

## Summer Reading Assignment

Greetings Trailblazers,

Summer is here, and along with vacations, swimming, and ice cream, summer is the perfect time for reading a good book. Before we return to school in September, I would like you to read two books, and I hope you will read more! The first is a book of your choice. You will prepare a book talk about your book to present to the class during our first week together. Book talks are a great way to share a book you've enjoyed reading and an opportunity to hear about books that might interest you from your classmates. Use the guidelines below to help you prepare for your book talk.

### **How To Give A Book Talk**

- First, begin by choosing a book that interests you. For suggestions, check out the lists at <https://www.goodreads.com>.
- As you read, prepare for your book talk by taking notes or using sticky notes to mark parts of the book that surprise you, quotes that speak to you, and parts of the book that you connect with.
- The goal of a book talk is to convince members of your audience to read the book. In a sense, you are creating a fun and exciting commercial for your book. Your book talk should be no more than 3 minutes long, so choose what you want to share carefully.
- Make sure you practice your book talk. You may use notes to help you remember what you want to say, but you should not read your book talk from a piece of paper.

Your book talk should include:

**Opening:** The purpose of the opening is to hook your audience. Start with a quote, a question for your audience, or a vivid description of the main character. Be sure to include the title and author of the book.

**Summary:** In no more than a paragraph or two, summarize the book. Be sure you introduce the main character in your book and the problem they are facing, but don't give away the ending!

**Opinion:** Share your opinion of the book. How did you feel about the book? Would you recommend it to others? Why or why not? Who do you think would most enjoy reading the book?

**Closing:** This is your last opportunity to "sell" your book. End by asking a rhetorical question (a question that is asked without expecting an answer), reading a meaningful quote from your book, or leaving your audience with a cliffhanger.

For examples of book talks, click the links below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Zi6rw1K8LQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjXPr2Q0Pb4>

The second book I would like you to read is the Coretta Scott King Award - winning novel, *The Crossover*, by Kwame Alexander (the book, not the graphic novel). In this story told in verse, two twin brothers face life's challenges on and off the basketball court and learn the value of family ties along the way.

After you have read the book, please choose **TWO** of the projects below to complete. Your projects are due on the first day of school. Your work should represent the best work you can do, show your creativity and thoughtfulness, and reflect what you learned from reading the book.

- Craft your own concrete poem. Follow [this link](#) to learn more about this type of poem.
- Write a letter from Josh to his father dated a year after the book ends. Consider what he would want him to know about what he's been through and what he might not want to share with his father. Be sure to properly format your letter.
- Create a comic strip that shows what happens after the story ends. What do you think the future has in store for Josh? Your comic strip should include at least 5 panels and have both pictures and dialogue.
- Think of a problem Josh encounters in the book. How could you use engineering to solve the problem? Create a 3-D model or prototype of your idea. Include a paragraph that explains the problem, your solution, and the components of your model.
- Write an "I Am" poem from Josh's point of view using [this template](#). When your poem is completed, neatly write it or type and paste it onto a large piece of blank paper or poster board and create a collage around it that connects with the ideas in your poem.

I hope you have a wonderful, book - filled summer, and I'll see you in September!

Ms. Horan