

Ideas for Book Presentations

The best and most interesting book presentations will result from intensive group-discussions with the help of the discussion prompt cards and the homework task cards. Every group member should do a different task, possibly from a different area (plot, setting, character...) To make this easier for the students, these different areas are copied on colored cards. The students choose different colors.

A wonderful collection of tasks can be found in the following books, all available at Amazon.com

Laura Robb, *52 Fabulous Discussion-Prompt Cards for Reading Groups*, Scholastic, 2000
ISBN No. 0-439-22722-4

Janice Szabos, *Reading- A Novel Approach*, Good Apple Inc. 1984.
ISBN No. 0-86653-186-6

Susan Van Zile, *Awesome, Hands-on Activities for Teaching Literary Elements*, Scholastic, 2001.
ISBN No. 0-439-16355-2

Sample Ideas that have worked very well:

Plot:

- Present an alternative book cover and blurb: Be sure the illustration relates to an important aspect of the book. Use appropriate colors to evoke the atmosphere created by the book. (Older Ss can also be asked to print out different book covers from the internet. Amazon.com usually has different editions. Ss then present the different cover designs and their own version. The class chooses their favorite one. (Very good way to discover underlying themes and the tone of a novel.)
- Plot on the line: Write the main events on separate sheets. Add simple drawings and decorations. Use clothes-pegs and hang them up on a string. Don't give away the ending.
- Plot mountain: write main events on paper strips (key-words). Stick them on a plot diagram mountain. (draw mountain, slope = rising tension and conflicts, peak = climax, descent = resolution)
- Plot diagram: draw a "fever curve" of the ups and downs in the novel. Peaks of suspense or conflict...., label the curve. Gives a very good overview of the important events in a book.
- Make a plot mini-book (concertina or origami)
- Act out a scene of your choice.

Setting:

- Make a setting pop-up or a painting that shows the most important place(s) in the book.
- Setting murals: several paintings glued together
- Draw a simple map of the locations in your novel. Make sure the map is large enough for us to read it clearly. Attach a legend to your map. Write a paragraph that explains the importance of each location indicated on your map.

Characters:

- Identity bags/ character suitcase: Bring a bag full of objects that are somehow important to the main character of your book. Show them and explain their relevance.
- Paper-chain characters: Cut out a set of paper-chain figures, one for each of the main characters in your book. Decorate them: Name, favorite quote(s), looks, favorite activities, likes/dislikes... Use packing paper or flip-chart paper to make your characters big enough for the class to read.
- Character T-shirts: design a T-shirt (picture and slogan) for one of your book's characters
- Character collage: (pictures and words from magazines)
- Prepare a "bubble sheet" (A3 poster) where you collect important quotes from your book.
- Sociogram: Choose suitable buttons to represent the main characters of the book. Then make a sociogram showing the relations between the characters. Compare your version with other students.
- Character profiles: Look at the different levels of a main character's personality and complete the profile circles (see attached worksheet)

Other:

- Write a poem or song-lyrics that might be used in a film or radio-play of your book.
- A Novel Museum: display 10 to 15 items that play a role in the book. Tour-guides present the artifacts.
- Theme in a bottle: (message in a bottle)
- Make a board game: Design a board (use settings, plot line and events... task cards or fields... you might even make *Fimo* character-counters...)
- Non-stop talking: Ss stand in two concentric circles. The Ss in the outer circle talk non-stop for 1 minute (older Ss can do 2-3 minutes) about the novel they have read. Ss in the inner circle listen. Teacher measures time. After 1 minute, Ss change roles. Then Ss in the outer circle move one person to the left. Do this with 5-6 partners. (Works well for independent reading where Ss talk about different books. If they have all read the same book give out sub-tasks for each round: e.g: Favorite character, least favorite character, setting(s), ending, ...)
- Acrostic poem: Write the title of the novel downwards on a page. Then use each letter as an initial for a line about the book.
- Alternative idea: If you have an idea of your own contact your teacher about it.

Older students: Older students who read modern or contemporary literature in their reading groups might also be asked to present:

- Short information about the author: main focus should be on typical themes or characteristic topics, style, other books... Biographical information only if relevant (e.g.: personal experiences that are reflected in the books...)
- Historical or cultural background of the novel
- Making connections to the modern world: Depending on the topics and themes of the book Ss might do tasks such as the following (designed for *Brave New World* or *Animal Farm*):
 - Present the basic principals of propaganda and advertising (do an internet search)
 - Give a propaganda speech about any topic of your choice. Then explain the methods you have used.
 - Present the pros and cons of genetic engineering