

Why book reviews?

Writing book reviews gives you an opportunity to express your opinions and develop writing style and voice. Analyzing plot, characters, author's style, and theme is a great way to develop a deeper understanding of a novel, rather than basic comprehension.

A good book review contains ...

A good book review contains the book's title and author, a basic summary of the plot (without giving away any secrets or the ending), and the reviewer's personal response to the book. A book review will comment on the author's writing style, and the book's strengths and weaknesses, as well. Remember, the purpose of the review is to express how you feel about the book and why, not just what the book is about.

Tips

Take notes as you read a book. Ask yourself questions as you read and after you finish reading. Read sample book reviews. Create an outline of your book review. Remember to use specific quotes from the book to get your point across. The first half of your book review should *summarize* the book, while the second half should *evaluate* the book.

Questions to ask yourself

- Does the book fit into a genre, like science fiction or mystery?
- When and where does the action take place? Does the author do a good job of making you feel as if you are part of the setting?
- Are the characters believable? Can you relate to any characters in the story? How does the author describe them?
- What personal experiences do you have relating to the subject?
- What are the author's most important points? What is the theme of the story?
- What do you like or dislike about the author's writing style? How clearly is the book written? Did the author achieve his/her goal? How did he/she do this or how did he/she fall short?
- What did you like best about the book? What did you like least? If you could change anything about the book, what would it be?
- Were illustrations included? If so, how did they help to tell the story?
- Who would like to read this type of story? What age group or grade level does it target?

Submitting your review to *The Missourian*

Do not submit the form on page 2 of this writing guide as your review. Reviews must be submitted as student narratives with personal perspectives. This form is only a guide for student reading and writing. Reviews are due by the 15th of each month: Send to Newsbee@emissourian.com, or Newsbee c/o The Missourian, P.O. Box 336, Washington, MO 63090, or deliver it to 315 W. Main St., Washington.

Common Core Anchor Standards Met with this Book Review: CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.2, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.5, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.6, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.R.7, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.1, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.4, CCSS.ELA-Literacy.CCRA.W.9.



Book title and author, reviewed by: your name, grade level, and school

Introduce the book: (title, author, genre, setting, purpose of book, etc.)

Tell about the book, but don't give away the ending: (main characters, plot events, etc.)

Evaluate the author's technique: (did you like the way the story was written? Did the author get his/her point across? What parts did you like the best? Be sure to include specific quotes from the book.)

Make a connection to the book: (how did you relate to the characters or the plot? How is this book similar to other books you have read?)

Give a recommendation: (what age group or grade level does this book target? What type of person would enjoy this book?)

I give this book _____ out of 5 beehives.

