep them about a minute in length.

Here is how Mr. B recommends doing book talks:

- 1) **An opening statement to engage your audience.** It could be about yourself, an overview of the theme of the book, or a statement of what you enjoy reading (use one or two sentences).
- 2) **Clearly state the title and author of the book.** We don't need to identify book genres or library call letters/numbers. We want readers to think about each book based on what we share. We don't want viewers to pre-judging new books based on prior reading or genre preferences (one simple statement/sentence).
- 3) **Briefly summarize what the book is about, using only a sentence or two. Please don't get wrapped up in details** – this will lose your viewers. We want to leave people that hear your book talk wanting more! We want readers to have the fun of “discovering” how authors create stories (a couple of sentences or so).
- 4) **Share why you enjoyed the book, what it meant to you or the feelings you had while reading it.** Try to make a personal connection with your audience. This lets people learn a little about you, why this is a “just right” book for you and perhaps a great book for them (a few sentences, try to keep the total length of your book talk to about 1 minute).



Sound easy? Good! Like most things we do, it becomes easier with practice.

Since we are talking about short book talks, about one minute or so, these are easy to write out. This gets the book talk organized. The process of thinking through the presentation and writing it makes it easier to share and helps ensure we are happy with our book talk.

Example: **Tonight on the Titanic**, by Mary Pope Osborne

Opening Statement: One of the most tragic stories in transportation history is the sinking of the greatest ocean liner ever built – the Titanic. While a sad tale, it is full of drama and heroic efforts.

Title/Author: *Tonight on the Titanic*, by Mary Pope Osborne, is part of the *Magic Tree House* series.

Summary: Jack, Annie, and their dog Teddy are taken back in time to the Titanic's maiden and final voyage. Can they survive the trip? Can they help others into lifeboats?

Why You Enjoyed this Book: I enjoyed this book because I have enjoyed many nonfiction books about the Titanic. This fiction story let me imagine what it would be like to be on board and experience what the journey may have been like – great excitement for most of the trip and then unthinkable disaster.

This is also a great book because the author has provided a companion research guide, a second book, *Titanic: A Nonfiction Companion to Tonight on the Titanic*, which lets you learn more while you enjoy reading the fictional “*Magic Tree House*” story of Jack, Annie, and Teddy.

