

## 2025 MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER READING ASSIGNMENT

Name\_\_\_\_\_

TYPED BOOK TALK DUE: **THE FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL**

DATE OF YOUR BOOK TALK PRESENTATION: \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXPLANATION:**

You are to choose a Just-Right book to read over the summer. This book should be one that is age and grade-level appropriate. It should also be enjoyable!

While you are reading the book you are to make note of the needed information that will be included in both your typed and oral book talk. (See Rubric/Guidelines sheet)

Your typed book talk must follow the same format as the example typed book talk that has been provided. (See example typed book talk) ALL QUOTES AND TEXT EVIDENCE must be typed into your paper, including page numbers. You must hand in your typed book talk on the date recorded at the top of this paper.

For your oral book talk you will organize, practice, and present the information that is also asked of you on the Rubric/Guidelines sheet. You must be prepared WITH YOUR BOOK to present on the date recorded at the top of this paper. Make sure to have your required quotes and other text evidence marked so as to be prepared for your presentation.

\*\*\*You may use index cards to OUTLINE your presentation. You may NOT include full details because they should be known by you after having practiced your presentation ahead of time.

EXAMPLE OF AN INDEX CARD OUTLINE:

<u>VOCABULARY</u>
<u>WORD:</u> conch
<u>PAGE:</u> 24

Based on this index card I would say to the class... **"While I was reading I came across the word CONCH. I was not sure what the word meant. In the story it stated, "Mr. Beeston leaned against the window and spoke into his conch." When I looked up the word I learned that a CONCH is a seashell, horn, or shell trumpet."**

The information placed in bold print would be what I include in my typed paper and would also be what I state in my oral presentation. The index card outlined what the word was and the page I had to turn to in order to read it to the class during my presentation.

\*\*\*Any note cards containing too many details will not be allowed. You must only OUTLINE.

Most importantly, PLEASE ENJOY READING YOUR BOOK. Do not see this as a dull boring assignment. Get excited about the book that YOU CHOSE to read! Use this assignment as an opportunity to convey your thoughts and feelings about the book to your peers – with the hopes that they too will want to read the book when you are done presenting.

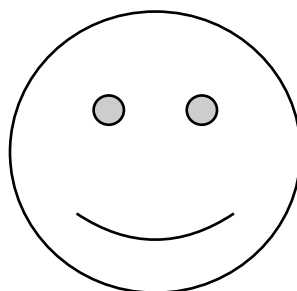
## **Julia Donaldson: “I Opened a Book”**

### **I Opened a Book**

“I opened a book and in I strode.  
Now nobody can find me.  
I’ve left my chair, my house, my road,  
My town and my world behind me.  
I’m wearing the cloak, I’ve slipped on the ring,  
I’ve swallowed the magic potion.  
I’ve fought with a dragon, dined with a king  
And dived in a bottomless ocean.  
I opened a book and made some friends.  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after.  
I finished my book and out I came.  
The cloak can no longer hide me.  
My chair and my house are just the same,  
But I have a book inside me.”

Enjoy your reading adventure and have a wonderful summer!

*Mrs. Costantino*



**Rubric/Guidelines Sheet for a Book Talk (KEEP THE REPORT IN THE SAME ORDER AS OUTLINED BELOW.)**

TELL THE CLASS:

The book title

Author

Genre (5pts)

Share a **brief summary of the plot** in your own words that does not give away or spoil the exciting parts of the story. Do not include your opinion in this part of the talk. (That would be appropriate for a book review but not a summary. You may use that statement in other sections of the book talk.) (20pts)

A **favorite quote** from your book and why you selected it. Explain who in the book was speaking and what the circumstances were. (10pts)

Your **favorite character and their traits/qualities**. Include text evidence to support your thinking. (A direct quote from your book is needed.) Be sure that your evidence is strong enough to prove your thinking about the character. Was the character believable? (20pts)

**Vocabulary:** Share any new words or phrases you learned from your book. Make sure to provide the sentence that you saw the word(s) or phrase(s) in. Explain the learned meaning of the word(s) or phrase(s). (5pts)

**Themes:** What were the “big ideas” in your book? What were some important social issues or topics the author dealt with through the story? **Provide a quote or paragraph from the text that shows and supports the theme (important lesson or issue).** (15pts)

**Compare and Contrast** the book you are giving your book talk on to another book that you have read.

Explain how they are similar and different based on:

