

Mastering the Art of the Book Review with Pip

Learning objective: To identify the key features of a persuasive book review and evaluate the effectiveness of descriptive language.

Join Pip the bookworm on a literary adventure! Read the following questions carefully and show off your expert knowledge of how to write a brilliant book review.

Answer Key: 1.C, 2.True, 3.Genre, 4.B, 5.False, 6.Recommendation, 7.A, 8.True, 9.C, 10.Audience. For Q10: A good review should be balanced, mentioning both strengths and weaknesses to provide a fair critique for potential readers.

Word bank: Recommendation · Genre · Summary · Vocabulary · Opinion · Adjectives · Cohesion · Audience

1. Which of these is the most effective way to start a book review? A) 'I read this book yesterday.' B) 'The book was okay.' C) 'Imagine a world where gravity fails—that is exactly where this breath-taking story begins.* D) 'This book is about a boy.' (1 mark)

2. True or False: A book review should give away every single plot twist, including the ending. (1 mark)

3. What do we call the category a book belongs to, such as fantasy, mystery, or non-fiction? (1 mark)

4. Why should you include emotive adjectives in your review? A) To make the book longer. B) To help the reader visualise the story and understand your feelings.* C) Because the teacher likes long words. D) To distract the reader from the plot. (1 mark)

5. True or False: You should only write a book review if you absolutely loved the book. (1 mark)

6. What is the final part of a review called where you suggest whether others should read the book? (1 mark)

7. If you are writing for Year 2 children, which vocabulary choice is best? A) Simple, clear language. * B) Complex, technical terminology. C) Slang words. D) Mathematical equations. (1 mark)

8. True or False: A book review should include your own personal opinion backed up with evidence from the text. (1 mark)

9. Which element helps the reader know what the book is about without spoiling the surprise? A) The biography of the author. B) The price of the book. C) A brief, intriguing plot summary.* D) A list of all characters. (1 mark)

10. Explain why it is important to consider your audience when writing a book review. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a creative 'Book Review Star-Rating' badge that Pip the caterpillar might use to show how much he enjoyed a book.



Extension challenge: 1. Justify your answer: Why might a critic choose to use a 'hook' sentence at the beginning of their review? 2. Compare and contrast a book summary with a book review; what makes them different? 3. What might happen if a book review was written using only short, simple sentences? 4. Explain why using a range of conjunctions helps the flow of your review. 5. If you were writing a review for a gripping mystery, which three adjectives would you use to describe the atmosphere? 6. Write a one-sentence recommendation for your favourite book that would convince a sceptical reader to try it.