



Dear Sixth Grade Students and Families,

This year sixth grade students will be experiencing and celebrating literature in a new and exciting way- through **BOOK TALKS!** **A BOOK TALK** is when a small group of people come together and talk about books they have read. It is an opportunity for you to share what you have read and for others to hear about books they may want to read in the future. Here is how it will work at PSMS.

The genre for our first book talk will be **realistic fiction!** You will choose a book in that genre that you would like to use for your book talk. Books can be chosen from the school library, the public library, a book store, your family library, or anywhere else you can find a good book. It should be a book you **HAVE NOT** read before. Mrs. Nocita will guide you through this process and model a book talk for you during one of our library visits.

- 1) **READ, READ, READ** your book at home. It is your job to be sure you have read your book by the assigned date. Use the timeline to help you organize your time.
- 2) Write and turn in the **book talk summary sheet** to your Reading teacher by the assigned presentation date. Your book talk summary sheet is your ticket to the book talk. This form will be passed out each quarter to go over specifics when completing your book talk. In addition, each quarter you will be required to have a **signed permission slip** by a parent acknowledging the book you have chosen for this report. In this way, parents are notified of the books you are reading and can oversee the process at home.
- 3) Prepare for your book talk by jotting down these notes to remind you of the important points you want to share during the book talk.
- 4) **Book Talk Day!** It will take place during your Reading class on your assigned date and should take about **2-3 minutes**. You will share your information **AND** present your book during this time. Then you will listen to others share the books they have read.

To celebrate our wonderful books, a little treat will be provided for you to enjoy during these presentations. 😊

The scheduled book talk genres and their tentative dates are listed below. The respective permission forms will be handed out 3 weeks prior to these dates.

Quarter	Genre	Tentative Date
1	Realistic Fiction	Week of October 10 <sup>th</sup>
2	Nonfiction	Week of December 12 <sup>th</sup>
3	Biography	Week of March 5 <sup>th</sup>
4	Historical Fiction	Week of May 21 <sup>st</sup>

### Sample Timeline:

Step 1: Bring in your book choice and have it approved by Monday, September 19, 2011.

Step 2: Finish reading your book by Monday, October 3, 2011.

Step 3: Prepare for your book talk by completing the information sheet and bring it to Reading on Monday, October 10, 2011 or your assigned **BOOK TALK DAY**.

In addition to the Book Talk's requirements, you will also be given a **RUBRIC** ahead of time so you will know exactly what your teacher will be looking for in your presentation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us, and we'd be happy to answer them for you!

Sincerely,  
The Sixth Grade Reading Teachers

  
Amy Young

  
Jennifer Bartsch

  
Martha Barrand