

Overview, Pre-Write Guide,

**FREE!**

Writing &  
Presenting

# BOOK TALKS

Speaking Notes, Final Copy, Rubric

**BRAIN WAVES**



INSTRUCTION

# OVERVIEW

## Book Talks

Book talks are a wonderful way for students to demonstrate their understanding of books they read while practicing their writing and speaking skills. The resources in this product are designed to help students create the most engaging and comprehensive book talks possible.

## Resources

### Student Resources:

- **Book talk Overview** – Review the background information on book talks, how to complete a book talk, what to include in a book talk, and the sample book talk with students.
- **Book talk Pre-Write** – Guide students through the Book talk Pre-Write. Remind students that the pre-write is designed to help them write their final copy, so the more comprehensive the pre-write, the easier the final copy will be to write.
- **Book talk Final Copy** – Students can write their final copy on the Book talk Final Copy page. Note that students are encouraged to “jazz up” their talks. Students should reference their final copy when giving their book talks. (Since book talks are generally 2-3 minutes, schedule book talks in class accordingly.)
- **Presenting A Book Talk – Guided Notes** – After giving students notes on presenting a book talk, consider giving students an opportunity to practice their book talks with peers.

### Teacher Resources:

- **Presenting A Book Talk – KEY** – Give students guided notes on how to present a book talk in an interesting and engaging manner. Note that students’ presentation skills are part of their book talk score, so students should take these notes into consideration.
- **Rubric** – Book talk presentations can be graded using the Book Talk Rubric. The rubric is out of 15 points. However, points for pre-writes can be added to the total score if you would like.

## Let’s Stay in Touch

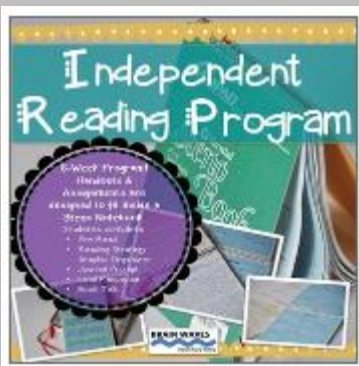
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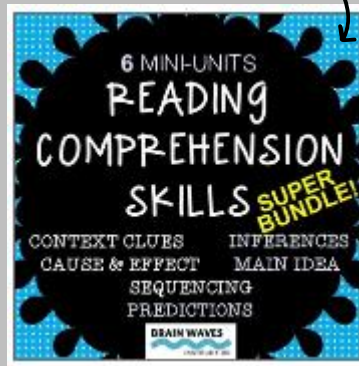
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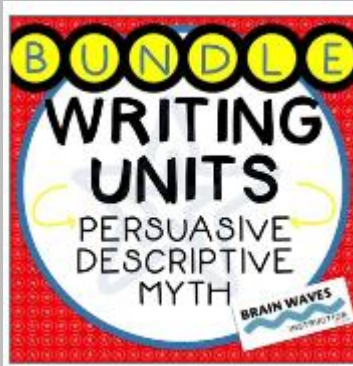
These book talk elements are part of this detailed [Independent Reading Program](#):



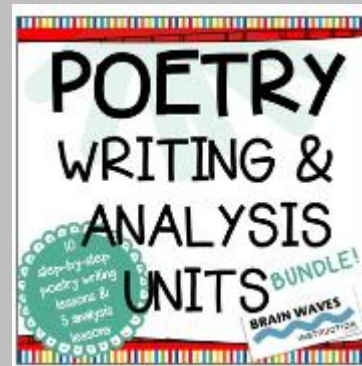
Help your students develop critical reading comprehension skills with the mini-units compiled [in this bundle](#).



You might also like this bundle of [Writing Units](#):



Check out this bundle for 16 days of [Poetry Instruction](#) made engaging and easy!



# BOOK TALK OVERVIEW

## What is a book talk?

The purpose of a book talk is to “sell” the book you just read. Think of it as a commercial or movie trailer for the book. You will create a 2-3 minute talk about a book that includes just enough plot, character, setting, and conflict information to interest other students in the classroom. The main purpose of a book talk is to grab an audience’s attention and make them want to read the book.

