

Writing a Book Review

- Before you begin writing, make a few notes about the points you want to get across.
- Be sure to include the name of the author and the book title in the first paragraph. There is nothing more frustrating than reading a review of a great book but not knowing its title/author.
- Do research about the author and incorporate what you learn into the review. Biographical information can help you formulate your opinion about the book, and gives your review a "depth." Remember, a book doesn't come directly from a printing press, it's a product of an author's mind, and therefore it may be helpful to know something about the author and how she or he came to write this book.
- What do you like or dislike about the author's writing style and or use of language? What is the author's voice like?
- Think about whether this book is part of a genre. Does the book fit into a type of mystery, adventure, or romance? What characteristics of the genre are evident in this book?
- Try to get the main theme of the book across in the beginning of your review. Your reader should know right away what he or she is getting into, should they choose to read this book.
- Does the book give you a sense of the time and place in which it's set?
- Is the book funny?
- If possible, use one paragraph for each point you want to make about the book. It's a good way to emphasize the importance of the point. You might want to list the main points in your notes before you begin.
- Use a few short quotes from the book to illustrate your points. It's a good way to give your reader a sense of the author's writing style.
- While you are writing, try to think of your reader as a friend to whom you are telling the story.
- Make sure your review explains how you feel about the book and why, not just what the book is about. A good review should express the reviewer's opinion and persuade the reader to share it, to read the book, or to avoid reading it.

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Title-

Author-

Biographical Information-

Writing Style/Use of Language-

Voice-

Other books written and how does this book compare to the others?

BRIEF Summary (1-2 sentences)-

Genre and characteristics of-

Plot/Conflict-

Characterization-

Are the characters believable and can you relate to them?

If yes, give examples of why.

Theme-

"It's a story of..."

Setting-

Do you learn anything about a particular time/place?

Short Quotes to illustrate points-

Examples to illustrate points-

Your Opinion of the book-

List of adjectives you would use to describe the book

Would you recommend the book? If so, to whom?

Favorite part of the book/author's stylell