

- Many libraries are very much interested in posters or texts written by students about books. It is particularly motivating for the class if their posters are exhibited in the library.
- With the help of tablets or smartphones, older students might want to create a trailer for a book. A simple guide for it can be found under: <http://www.phlu.ch/dienstleistung/zentrum-medienbildung/medienbildung/buchtrailer>

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“Book Slam”

Goal

The intent of this idea is to motivate young people to read. Moreover, they learn to summarize contents as concisely as possible, and to present them in an attractive and creative fashion.

5th – 9th grade

Approx. 90 minutes



Materials:

Different books (also non-fiction, poetry, magazines, etc.), whistle, stopwatch.

Procedure:

- The instructor explains the terms “slam” and “book slam” (see below) two to three weeks in advance. S/he informs the class about the project and the necessary preparations:

Students must decide (alone or in groups of two) on a book (or another text, e. g. from a magazine) that they want to present. They should also think about how to create a 3-minute presentation. It should be as creative, attractive, informative and funny as possible (example: rap, recount freely, read out loud, advertising spot, etc.). Various examples can be found in the internet by googling the word “book slam”.

- Preparing and practicing the preparation (one week ahead; time requirement: one lesson).

Once the students have decided on their presentation concept, they discuss their idea with another student or team for feedback and suggestions for improvement. Important: the summary of the content must be kept to a minimum; there is no time for details. Students must think about what would be of greatest interest to the listeners and how their presentation could attract attention to them and their book.

- Implementation (time requirement: one lesson):

Each student (or team of two students) is allocated three minutes for their presentation. Two student time keepers enforce the time with a stop watch and a whistle. The public evaluates the presented texts or books by awarding points to them. They raise cards with the chosen number on a scale of 1–9; someone adds up the total and notes the result for each book or text on the board. The winner is the book or text with the most points. All books and texts will be exhibited and may be checked out by the students.

Remarks:

The rules of book slam are based on the event format of poetry slam: a very short presentation that is judged by members of the audience.

Variants:

Book slams can be optimally staged in cooperation with regular classroom instruction. That means that they will be conducted bilingually of course. Events like parents' evenings or in conjunction with partner classes are also an excellent framework for book slams.

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"Book Dating"

Goal

The students must summarize the content of a book or another text as succinctly as possible and present the content to the person facing them in at most four to five minutes. The other students learn about exciting books and articles from the short presentations, also receive reading recommendations and thus can be animated to read certain books or texts.

4th–9th grade

60–90 minutes



Materials:
various books, including non-fiction,
books of poetry, magazines, etc.),
stop watch.

Procedure:

- Preparation

Following the instructor's explanation of the term and the project, each student decides on a book or a text. The content is then quickly summarized (either in writing with a few keywords) as a memory aid for the presentation. A list is created as to who will present which book or text. This preparation can also be assigned as a homework assignment.

- Implementation

The class is divided into two groups. One half tells the story, the other half listens. The narrators are distributed at different tables in the room. The listeners may sit for 5 minutes at an individual narrator's table during which time text content is discussed and questions may be answered. After 5 minutes, the listeners rotate to another table. The roles are reversed in a second round, so that all students get to listen and tell a story. In a final discussion, students briefly reflect on their experiences, and the examples and quality of particularly effective presentations are discussed and commented.

Remarks:

About the term: "book dating" is a variation of the so-called "speed dating" concept. It is a method of organized partner search and dating agency, where two partners sit opposite each other for five minutes to chat about themselves. If there is mutual sympathy, the partners can meet again later. The object of book dating is to learn in five minutes as much as possible about a book, instead of a person, and to praise it, thus generating interest for it among the listeners.