## How do I complete the book talk assignment?

1. Read the book (never try to do a book talk on a book you haven’t read).
2. Complete the Book Talk Pre-Write.
3. Write a final version of your book talk.
4. Practice your book talk.
5. Present your book talk to the class.

## What is included in a book talk?

The **HOOK** (something that will grab the audience’s attention)

- Ask a question
- Connect a theme to the listeners’ lives
- Read an interesting part of the book
- Use props
- Link the book to other novels or movies

The **CONTENT** (tell about the characters, setting, and plot)

- Vividly describe the setting
- Retell an exciting part of the book
- Share memorable characters
- Give background information on the plot (not the whole story)

The **CLIFFHANGER**

- End your book talk with something unresolved. Leave the audience wanting more so that the listeners will want to read the book to find out what happens.

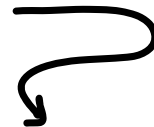
## SAMPLE:

Have you ever had a secret place that you could escape to? Who would you share that place with? In Bridge to Terabithia, two fifth grade children, Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke become unlikely best friends. Jess, a boy from a large, poor family befriends the big-city girl, Leslie, who is an only child. Their home lives are totally different, but they become best friends. Together they create their own “magical” kingdom they call Terabithia. As the rulers of this make-believe world, they can escape the realities of their lives. During spring break, a tragedy strikes that threatens to destroy Terabithia. Read this book to find out if the magic of Terabithia will be lost forever.

# Book Talk Pre-Write

<b>HOOK</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask a question</li> <li>• Give an interesting fact</li> <li>• Select a quote</li> <li>• Connect them to audience</li> </ul>
<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	

Title _____
Author _____
Genre _____



SETTING	CHARACTERS	
<b>When and Where</b> Vivid Descriptions	<b>List Main Characters</b>	<b>Describe</b> How they look and behave



PLOT	
What is the book about?	
What is the main problem in the book?	
What is the most exciting part of the book?	

CLIFFHANGER
Write your opinion of the book.
Why should others read this book?



# Book Talk – Final Copy

## Things to remember:

- Write an exciting and entertaining book talk.
- Include a hook, overview of the book (plot, setting, characters, theme) and a cliffhanger.
- Don't give away the ending.

## Ways to “jazz up” your book talk:

- Read an excerpt from the book.
- Create a slideshow with pictures and words to tell about the book.
- Act out a part of the book.

Using your pre-write, write a **final copy** of the book talk below.

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**NOW...Practice, Practice, Practice!**

**Remember to maintain eye contact with your audience and pace your talk.**

# Presenting a Book Talk

## Know Your Book Talk

- This is \_\_\_\_\_ the same as \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ your book talk over and over again until you are very familiar with it.
- You can practice your book talk:
  - In front of a small \_\_\_\_\_ (friends, parents, siblings)
  - In front of a \_\_\_\_\_
  - Into a \_\_\_\_\_

## Speak Loudly and Clearly

- \_\_\_\_\_ your words.
- \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ a point.
- \_\_\_\_\_ briefly after points you want your audience to \_\_\_\_\_.

## Maintain Good Eye Contact

- \_\_\_\_\_ your audience as you speak.
- If you don't make eye contact, your audience will feel \_\_\_\_\_ and disconnected from your book talk.

## Use Gestures

- \_\_\_\_\_ small hand gestures, when appropriate. However, too much movement can be \_\_\_\_\_ to the audience.

