

Speaking for Proficiency

Topic: Books

Part 2: Cue Card

Talk about a book you have recently read.

- What is the title and who is the author?
- What is the book about?
- What sort of people would enjoy this book?
- Explain why you liked it.

You will have one to two minutes to talk about this topic.

You will have one minute to prepare what you are going to say.

Part 3: Follow-up Questions on Books

Question: Do you think eBooks will eventually replace physical books? Why or why not?

- **Question Type:** Prediction
- **Suggested Language:** Use future tense to make predictions, such as "will," "might," "could." Use phrases like "in the future," "eventually," or "sooner or later."

Question: How do you feel about banning books in educational settings?

- **Question Type:** Opinion
- **Suggested Language:** Use modal verbs like "should," "could," and "might" to express possibility and necessity. Use phrases like "in my opinion," "I believe," or "I feel."

Question: What role do book clubs or reading groups play in encouraging people to read?

- **Question Type:** Social Impact
- **Suggested Language:** Vocabulary related to social impact such as "encourage," "motivate," "stimulate," "promote."

Question: How does the genre of a book influence its impact on the reader?

- **Question Type:** Cause and Effect
- **Suggested Language:** Use phrases that indicate cause and effect such as "because of," "as a result," "therefore," "leads to."

Question: Do you think reading fiction is as beneficial as reading non-fiction?

- **Question Type:** Compare and Contrast

- **Suggested Language:** Comparative language like "as beneficial as," "more than," "less than," along with connectors like "however," "although," "on the other hand."

Question: Can literature serve as a window into different cultures and lifestyles?

- **Question Type:** Opinion
- **Suggested Language:** Use phrases like "I believe," "in my opinion," "I think," and vocabulary related to culture and diversity such as "window into," "reflect," "represent."



Sample answer

Part 2: Cue Card

Talk about a book you have recently read.

- What is the title and who is the author?
- What is the book about?
- What sort of people would enjoy this book?
- Explain why you liked it.

I recently finished this fantastic book called "Educated" by Tara Westover. The story is just mind-blowing; it's a memoir about the author growing up in rural Idaho in a really strict and, honestly, kinda abusive household. She never went to school but somehow makes it all the way to Cambridge University for her Ph.D. Can you believe that?

So, the book dives deep into the challenges she faces. She has to adapt to mainstream society and also deal with her family who are, let's just say, not exactly supportive of her new lifestyle. There's this real emotional tug-of-war going on, and it's just so gripping.

Now, who would like this book? Well, I'd say anyone who loves real, raw stories. You know, the ones that make you question what you know and think about life differently. Plus, if you're into education and self-improvement, this is like a must-read.

Why did I like it? Oh, where do I start? Firstly, it's super inspiring. It made me realize that education is a powerful tool that can literally change your life. And also, the writing is just

phenomenal—so vivid and engaging. You feel like you're right there with her through all the ups and downs. I was hooked from page one!

Sample answer features

Fluency and Coherence:

- The answer is structured logically and naturally flows from one point to another. Phrases like "Can you believe that?" and "Oh, where do I start?" add to the conversational flow.

Lexical Resource:

- The answer uses a range of vocabulary appropriate to the task ("memoir," "gripping," "emotional tug-of-war").
- Idiomatic language ("mind-blowing," "hooked from page one") is used appropriately, enhancing the conversational tone.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy:

- Various sentence structures are used, including compound and complex sentences ("She never went to school but somehow makes it all the way to Cambridge University for her Ph.D.")
- The language is mostly accurate, with minor or no errors that don't impede understanding.