

Planning a Book Talk, Grades 4-8

- 1.** Choose a book you love.
- 2.** Start by showing the cover of the book. Then read the title and the name of the book's author. If there is an illustrator, share their name too.
- 3.** Next, use a hook that will capture your classmates' interest. It could be a great quotation from the book or an unusual picture. You could also start by asking a related question or making a connection to something in the news.
- 4.** Briefly summarize the book without giving away too much information. The goal is to make your classmates curious.
- 5.** Share the book's nonfiction category. Is it active, browseable, traditional, expository literature, or narrative?
- 6.** Tell your classmates why you loved the book, and share at least two fascinating facts that you learned. (If you mark your favorite pages with sticky notes, they will be easier to find during your book talk.)
- 7.** Explain why you think someone might want to read this book. (This can be general, but it can also be specific. For example, if you know a classmate who's interested in trains and your book is about trains then you might say, "I think Carly would like this book because . . .").
- 8.** End with an encouraging statement (Example: Check out *Girls with Guts: The Road to Breaking Barriers and Bashing Records* by Debbie Gonzales to discover how women athletes have stunned the world by achieving goals nobody thought they could!)