

Miss Ronberg
Haworth Public School
6th Grade ELA
2024-2025 School Year

Dear 6th Grade Students,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you are enjoying your summer break! As we gear up for the new school year, I wanted to reach out and let you know about our summer assignment. The sixth grade curriculum delves deep into issues middle schoolers face, investigative reading and writing, genre and novel study as well as speaking and listening work. Our summer assignment this year focuses on many of these aspects.

For September 4th, I would like for you to read one book of your choice– on top of any other reading and writing you enjoy doing during the summer! In addition to reading the book, each of you will have the opportunity to showcase your understanding and insights through a book talk assignment. When school starts, I'll be eagerly awaiting your presentations. You'll have the chance to share your thoughts, feelings, and reflections on the book with your classmates! The goal is to inspire other people to read new things



I encourage you to immerse yourselves fully in the story, allowing your imaginations to soar as you journey through its pages. Make notes and think deeply about the significance of your choice in text. Think about the way that the author develops the story, through plot, character and conflict. We will be considering these things when we return to school.

As we embark on this literary adventure together, I am excited to see the unique perspectives and interpretations each of you will bring to our discussions. So, get ready to sharpen your analytical skills, unleash your creativity, and dive headfirst into the wonderful world of literature! If you have any questions or need assistance along the way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to support you every step of the way.

Wishing you a fantastic remainder of your summer break, and I look forward to seeing you all in class soon!

Warm regards,

Miss Abigail Ronberg

Email: ronberga@nvnet.org

Please try to challenge yourself with your choice in text!

Suggested Reading (2024):

- [16 Must-Read New Middle Grade Novels, March 2024 - Imagination Soup](#)
- [Middle-Grade and YA Favourites \(Updated 2024\)](#)
- [Middle Grade Novels of 2024 \(357 books\)](#)
- [100+ Middle Grade Books Releasing in 2024](#)
- [Most Anticipated Middle Grade Reads of 2024](#)

(My favorite book in 6th grade was *Eragon* by Christopher Paolini)

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Book Talk Assignment

For your Book Talk, you will give one 3 minute presentation on a book you've read over the summer. The purpose of a book talk is to convince the listener to read the book you are recommending. This book talk is essentially a persuasive speech to convince the listener that they should read a specific book.

A book talk is very similar to a trailer for a film, which shows you just enough information to convince you that you should watch the movie.

The book talk will cover *some* elements of the novel, but you should focus much of your time on the plot, themes and conflict in the novel. **NO SPOILERS!!! (Don't give away anything juicy.)**

Your presentation must include **a visual aid**, such as an illustration or original book cover, poster, power-point, or google presentation. If you are super tech-y, you might have an even *better* idea.

Presentation Outline:

Attention getter:

Find an interesting, exciting, or mysterious quote to start off your presentation. This quote will get the reader's attention. Don't just pick any old quote... choose carefully and deliberately to try to capture the attention of the audience. Also explain why you chose the quote.

Introduction:

Clearly introduce your book by giving the title, author and genre of the book. Also, introduce yourself! ("My name is Miss Ronberg and I will be discussing the book 'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince'")

Body:

Describe the setting, characters, and plot of the book without giving too much away of the story. What is the main conflict? What themes are developed? What lessons do characters learn? Please use precise and descriptive language. Don't just give a list of characters. Don't over-summarize. (Hint—you are doing this if you find yourself saying "and" too much.)

Conclusion:

Without giving away the ending, convince the reader that you loved this book and that this is the book they want to read next. Make some predictions about what kind of student would enjoy this book ("if you like..., you'll *love*...").

Tips:

Practice your presentation a few times before you present. Time yourself. Use note-cards or an outline. This will prevent nerves.

Google Classroom Code: 5eq7zpz

Your written response is due by the first day of school, September 4, 2024.

You MUST submit your book talk via Flipgrid by the first day of school, September 4, 2024.

