

Booktalking in the Classroom: Activities to Hook Your Kids on Books

Note: We suggest you begin every activity by modeling at least one booktalk. If you don't feel comfortable performing them yourself, great examples are available on our booktalk video site: www.schooltube.com/channel/scholastic_booktalks. Check it out!

1 Log it! (grades five & up): Copy the booktalk log (included in this pack) and distribute to students. Visit scholastic.com/bookfairs/booktalks and follow the link to watch video booktalks given by other students. Play these for your class and ask students to use the log to record books they think would like to read. After, start a discussion about why students chose the books they did and the booktalking techniques they found the most persuasive. Bring the logs on your next library or Scholastic Book Fair visit.

Questions: What did you see in these videos that you would like to try? Did you choose your books because of the booktalk/booktalker, the subject, or both? How can you use your log in the future?

Bonus: Help your students create SchoolTube accounts and upload their own booktalk videos!

2 Ready, set, Starters! (grades four & up): Copy and cut out the Booktalk Starter Cards included in this pack. Instruct students to select starter cards from a fishbowl and have them discuss how these cards apply to their booktalks. Then ask each student to create at least one starter and share it with the class. Students can then divide into smaller groups to consider how these new starters would apply to their booktalks and fine-tune the starter so it is unique and effective. Put finished starters in a fishbowl and encourage students to pick one the next time they experience booktalk writer's block!

Questions: How would your starter get someone to reveal something important about the book? Which starter is your favorite and why? Do starters need to be at the "start" of a booktalk?

3 Picture the Book (grades three & up): Divide students into pairs and distribute to each pair a picture book and a copy of the Student Booktalk Tips sheet (included in this pack). Ask the groups to read the book aloud together and then create a simple, but effective, booktalk to "sell" this book to younger students. Invite students to perform their booktalks in front of the class if they would like the opportunity to share.

Questions: Why might we choose to practice booktalking using books that are below grade-level? How can we apply the skills we learned to our own peer-to-peer booktalks?

Bonus: Visit a younger class or invite a few lower-grade students to visit your class to listen to your students' booktalks.