Booktalk Tips

**Scholastic Book Fairs** offers hundreds of new books every season that are perfect to inspire increased student reading. Here are some tips on how to give an engaging booktalk:

- Select a book you love.
- Read the whole book before giving your booktalk.
- Keep it short; great booktalks are only 2–3 minutes long.
- Talk about what made this book so special for you! On a scale of 1–10, your book choice shouldn’t rate less than an 8.
- Open strong. Think about starting a booktalk by asking your audience a question related to the story. “Do you like to laugh out loud?” Or start by giving your thoughts about a character you loved: “This is the bravest little dog I ever met.”
- Find a hook. Grab the attention of your readers by talking or reading about one standout part of the story.
- Use a prop to support your booktalk.
- Don’t tell too much. Don’t give away the ending or other special parts of the story, and don’t retell the story. Get your listeners interested, but always leave your audience wanting to go out and read the book!
- Suggest other great reads that are written by the author or are similar in plot or genre. “If you like this one, then you’ll love…”

Create a booktalking culture at your school. Incorporate booktalks into library or language arts classes, or invite students and faculty members to booktalk at school events. You can even get your principal involved by establishing a special Principal’s Booktalk Day for each grade level.

Go online for more booktalk ideas: [www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/booktalk](http://www.scholastic.com/bookfairs/booktalk)

You can also use Book Wizard to find books for different reading levels: [www.scholastic.com/bookwizard](http://www.scholastic.com/bookwizard)