

## Book Talk

### *PART ONE: Written Plan*

**Theme:** Older Fiction

**Intended Audience and Location:** 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Jesse Wharton Elementary School, each class averages 24 students. Book talk will take place during annual Book Fair and day prior to Thanksgiving break.

### **Books:**

Alexander, Lloyd. 1964. *The Book of Three*. New York: Yearling/Random House.

Cited Wilson's Children's Core Collection, reading level: grades 5-8.

L'Engle, Madeleine. 1962. *A Wrinkle in Time*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Cited Wilson's Children's Core Collection, reading level: grades 5-10.

Pearce, Phillipa. 1958. *Tom's Midnight Garden*. New York: HarperCollins.

Cited Wilson Children's Core Collection, reading level: grades 4-7.

### **Presentation Plan:**

1. Introduce myself.
2. Attention Getter: Book Fairs are exciting because all the latest and greatest books are on sale. And, while the latest and newest are often better, that is not true of books. There is a lot to be said about older books. Today, I'd like to tell you about three older fiction books I have read recently.
3. Introduce first book – Tom's Midnight Garden
4. Transition
5. Introduce 2<sup>nd</sup> book: Book of Three
6. Transition: How many of you have seen the Avengers movie? In it, the tesseract is very valuable and is what allows for time travel. Well, this next book may very well be the first use of the tesseract.
7. Introduce Book #3: A Wrinkle in Time.
8. Conclusion: Introduced 3 older fiction books that I hope will interest you and remind you that there are a lot of good and exciting older books to consider when looking for something to read after the book fair.

*PART TWO: Booktalk Narrative*

Opener: As you can see, this week is the Book Fair. Last week we watched a video that talked about some of the books you will find when you go to the book fair. Many of the books in the book fair are new like the newest book in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series. Today, I'd like to share with you some books you won't find in the book fair but are really good books.

If I asked any student here at Jesse Wharton what is the one thing about school that they love the most, I'm sure I'd get a lot of you to tell me that the best thing about school is summer vacation. Everyone, teachers and students alike, look forward to summer vacation. Imagine it's May and school will be getting out soon. You have your summer all planned out. You and your brother are going to build a tree house in the tree in your back yard. Now imagine that your brother gets very sick with something that is very contagious. He can't finish out the rest of school and cannot leave his room. Because his sickness is so contagious, you are getting packed up and shipped off to stay with your least favorite aunt and uncle. It gets worse because there is nothing to do there, no TV, no games, nothing at all. Even if there were something to do, worst of all is that there is no one to do it with. Because not only is there no one to play with, you have to stay away from people in case you might have your brother's illness after all. That is Tom Long's life as we meet him in *Tom's Midnight Garden* by Phillipa Pearce.

It sounds like Tom is in for a very long and very boring summer. So, why is it that when his brother is better and he can go home, Tom wants to stay at his least favorite aunt and uncle's? What could possibly have changed for Tom? What could he have found to do there? Obviously something exciting! Read *Tom's Midnight Garden* and find out.

The next book I'd like to tell you about is *The Book of Three* by Lloyd Alexander. *The Book of Three* is the first book in a series called The Chronicles of Prydain. We meet a young man by the name of Taran who lives in Caer Dallben, a kingdom in a distant land of castles and enchanters. Taran longs for adventure, but he is only a farm helper, given the title of assistant pig-keeper. Of course, this is no ordinary pig. This pig can talk, but she only talks in secret ways to the enchanters. Still, the title of assistant pig-keeper does not sound exciting or important.

When the animals get spooked, the pig runs away. Taran goes to try to find her and ends up on an adventure like he always wanted. However, this adventure was full of danger which he comes across very soon as he begins his hunt for the runaway pig. An evil warlord known as the Horned King wants the pig and to rule the kingdom of Prydain. The Horned King's army almost kills Taran, but he is saved by the prince of Prydain, Gwydion. That is just the beginning of Taran's adventure as he searches for the missing pig and tries to save the kingdom from the evil Horned King. Will Taran succeed in finding the pig and saving the kingdom? Will he ever get back home? Read *The Book of Three* by Lloyd Alexander and find out. Then, read on in The Chronicles of Prydain series for other adventures of Taran.

Raise your hand if you have seen the Avenger's movie. In the Avenger's movie, the tesseract is a blue cube that is very powerful. It is what allows for the time travel of Thor and his brother. Well, this next book I want to tell you about is probably the first story that was written that uses the tesseract. The book is *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle.

Meg Murry is the only girl in a family of four children. She has twin younger brothers, Sandy and Dennys, and a much younger brother named Charles Wallace. Their father has been away on a trip for work for a very long time, a year or more. It has been a long time since anyone has heard from Meg's dad. One night during a storm, a stranger comes to visit. Only this stranger is not a stranger to Charles Wallace. He has met Mrs. Whatsit and her two friends, Mrs. Who and Mrs. Which while walking in the woods. The next day, Meg and Charles went through the woods to the house where Mrs. Whatsit and her friends were staying and met Calvin O'Keefe, a boy from Meg's school. The three of them went to see the strange ladies in the old house. Before long, the three strange ladies along with Calvin, Meg, and Charles Wallace are traveling through time and space to find Meg's missing father. How does the tesseract help them? Will they find Mr. Murry? Will they all get back home again? Read *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle to find out.

Like *The Book of Three*, *A Wrinkle in Time* is the first book in a series so you can continue to read about Meg and her family's adventures.

I hope that you enjoy the Book Fair and all the new and exciting books that are available. Just don't forget that there are a lot of really good older books that you might like. If you need a place to start, here are three books (*Tom's Midnight Garden* by Phillipa Pearce, *The Book of Three* by Lloyd Alexander, and *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle) that I hope will interest you.