

Summer Reading 2021
Approaches to English
Mrs. Morin

Welcome to Approaches to English!

1. To begin, you will **read *A Separate Peace* by John Knowles.**

While there are no formal assignments to complete during the summer, you should be prepared for a test and small project upon your return to school in the fall.

2. Your second assignment is to **read any book of your choice.** The requirements are loose, but the book must be a full-length novel, play, non-fiction book, or poetry/short story compilation. You should choose a book you haven't read before.

If you'd like some ideas, here are a couple book lists with recommendations for 9th graders (I did not compile these lists, so you should check the books' appropriateness for you as a reader before deciding). You do not have to choose a book from these lists.

50 Must-Read Books for Ninth Graders:

<https://www.boredteachers.com/books/50-must-read-books-for-ninth-graders>

Classic Books for a 9th Grade Reading List:

<https://www.thoughtco.com/9th-grade-reading-list-4160554>

****Note that we will read *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Romeo and Juliet* together in class, so do not choose either of those.**

After finishing your book, you will prepare a book talk which you will present during the first week of school. Details on the next page.

Here is a link to a **sample book talk** that I recorded:

<https://youtu.be/F7c9fEtDtBQ>

BOOKTALK PLANNING SHEET



A book talk is a speech given to convince someone to read a particular novel.

Use the space below to plan out what you will say during your book talk.

INTRODUCE THE
AUTHOR, TITLE, & GENRE
OF THE BOOK AND HOOK
YOUR AUDIENCE!

GIVE A BRIEF OVERVIEW
OF THE PLOT, SETTING,
CONFLICT, AND MAIN
CHARACTERS WITHOUT
SPOILING THE ENDING.

PROVIDE YOUR PERSONAL
OPINION ON THE BOOK.
WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO
IT? DO YOU HAVE A
FAVORITE PASSAGE OR
MOMENT IN THE PLOT?
CAN YOU RELATE TO THE
PLOT, CHARACTERS,
CONFLICT ETC.? IS THERE
AN IMPORTANT THEME
EXPLORED IN THE STORY?
CAN YOU MAKE ANY TEXT
TO WORLD CONNECTIONS?

WRITE THE PAGE AND
PARAGRAPH NUMBER FOR
A PASSAGE YOU WILL READ.

WHAT RATING WOULD YOU
GIVE THIS BOOK? WHO
WOULD YOU RECOMMEND
THIS BOOK TO? WHY?

ENTICE THE LISTENERS
TO READ THIS NOVEL!

BOOKTALK INSTRUCTIONS

A booktalk is a short speech delivered with the intent of convincing someone to read a book. It is like a commercial or a movie trailer that is meant to hook the audience and get them to want to read the book as well. Remember that a booktalk is NOT a book review, a book report, or a book analysis. Below you will find information how to prepare and organize your booktalk.



INTRODUCE YOUR BOOK

Introduce the book to your listener by first telling them the title, author, and genre. You might also consider telling them how you found the book and came to read it.

HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE

Hook your audience immediately! You might consider doing this by reading an exciting quote, setting the scene, asking a thought-provoking question, or making a connection between the novel to your audience.

SUMMARIZE THE BOOK

After you have hooked your audience, give them a brief overview of the plot of the book you are speaking about. It is really important that you strike a balance between telling them what the story is about and not revealing too much and spoiling the plotline/ending. During your plot summary, you might also discuss the characters, conflict, or interesting themes explored in the book. Again, be careful not to reveal TOO much.

YOUR PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS

After the summary, you should provide your personal impressions of the book. You might consider discussing what attracted you to it, a favorite part or passage, how you relate to the book, an interesting theme that the novel explores, or text-to-world connections.

SHARE A PASSAGE

Share an interesting, exciting, or thought-provoking passage from your novel (read it directly from the book). This can be done during the plot summary or personal impression section as well! After you read the passage, explain why you chose it or discuss the significance.

CONCLUDE & ENTICE

To conclude your booktalk, give the book a rating and discuss what type of person would love this selection. You should also entice the listener to read this book and leave them wanting more.

BOOKTALK CHECKLIST



Below you will find a checklist that you can use to make sure you are fully prepared for your booktalk.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE INCLUDED THE TITLE, AUTHOR, AND GENRE. | <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE INCLUDED A QUOTE OR PASSAGE FROM THE BOOK TO SHARE WITH THE AUDIENCE. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE HOOKED MY LISTENER IN SOME WAY AT THE START OF THE BOOKTALK. | <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE PRACTICED MY BOOKTALK MULTIPLE TIMES SO THAT I DO NOT READ DIRECTLY FROM MY NOTES. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE SUMMARIZED THE PLOT AND DISCUSSED CHARACTER, CONFLICT, AND THEME WITHOUT REVEALING TOO MUCH. | <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE HAD AT LEAST ONE PERSON LISTEN TO ME PRACTICE MY BOOKTALK. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE PROVIDED A PERSONAL IMPRESSION OF THE BOOK. | <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE MY BOOK READY TO BRING TO CLASS WHEN IT IS MY DAY TO PRESENT. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE CONCLUDED THE BOOK TALK BY PROVIDING A RECOMMENDATION AND ENTICING THE LISTENER. | <input type="checkbox"/> I HAVE READ THE BOOKTALK INSTRUCTIONS THOROUGHLY AND COMPLETED THE PLANNING SHEET. |

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BOOKTALK RUBRIC



CRITERIA	Below Average (0-5)	Average (6-7)	Above Average (8-9)	Excellent (10)
Introduction	Book is not introduced in a clear manner.	A basic/simple introduction of the book.	An appealing introduction of the book.	Exceptionally creative introduction of the book.
Book Content	Summary is lacking development of story elements.	A basic or simple summary of story elements.	A well-developed summary of most story elements.	Thorough and insightful summary of all story elements.
Conclusion	Conclusion needs improvement. Doesn't entice readers.	Basic conclusion to the book, but might not draw in readers.	Interesting conclusion that may draw in some readers.	Enticing conclusion that draws the reader to the book.
Presentation	Student lacks enthusiasm. Volume, eye-contact, and pace are problematic.	Student needs more enthusiasm. Volume, eye-contact, and pace need some improvement.	Student is somewhat enthusiastic. Volume, eye-contact, and pace are good.	Student is enthusiastic. Volume, eye-contact, and pace are excellent.

COMMENTS: _____

TOTAL: /40

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