

Social Studies Book Talks

Your group will have 20 minutes to speak about each of your books (historical fiction and nonfiction). One pair (or triad) should share the historical fiction book talk, the other pair should share the nonfiction book talk. Each book talk must include the following components.

Summary

- Provide the title and author of the book. Share any relevant information gleaned during your role as Bridge Builder.
- In a paragraph or two, summarize the plot of the book. (No spoilers please!)
- Be sure that your summary introduces the main character, identifies the problem, and leads us toward the solution--without giving away the ending!

Excerpt

- Select at least 2-4 paragraphs from the book to read aloud that will give listeners a sense of the characters, time period, events, or themes of the story. You may want to select several passages to highlight work completed in your role as Diction Detective, Figurative Language Finder, and/or Imagery Illuminator.
- Share at least one image created during your literature circle work. (Historical fiction only.)

Impressions

- Share the opinions of your group!
- How did you feel about the book? What did you like? What did you dislike?
- Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not?
- Would you use this as a read aloud in your classroom?

Suggestions for Instruction

- What grade(s) is this book appropriate for?
- How does this book connect to the social studies curriculum? What standards or concepts does it highlight?
- How might you use this book in the classroom?

Closing

- Entice your audience!
- Ask a rhetorical question, read a quote from the book, use a cliffhanger, or do a combination of these techniques.

Remember, your book talk should flow nicely, like a commercial. It should not be a giant list answering these questions!