

Crafting a Compelling Book Review with Leo the Lion

Learning objective: To write a balanced and persuasive book review using formal vocabulary, cohesive devices, and critical evaluation techniques.

Follow this structure to build your review. Remember to provide evidence from the text to support your opinions. Use the word bank to help your writing flow, and challenge yourself to justify your critique with specific examples.

As I turned the final page of this remarkable story, I found myself reflecting on the profound journey the protagonist had undertaken.

Word bank: Furthermore · Conversely · The narrative evokes · A compelling aspect · Character development · Intriguing · Superbly crafted · In contrast · Nevertheless · The author successfully conveys

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the title and author, then state your initial impression of the book. Use a sentence starter such as: 'The book [Title], written by [Author], is a gripping tale that...' (2 marks)

2. Plot Summary: Summarise the main events without revealing the 'spoilers' or the ending. Begin with: 'The narrative follows the journey of [Character], who finds themselves in a situation where...' (2 marks)

3. Character Analysis: Describe the protagonist or a key character. Explain why you found them relatable or interesting. Start with: 'One aspect of the book that stands out is the characterisation of [Name], because...' (3 marks)

4. Evaluation of Style: Discuss the author's writing style. How did the language make you feel? Start with: 'The author's use of descriptive language creates a vivid atmosphere, particularly when...' (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: Explain your opinion on the book's message or theme. Justify your answer: 'I believe the central theme of the story is [Theme] because...' (3 marks)

6. Conclusion and Recommendation: Summarise your overall verdict. Who would enjoy this book and why? Start with: 'Ultimately, I would highly recommend this book to readers who enjoy...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Compare and contrast this book with another you have read recently. Justify why one is more effective than the other using evidence from both texts. What might happen if the author had chosen to write the story from a different character's perspective?