

Writing a Brilliant Book Review

Learning objective: To understand the structure and features of a book review and use persuasive language to recommend a book to others.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of book reviews to provide detailed answers.

Remember to use formal and persuasive language to help your reader decide if they would enjoy the book.

A great book review provides a brief overview of the story, shares your personal thoughts, and encourages others to read it. When writing, consider the 'hook' at the start, the 'who/what/where' of the plot, and a clear star rating at the end.

Word bank: recommendation · plot summary · persuasive · opinion · genre · target audience · character development

1. Pip the caterpillar is writing a review of his favourite nature book. Why is it important to include a 'plot summary' without revealing the ending? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

2. If you were writing a review for a science-fiction novel, what specific information would you need to include about the 'genre' to help a reader decide if they like it? (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey wants to use persuasive language. Rewrite the following sentence to make it more exciting for a reader: 'This book is quite good and you should read it.' (2 marks)

4. Why is it important to identify the 'target audience' in your review? Think about why a book for a toddler would be different from a book for a Year 5 student. (2 marks)

5. List three features that every effective book review should include to help a reader make an informed choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a creative 'star rating' graphic that you would put at the bottom of a book review to show how much you enjoyed the story.



Extension challenge: Choose a book you have finished reading recently. Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) for a school display board, focusing on why a classmate would enjoy the book. Use at least three words from the word bank.