

SOME BOOK-TALKING TIPS

- Keep it short! Lengthy book talks can bore potential readers and reveal too much about the book. Keep them wanting more. Besides, if book-talking takes too much class time, you're less likely to do it on a regular basis.
- A few notes on a sticky note can help you stay on track and remember key details. You do not need a script, though. Heartfelt testimonials work best! Your passionate enthusiasm entices kids to read what you suggest.
- Read the first chapter, share an intriguing two-page spread in a nonfiction book, select a few poems to share—sampling the book with students gives them a taste of what's in store and habituates students to looking at sections of books to learn more about what each text offers readers.
- Select texts for book talks based on students' needs and interests with the goal of expanding their reading experiences. If your students show disinterest in certain types of books because of their genre, format, topic, and so on, book-talk these types of books more often.
- Consider how students will borrow the book before book-talking it. If several kids express interest in the same book, draw names from a cup, keep a reserve list on a clipboard, or use a randomizer app to choose who reads in-demand books next.
- Turn book-talking over to students. Invite a few students to share a book talk after yours each day, or dedicate a regular time slot—like fifteen minutes on Fridays—to student book talks.