

Mastering the Art of the Book Review

Learning objective: To critically analyse a narrative text and compose a persuasive book review using sophisticated vocabulary and structured arguments.

Think about the last book you read independently. Use your knowledge of narrative structure and character development to answer the following questions. Your review should aim to persuade others to read the book, while offering a balanced critique.

N/A - This task requires pupils to reflect on their own independent reading choices to demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation skills.

Word bank: compelling · protagonist · narrative arc · climax · thought-provoking · suspenseful · characterisation · evocative · resolution · recommendation

1. Identify the protagonist of your chosen book. Explain how the author uses characterisation to make them feel authentic and relatable to the reader. (2 marks)

2. Summarise the main conflict of the story. How does the author build suspense leading up to the climax? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the setting in the beginning of the book with the setting at the end. How does this shift reflect the growth of the main character? (3 marks)

4. Justify why you would or would not recommend this book to a friend. Consider the target audience and the themes explored. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if the author had chosen to end the story immediately after the climax, rather than providing a resolution? How would this change the reader's final impression? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a new, alternative book cover for your chosen book that highlights a central theme rather than just a scene from the story. Annotate your drawing with two adjectives from the word bank to explain your design choices.



Extension challenge: Write a 'Letter to the Author' in which you offer a constructive critique. Praise one specific aspect of their writing style (e.g., their use of evocative language) and suggest one alternative narrative path they could have taken. Ensure your tone is professional, thoughtful, and encouraging.