-GENRE

-CHARACTERS

-SETTING

-IMPORTANT ISSUES OR TOPICS THE CHARACTERS HAD TO FACE

-POINT OF VIEW (Was it written in 1<sup>st</sup> person narrative or 3<sup>rd</sup> person, and whose point of view was being presented?) (15pts)

Why do you think the author wrote the book? (5pts)

Explain why you would or would not recommend the book to others. Give the book a rating from 1 star (terrible) to 5 stars (terrific). (5pts)

\*\*\*SEE THE EXAMPLE OF A TYPED BOOK TALK THAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED. YOU MUST FOLLOW THE SAME STRUCTURE.\*\*\*

**Example Typed Book Talk** (Your oral report is the same as your typed report – you are just **presenting it to the class orally.**)

The title of my book is The Tail of Emily Windsnap. It was written by Liz Kessler. The genre of the book is Fantasy.

In my book The Tail of Emily Windsnap a girl named Emily lives with her mother on a houseboat. A strange neighbor, Mr. Beeston, tends to stop by often and Emily does not trust him. During the story some strange things begin to happen to Emily. She wonders if there is a connection with the things happening to her and the strange neighbor that stops by. She also wonders a lot about her father who she only knows as abandoning her and her mother the day after she was born. All of these strange things that she is curious about leads her on an adventure, or personal journey to find answers. On her adventure, or personal journey she actually finds out more than what she ever expected. Emily finds out a secret about herself!

One of my favorite quotes from the book is, "Footsteps echoing with emptiness whenever he climbed up and down the spiral stairs." This is my favorite quote for two reasons. First, I really enjoy the mental image it creates with its vivid details. Second, this is my favorite quote because it is when Emily first thought about her neighbor and how he must be so lonely. It was before she started to have negative thoughts about him and his weird visits. It was before she knew the truth about him. What truth? You will have to read the book to find out!

My favorite character is Emily. I chose Emily because she is brave and confident. This is proved true through the textual evidence provided on page 134 of the book. It states, "I could not believe that I was going to take such a drastic step to find out the truth about my family. I held on tight to my best friend's hand and said good-bye. I knew it wouldn't be forever. I had so much that I needed to find out and I had to leave before my mom noticed I was not in my bed." Emily's character was believable at this point in the book because she did things that normal kids her age would do. She argued with her mom, played with her friends, swam in the ocean, made food for her neighbor, and watched the sun rise and set. She did however have some traits that fall into the Fantasy category, which is why in a way her character could also be seen as partially believable.

While I was reading I came across the word CONCH. I was not sure what the word meant. In the story it stated, "Mr. Beeston leaned against the window and spoke into his conch." When I looked up the word I learned that a CONCH is a seashell horn or shell trumpet.

A theme that is present within the book is to never give up even when things seem as though they are all against you. I believe this is a theme within the book because the main character Emily is trying so hard to find out information about her father, yet many things seem to go wrong in the process. Instead of her giving up she decides to continue her investigation and even gains the help of her friends in doing so. In the book it states on page 94, "I cannot believe another person has turned their backs on me. I feel so alone in my quest. I know what I want though and I will not stop until I figure things out. I owe it to myself to have closure." This shows how determined Emily is and how she will not stop even when things are difficult.

This book reminds me of another book that I read, A Snicker of Magic by Natalie Lloyd. Both books are fiction and in the fantasy realm. The point of view for the two books is first person narrative. They have intriguing plots with characters that are trying to figure out something about where they live. In both books the main characters have friends that help them out. In The Tail of Emily Windsnap, Emily has Janice and in A Snicker of Magic, Felicity has Jonah. Both main characters also have mothers who ramble a lot and fathers who disappeared. In both books there are also curses that are broken and families that are seeking to be reunited. The settings are different because The Tail of Emily Windsnap takes place on a boat house and the water but A Snicker of Magic takes place in a town called Midnight Gulch. Within The Tail of Emily Windsnap, Emily is trying to bring happiness back to her life and restore her family and in A Snicker of Magic, Felicity is trying to restore happiness to her town. They both show determination and have the message of never giving up even when the odds seem against you.

I think the author wrote The Tail of Emily Windsnap to be creative and to challenge her readers to use their imaginations. She creates an underwater world that one can only believe if you imagine it. I believe that the author wanted young readers to also know that they are capable of figuring things out in life even if it is difficult. Through her characters she shows that you have to be determined and believe in your abilities.

I would highly recommend this book to other readers. It includes a lot of vivid details and has characters that you can relate to. I give this book a five out of five star rating.