

Book Review Masterclass with Max and Pip

Learning objective: To write a critical, balanced book review using sophisticated vocabulary and justifying personal opinions.

Use this template to craft a detailed review of a book you have recently finished. As you write, imagine you are helping Max the monkey solve the 'puzzle' of why a book is worth reading, while using Pip the caterpillar's love of descriptive words to bring your review to life. Be specific with your evidence and provide a clear justification for your final recommendation.

Word bank: compelling · characterisation · narrative · captivating · perspective · evocative · climax · resolution · skilfully · subtle

1. Introduction: State the title and author. Explain your initial expectations of the book and what genre it belongs to. (2 marks)

2. Summary: Summarise the plot without revealing spoilers. Explain why the narrative arc is structured the way it is. (3 marks)

3. Character Analysis: Choose one character. Justify why their actions were believable or surprising. How did they change throughout the story? (4 marks)

4. Critical Evaluation: Compare and contrast the author's writing style with another book you have read. What makes this author's voice unique? (4 marks)

5. The 'Why' Factor: Explain why the climax of the book was effective. What might have happened if the author had chosen a different resolution? (4 marks)

6. Final Recommendation: Would you recommend this book? Justify your answer by identifying the specific type of reader who would enjoy it most. (3 marks)

Extension challenge: Imagine you are the author of this book. Write a short paragraph explaining the main theme you wanted your readers to understand, and why you chose the specific setting you did to convey that message.