

Entice Your Reader

example, when a character stands up for a friend in a story, we can infer from their actions that friendship and courage are themes in the story.

Common themes your students can look for in their books include:

friendship	love	cooperation
courage	loyalty	determination
fairness	anger	being different

As a class, explore how authors use themes to guide their writing. Ask students to reread important parts of the book and take notes as they analyze the book's characters, setting, and plot to determine the theme. The actions of the main character are a great place to look for the theme.

To gather information students can use to develop their booktalk, use graphic organizers like thought webs and the 5 W's to show the central theme of the book as well as events in the story that relate to the theme.

Create

Next, have students prepare a script for their booktalk. An exciting script should include:

An interesting hook.

A vivid description of an event that supports the theme.

The title and name of the author at the conclusion.

A call to action.

Remind students that showing the story is more effective than trying to retell the story. As they write the script, have them think of the booktalk as a movie trailer. Their goal is to leave the viewer with a compelling reason for checking out that book!

To transform the script into a video, it is helpful to have a storyboard or map of each student's vision. The storyboard should include information about which

Identifiers

Grade Level

5–12

Subject

Language Arts

Duration

2 Weeks

Objective

Students explore character, plot, and theme and learn to write persuasively.

Description

Students write a compelling script and use Frames to create a booktalk in the form of a movie trailer to promote a book they have read.

Application

Frames™ 4

Process

Authentic Task

Between iPods, cell phones, portable game consoles, and TV, kids are spending less time reading than ever before. The local public library is looking for a way to promote reading to elementary students. They have asked you to create a short digital booktalk – like a movie trailer for a book – that they can use in the children's section of the library.

Big Idea: *How do I get a young reader hooked on a book?*

Engage

Getting students to read isn't always easy. Choose one of your favorite books and share it with your students in a way you think will get them excited about reading it. Then, tell why it was your favorite book.

Ask students what gets them excited about reading. Is it the characters? Is it the setting, an exciting plot, interesting themes, or a personal connection with the story?

Let your students know they will be using Frames to create a booktalk in the form of a movie trailer to promote one of their favorite books.

First, have students determine which book they want to promote. Then, have them answer the following questions:

Have I read another book by the same author?

Did I like it as much as this book?

What genre is this book?

Is this a book part of a series?

Do I have a personal connection to this book?

To better advertise their book, students need to be able to identify the theme. Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work. They are BIG ideas, like friendship, love and courage. For

Steps for Students

Creating a Booktalk in Frames™ 4

Students can use Frames to combine text, narration, sound, illustrations, and images into an exciting booktalk.

1. Launch Frames. It will open to a single blank frame.
2. Click the Frame button on the toolbar and select New Blank Frame from the menu to add more frames.
3. To create your own illustrations, click the Shapes button on the toolbar.
4. Drag the cursor on the frame to draw the shape. Resize it if necessary.
5. Click one of the nodes (the small colored squares). You will see two node handles. Click and drag the handles to change the shape.
6. To duplicate a frame, click the Duplicate button.
7. Make changes to the shapes and duplicate the frame again to create movement and animation.
8. To add a Pics4Learning image as the background, click the Library tab and navigate to the Pics4Learning folder. Once you have an image selected, right-click it and choose Set frame background.
9. Click the Text button to add text to a frame.
10. Use the formatting options in the Options panel to change how the text looks.
11. Click the Record button on the toolbar to add narration.
12. Click the Library tab to locate the music folder and add a background sound.
13. Click the Save button to save the booktalk as you work.
14. Click the Make button to choose how you want to share your booktalk.



portion of the script each scene will include and what images and sound files will be used to support it. When the storyboard is complete, have students begin gathering images, music, and sound effects to support their vision.

Have students use Frames to build their booktalk. They can use digital storytelling techniques like pan and zoom, or illustrate using the drawing tools to create their own animations. They should record their script and adjust the timing of the frames and sound effects to match the action.

Share

Share the book trailers with the rest of the class or play them on the morning announcements to encourage others to read the books. The librarian may choose to show the trailers in the library as other classes come in for their scheduled library time. If your district or community has public access television, try to get your students' booktalks aired. This is a great way to encourage the entire community to read!

Assessment

The final booktalk is a great summative assessment of student skill communicating in a visual medium. During the process, you can assess progress using students' notes and thought webs. Having students turn in their scripts and storyboards prior to creating the booktalk animation will help ensure that they are on the right track.

You may also want to look at time management strategies and help students develop a project calendar.

Resources

Littlejohn, Carol. *Talk That Book: Booktalks to Promote Reading*
ISBN: 0938865757

Cavanaugh, Terence W. and Keane, Nancy J. *The Tech-Savvy Booktalker: A Guide for 21st-Century Educators*
ISBN: 1591586372

Scholastic
<http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/bookrev/>

Children and Student Book Reviews
<http://www.buildingrainbows.com/>

Mount Saint Vincent University Library
<http://www.msvu.ca/library/bookrev2.asp>

Standards

IRA/NCTE Standards for the English Language Arts

2. Students read a wide range of literature from many periods in many genres to build an understanding of the many dimensions (e.g., philosophical, ethical, aesthetic) of human experience.

3. Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

NETS for Students:

2. Communication and Collaboration:

Students use digital media and environments to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others. Students:
b. communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats.