

Critique and Create: Writing a Stellar Book Review

Learning objective: To evaluate a story by identifying key narrative elements and expressing a reasoned personal opinion using formal and evaluative vocabulary.

Think about the last book you read. Use your knowledge of character development, plot structure, and authorial intent to complete the following review tasks. Use the word bank to help elevate your writing.

N/A - This is a skill-based application task.

Word bank: captivating · climax · perspective · suspenseful · characterisation · recommendation · atmosphere · narrative · predictable · thought-provoking

1. Identify your favourite character from a book you have read. Justify your choice by explaining how the author used their actions or dialogue to make them feel authentic. (2 marks)

2. Explain why the 'climax' of a story is essential to the overall narrative structure. What might happen if a story did not have a clear turning point? (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the setting of your book with a different story you have read. How does the setting contribute to the atmosphere of the plot? (3 marks)

4. If you were to rewrite the ending of your chosen book, how would you change the outcome for the main character? Justify your decision. (2 marks)

5. Draft a persuasive 'blurb' for your book review. Use at least two words from the word bank to convince a reader like Pip the Bookworm to choose this title. (2 marks)

6. Critique the author's style: Do you think the story would have been more engaging if it were written from a different character's perspective? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a 'book jacket' cover for your review. Include a central illustration that captures the most suspenseful scene in the story and a short, catchy review quote from a fictional character, such as 'This book is a masterpiece!' – Max the Monkey.



Extension challenge: Write a formal letter to the author of your chosen book. In your letter, provide a critical analysis of the plot, highlight your favourite chapter, and suggest one improvement that could make the story even more captivating for Year 4 pupils.