

6th Grade Summer Reading

Shelf Talkers

Book stores often use small signs to promote book titles and get readers excited to read a book. These signs, called shelf talkers, might say something unique about the writing style of the book or give a review. They might also describe an emotion or some action in the story. For **at least two** of the required books you read this summer (**other than *The Boys in the Boat***), you will need to create shelf talkers. You are welcome to do more than two!



If you are trying to earn a Summer Reading Medal, you must complete a shelf talker for each book you read (including the required ones, other than *The Boys in the Boat*).

Before getting started with yours, go visit some of your local independent bookstores for some inspiration! The picture above was taken at Book People in Austin.

Here are the requirements for your shelf talkers:

- The templates (see next page) should be **printed on card-stock**, as they will be laminated and displayed on our classroom bookshelves, and should be decorated in color (colored pencils work best).
- **Your Information:** Neatly write your first and last name at the bottom of the shelf talker.
- **The Background:** The background of the card should resemble the book in some way and should be hand-drawn. It should grab people's attention visually. See the picture above for an example.
- **Book Details:** Include the title, author, and genre of the book.
- **A BRIEF Summary:** Write a brief summary that includes the main character(s) and some of the major events of the plot. *Be sure to leave your listeners wanting more, so they'll read the book and find out what happens!*
- **A Cliffhanger:** Include an unresolved section of your book by leaving something up in the air, or tease them by saying, "If you want to know what happens next, read the book!"
- **Why You Liked It:** Did it have a unique and gripping story? Were the characters well-rounded and all-too-real? Was the writing so beautiful you had to stop reading every now and then to just marvel at a sentence? The best shelf talkers always include something personal from the reader.
- **Recommendations:**
 - Who would enjoy this book and why?
 - If you like _____ (title of book or book series), you'll like this book.

Title:

Author:

Genre:

Recommended by:

Title:

Author:

Genre:

Recommended by:

Choice Book Project

Instructions: Choose ONE of the three books (other than *The Boys in the Boat*) from your summer reading to complete ONE of the following project options.

Regardless of what option you choose, I expect the following from you:

1. Your project is neat and demonstrates time, care, and effort.
2. You show me you truly read the book, showing me a deep understanding of the plot, characters, and events of the book.
3. You took creative risks and made your project the best it could be.
4. You clearly follow ALL instructions for the option you chose.

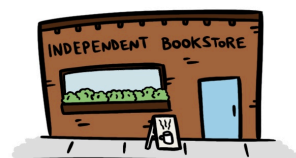
BOOKS ARE MEANT TO BE...



LOVED



SHARED



BOUGHT



BORROWED



SMELLED



STACKED

Choice #1: New Book Jacket

Make a new book jacket for the book. Think about the settings, characters, and big events. Make it unique. IT SHOULD NOT LOOK LIKE THE ORIGINAL COVER.

- **Front cover:** Draw and color an illustration for the book, include the title and author's name..
- **Inside front flap:** Write a short summary of the book—but don't spoil it and give everything away! (50-100 words) Please do not copy from the book. That is plagiarism—and will result in a zero.
- **Inside back flap:** About the Author: do a little research on the author and give us a short paragraph (30-50 words) on who the author is. Please do not copy from the book. That is plagiarism—and will result in a zero.
- **Back cover:** Write 2-3 quotes that review the book positively. You can make up people to say the quote, or you can ask classmates who read the book how they would review it and include their names.

Choice #2: Character Interview

Write out an interview between you and a character from the book in a style similar to a movie script dialogue. Write 10 questions to ask your character. Then write a dialogue where

you and the main character talk back and forth, addressing the 10 questions you came up with. The character should respond like you think the character would from the book.

Main requirements:

- at least 250 words long, typed
- demonstrates a clear understanding of the character, who they are, their personality, and how they would respond
- At least 3 questions have to be connected to the events of the book.

Choice #3: Illustrated Timeline

Create an illustrated timeline showing important events from the book. Choose at between 10-15 important events from the story from beginning to end. Write a description of each event, and draw & color an illustration for each event. The events must be in the order in which they occurred. Also included in your drawings surrounding your timeline should be important characters, objects, places, and the title and author of the book.

Choice #4: Side Character Journals

Write 3 journal entries from the perspective of a side character. This can be any character **except** for the main protagonist (the character you're cheering for) and the main antagonist (the character that is throwing a wrench in the protagonists' plans). What would they write about? Include details about the story, observation of the main characters and events, and show their personality. All three journal entries should be a total of at least 250 words.



In summary, what do I have to do?

- Read *The Boys in the Boat*. Be ready to discuss it and do some work with it when school starts.
- Choose and read at least two other books from the reading list.
- Complete at least two shelf talkers for the books you read (other than *The Boys in the Boat*).
- Complete one of the Choice Book Projects.

This is all due by the end of the first week of school.

Happy reading!