## Be Entertaining

- Be \_\_\_\_\_ about your topic.
- Maintain the audience's attention by delivering an \_\_\_\_\_ book talk in an \_\_\_\_\_ manner.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Talk Rubric

CRITERIA	1 Developing	2 Quality	3 Exemplary
SETTING	Few details about the setting.	Some vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience where and when the story takes place.	Many vivid, descriptive words are used to tell the audience when and where the story takes place.
CHARACTERS	The main characters are named. The audience learns very little else about the characters.	The main characters are named and described. The audience has a fairly good idea of what the characters are like.	The main characters are named and clearly described. The audience learns what the characters look and act like.
PROBLEM	The problem is not addressed or remains unclear.	It is fairly easy to understand what the problem is.	The problem is presented in a clear way.
PLOT	Some of the story is shared. The speaker seems unprepared.	The story is somewhat clear. The speaker is fairly confident with the plot.	The presenter knows the story well and has deep understanding of the plot.
PRESENTATION	The presenter makes little or no eye contact. Pace may be too fast or too slow.	The presenter maintains some eye contact. Reasonable pace.	Excellent presentation skills demonstrated!

Comments:

Total \_\_\_\_\_ / 15

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Talk Rubric

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Comments:

Total \_\_\_\_\_ / 15

# Presenting a Book Talk

## Know Your Book Talk

- This is **not** the same as **memorizing**.
- **Practice** your book talk over and over again until you are very familiar with it.
- You can practice your book talk:
  - In front of a small **audience** (friends, parents, siblings)
  - In front of a **mirror**
  - Into a **recording device**

## Speak Loudly and Clearly

- **Enunciate** your words.
- **Slow down** to emphasize a **point**.
- **Pause** briefly after points you want your audience to **remember**.

## Maintain Good Eye Contact

- **Scan** your audience as you speak.
- If you don't make eye contact, your audience will feel **left out** and disconnected from your book talk.

## Use Gestures

- **Incorporate** small hand gestures, when appropriate. However, too much movement can be **distracting** to the audience.

## Be Entertaining

- Be **enthusiastic** about your topic.
- Maintain the audience's attention by delivering an **interesting** book talk in an **engaging** manner.



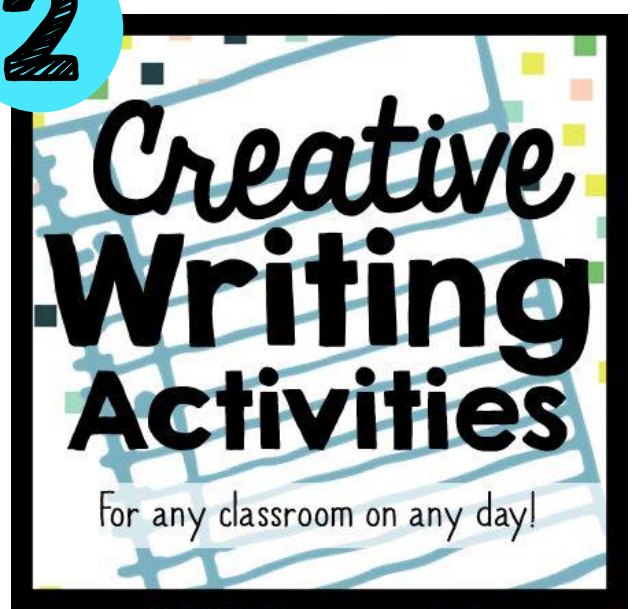
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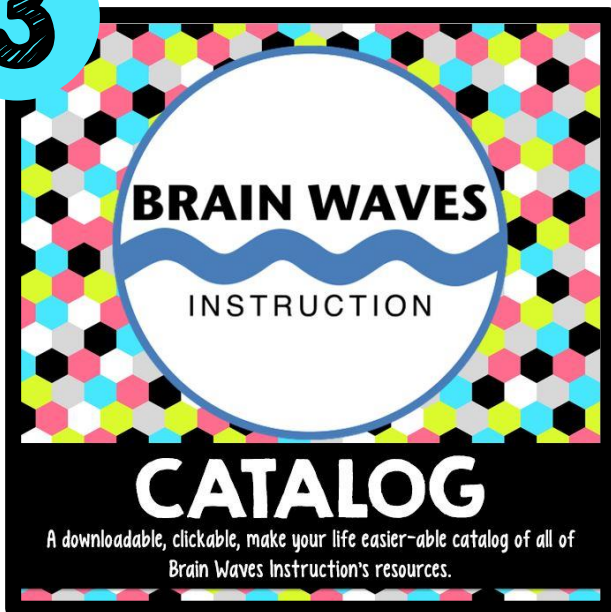
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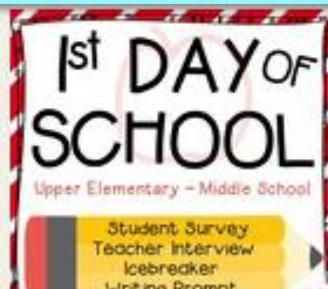
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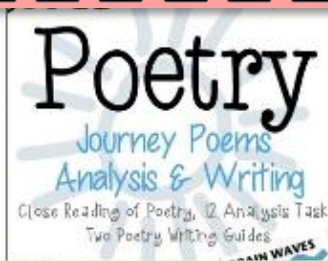
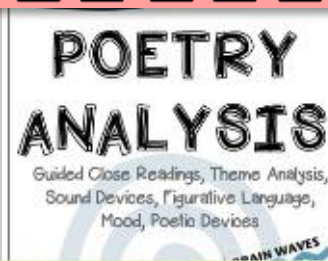
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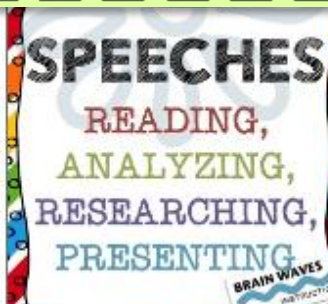
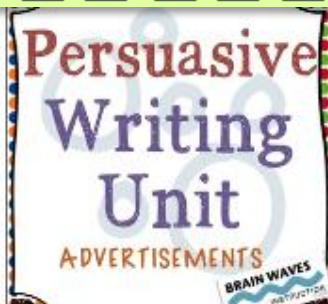
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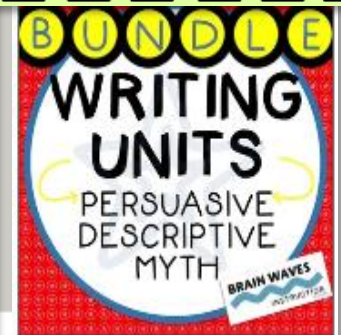
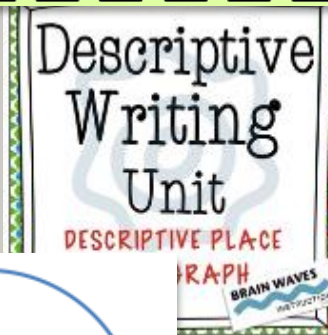
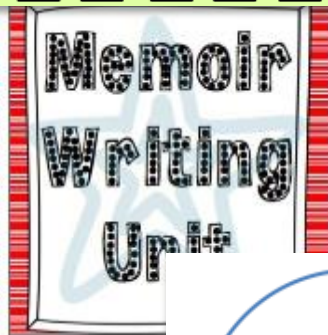


