

What I've Learned About Doing Book Talks:

- Take a deep breath in and let it out all the way before you begin talking
- Smile
- Get comfortable with your own style
- Three magic words: Frame, Takeaway, YOU
- Enthusiasm, enthusiasm, enthusiasm
- Talk naturally
- Don't over-prepare
- Use covers of the book strategically
- Maintain eye contact with audience members
- Try to ignore the sleepers and text messagers and those who forgot to turn off their cellphones.
- Keep it short – no longer than three minutes
- Describe the plot in no more than 1 or 2 sentences. Don't give away the exciting stuff
- Is there a particular image in the book, or a passage, or a moment that captures why you liked the book so much? If so, share it with the audience – but only if you're a good reader-aloud.
- Pretend you're a character
- Memorize your opening line and your closing lines. Begin with a question: Do you like to laugh your way through a book?" Or "Do you like to be scared?" or "If you liked Hatchet by Gary Paulsen, here's another book I think you'd really enjoy."
- Make the closing line dynamic – find different ways of saying "I loved it" – like "I didn't read it once, I didn't read it twice, I read it three times."
- Give your audience a list of titles you're going to be talking about in advance