## Book talk example

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| The Girl Who Smiled Beads: The story of War and what comes after |

W**hy did I choose it?**

I had heard of it somewhere...on the radio maybe? It sounded like an option for our lit circle. I decided to preview it over the summer and couldn’t put it down.

**Persuade readers to choose it**. *What hooked me?*

*Oprah! How does she fit in?*

*The content , by that I mean the story itself. How does she overcome her situation and get to America?*

*The time line across the top of the pages.*

*The fact that it is a true story.*

***Setting****:*

*Rwanda her hometown of Kigali and all the places they walked. They kept moving in order not to get stuck in a refugee camp and to stay ahead of the bad guys as well as, to get to the USA. (specifically Chicago suburbs)*

***What did I like about it?***

*The way it went back and forth between good times and hard times. Present and past.*

*The P.O.V. is first person so really get to understand her feelings and take away on situations and people.*

*It makes me wonder how she will explain it to her sister or is it the conversation she can’t have? But wants to have? Or is it a way for everyone to be able to understand her perspective and choices?*

***What was interesting about the story line? Why would anyone want to read it?***

*It is so unbelievable.*

*You want to keep reading because you just can’t help but hope for her to be saved somehow. You get attached to her and her sister and want them to win...like a video game you can’t put down...gotta keep trying to win. You want her to be successful and you just believe how many things can impact her life and for so long.*

*Cliffhanger*

**How does she get to America?**

**Will she ever get reunited with the rest of her family?**

**A *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER"The plot provided by the universe was filled with starvation, war and rape. I would not—could not—live in that tale."**

**Clemantine Wamariya was six years old when her mother and father began to speak in whispers, when neighbors began to disappear, and when she heard the loud, ugly sounds her brother said were thunder. In 1994, she and her fifteen-year-old sister, Claire, fled the Rwandan massacre and spent the next six years migrating through seven African countries, searching for safety—perpetually hungry, imprisoned and abused, enduring and escaping refugee camps, finding unexpected kindness, witnessing inhuman cruelty. They did not know whether their parents were dead or alive. When Clemantine was twelve, she and her sister were granted refugee status in the United States; there, in Chicago, their lives diverged. Though their bond remained unbreakable, Claire, who had for so long protected and provided for Clemantine, was a single mother struggling to make ends meet, while Clemantine was taken in by a family who raised her as their own. She seemed to live the American dream: attending private school, taking up cheerleading, and, ultimately, graduating from Yale. Yet the years of being treated as less than human, of going hungry and seeing death, could not be erased. She felt at the same time six years old and one hundred years old. In *The Girl Who Smiled Beads,* Clemantine provokes us to look beyond the label of "victim" and recognize the power of the imagination to transcend even the most profound injuries and aftershocks. Devastating yet beautiful, and bracingly original, it is a powerful testament to her commitment to constructing a life on her own terms.**