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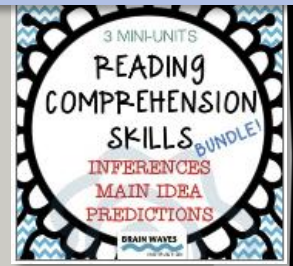
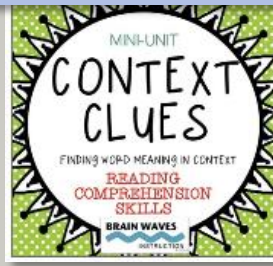
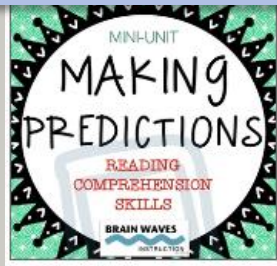
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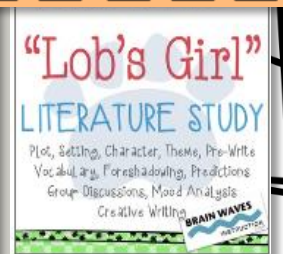
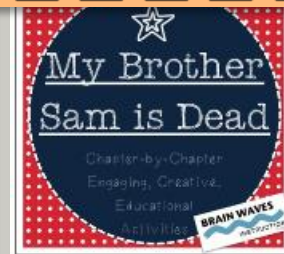
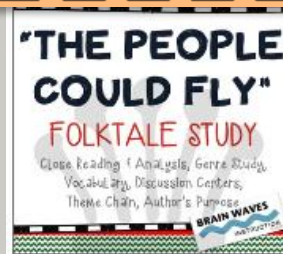
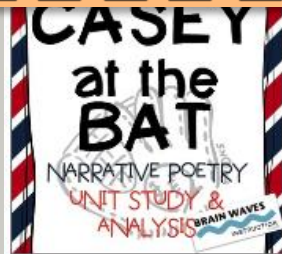
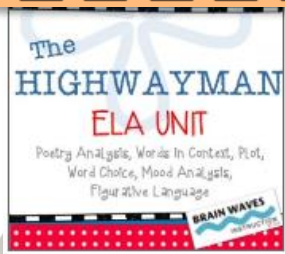
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["Casey at the Bat"](#)

["The People Could Fly"](#)

[My Brother Sam is Dead](#)

["Lob's Girl"](#)



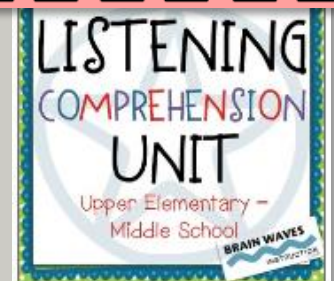
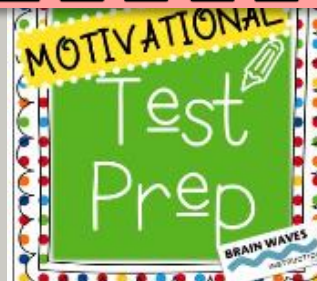
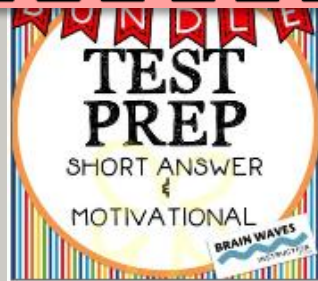
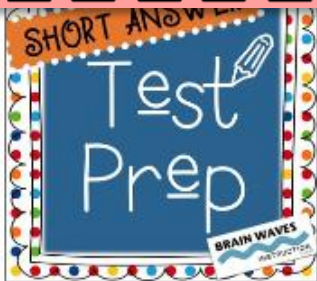
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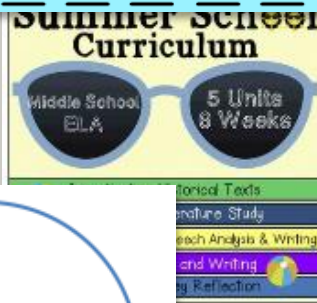
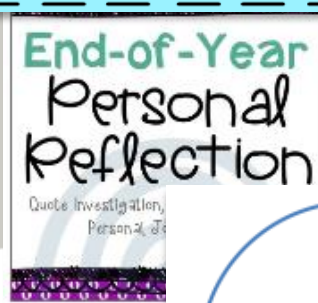
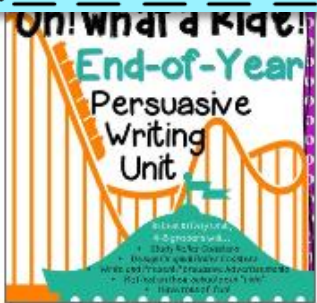
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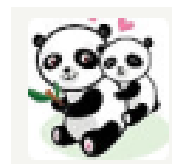
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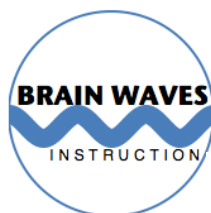
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