



BOOK TALES

"Of all the diversions of life, there is none so proper to fill up its empty spaces as the reading of useful and entertaining authors." ~ **Joseph Addison**

Here at [Name of School], we're wild on reading! Books, magazines, and newspapers, historical fiction, poetry, and prose, you name it, we read it! And not only do we read it; we also celebrate and share what we've learned. On designated DEAR (Drop Everything And Read) Days throughout the year we will be conducting Book Talks. Teachers, students, and staff will recite, discuss, review, promote, and debate what they've read. From Harry Potter to The New York Times, our Book Tales will take us everywhere...

Goals: 1) To increase reading comprehension, 2) to improve oral speaking, questioning, and listening skills, and 3) to promote reading across the curriculum.

Objectives: By the end of the academic year, Book Talk participants will have 1) read and discussed ten or more significant pieces of writing, 2) written and published five or more reviews, and 3) "owned" fifty or more new vocabulary words.

Driving Question: What have you been reading lately?

Procedure:

1. Decide what you want to read. (You must share a minimum of five books. The rest can be articles, poems, songs, etc. Talk to your teacher or the librarian for suggestions. Let your interest and imagination be your guide...)
2. Complete the reading before Book Talk Days. (Read during SSR, after school, over the weekend...)
3. Add any and all new words to your vocabulary log.
4. Reflect on what you read. (What did you like or dislike? What lessons did you learn? Did you agree with the author's point of view? Did you like the illustrations? Was the story believable? Etc.)
5. Prepare a short, five-minute oral presentation. (Give the audience a brief synopsis, share a favorite passage, make recommendations – Tell them enough to persuade or dissuade them from reading it.)
6. Answer questions from your Book Talk group.
7. Write a formal review for five of the works. (Refer to the book review rubric and anchoring samples, and, of course, use the writing process. The reviews will be included in your portfolio and exemplary pieces will be published!)
8. Get excited about the next round of Book Tales!

"When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young." ~ **Maya Angelou**