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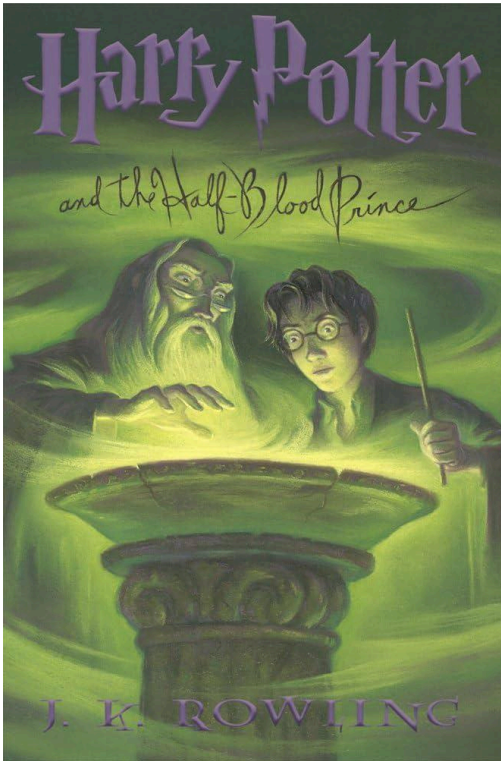
Organizer:

Attention-Getter (Quote to hook the audience)

Introduction (Title, Author, Genre)

Body (Describe the plot, characters, conflict, themes, lessons learned without giving too much away!)

Conclusion (Why you loved the book, and why other students should read it—be specific)



An example of a short Book Talk on *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* by J.K. Rowling:

(Attention-Getter)

“It is the unknown we fear when we look upon death and darkness, nothing more.”

(Intro)

My name is Miss Ronberg, and I will be discussing the book *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*, a fantasy novel by J.K. Rowling. I chose this quote because it is powerful and it has to do with the important aspects of the book.

(Body)

Have you ever thought about what teachers were like before they became teachers? Harry Potter hasn't. In the sixth installment of the popular franchise, Harry Potter is faced with some of his most difficult challenges yet. He must come to terms with his family's (and his teacher's!) pasts. Harry has just lost his godfather Sirius, who was a rock in his life and a connection to his parents. He is hesitant to return to Hogwarts for the school year however he knows that there is more work for him to do.

Alongside friends Hermione and Ron, Harry treks back to Scotland where he is tasked with difficult schoolwork, crushes, inter-school sports drama, and more. He is given a special mission from Professor Dumbledore, who Harry is still just beginning to understand. Harry has much to learn if he is to be able to defeat the Dark Lord. One of the themes presented in this text is “persevere even when the times are tough”. The reason for this is because Harry must persevere in his plight to find Voldemort's weak spots. Rife with internal and external conflicts, the penultimate piece of the Harry Potter saga engages readers of all ages and makes for a great summer read.

(Conclusion)

Harry Potter was one of my favorite series when I was a kid. I read it for the first time the summer after sixth grade. Fun Fact! I read the books backwards (the last book came out when I was finishing sixth grade). This book was one of my favorites due to the drama and action presented in the text. I also enjoyed all the different side characters and subplots Rowling weaves throughout the story. I think readers who enjoy fantasy or action books would love *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*. This book earned awards like the 2006 British Book of the Year. Read *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to find out who the prince is—and why Harry needs to find out!

Rubric for Book Talk

Criteria	Excellent 4	Above Average 3	Average 2	Below Average 1
Introduction attracts audience	Exceptionally creative beginning with an excellent quote	Creative beginning with a good quote	Not a very creative or interesting beginning with a quote	Not a very good beginning with no quote
Discusses the plot, setting, and characters Discusses the theme	Thorough and interesting summary of these elements Makes an insightful argument about the theme	Inconsistent summary of these elements Correctly discusses theme but fails to elaborate on the importance	Average summary of the elements Touches upon theme without much depth	Missing a component Does not discuss theme or makes a very general statement about the theme
Conclusion makes us want to read the book (or not read the book)	Very enticing conclusion - draws the listener to read the book	Somewhat interesting conclusion- listener might want to read the book	Concluded but did not draw the listener to read the book	Very boring conclusion or no conclusion at all
Presentation skills & Enthusiasm for the book	Very enthusiastic and knowledgeable Voice is clear, words are pronounced correctly and tempo is good Maintains eye-contact	Somewhat enthusiastic and knowledgeable Voice is mostly clear and audible, Mostly maintains eye-contact	Shows average enthusiasm and understanding Sometimes hard to understand or hear the student Little eye-contact	Not enthusiastic at all Spoken words are too soft, mumble, speaking much too fast or slow. No eye-contact
Visual aid	Visual aid is well done, colorful, and very helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is colorful, and helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is completed and might be helpful to the presentation	Visual aid is not done or very poorly done

Stays within time limit: Yes / No

Comments:

Score: /32