A Bookseller’s Day

Your assignment has been to read a book independently. You were asked to select your own book, choosing one that is worthwhile and truly enjoyable. Now, you will try to “sell” your book in a book talk. Plan to use visual aids to accompany your talk, as well as costumes and/or music.

The following is a suggested format for your talk:

1. Set up your materials. Make sure you display the book.
2. Introduce the book. Show it to your audience. Be sure to give the title and the author. Refer to the title and the author in one of your visual aids.
3. Provide some background about the author, and be sure to include information about the source you used for this portion of the talk.
4. Briefly summarize the book. Decide whether you should reveal the ending.
5. Read a brief excerpt from the book. The passage you select should be a significant passage that describes a main character in some way, represents an important point in the plot, or reflects the author’s style.
6. Review the book. This is the important part of your talk. You might comment on the book’s theme, problem, conflict, character development, or believability. Your opinion counts. What did you like? What might other readers like? Relate your talk to the visual material included in your presentation. Make a recommendation to other students. “Sell” this book to those you believe would enjoy it.
7. Conclude your presentation. Be sure to thank the audience.

Suggestions for visual aids:

* Advertising posters
* Bookmarks advertising your book
* Business cards
* A magazine or newspaper ad
* A videotaped commercial
* An ordinary object that represents the book in some way
* Show a book trailer

Suggestions for costumes or music:

* Play introductory music as you set up
* Write a jingle or song like you would hear in a commercial
* Dress as a character from your book or as a sales person
* Choose a song that represents some element of your book, like a character, plot event, or theme, and play it for the audience. Be sure to explain why you chose it. Include the lyrics on one of your visual aids.

The following scoring sheet will be used in evaluating your presentation:

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| --- | --- |
| Visual Aids | 10 points |
| Costume and/or music | 10 points |
| Introduction and conclusion | 5 points |
| Information about the author | 5 points |
| Brief plot summary | 5 points |
| Excerpt from the book | 5 points |
| Review and “selling” of the book | 10 points |