

A Critic's Corner: Crafting the Perfect Book Review

Learning objective: To write a structured and persuasive book review using rich vocabulary, reasoned opinions, and effective connectives.

Follow the structure below to write your review. Think carefully about your audience and how you can persuade them to read (or avoid!) the book you have chosen.

As I turned the final page of this extraordinary tale, I found myself completely transported to a world unlike any I had encountered before.

Word bank: captivating · thought-provoking · climax · notably · furthermore · in contrast · subsequently · vividly · recommendation · compelling

1. Introduction: Briefly introduce the title and author, then share your initial impressions. Start with: 'The book I have selected to review is titled... which was written by...' (2 marks)

2. Summary of Plot: Summarise the main events without revealing any 'spoilers'. Start with: 'The narrative follows the journey of... who finds themselves faced with the challenge of...' (3 marks)

3. Character Analysis: Describe your favorite character and explain why they are significant. Start with: 'A particularly compelling character is..., primarily because...' (3 marks)

4. Critical Evaluation: Compare the book to other stories you have read. Start with: 'In contrast to other books in this genre, the author uses... to create a sense of...' (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: Explain why you liked or disliked the book. Start with: 'I would justify my enjoyment of this book by noting that...' (2 marks)

6. Recommendation: Who would enjoy this book and why? Start with: 'I would highly recommend this text to readers who appreciate... because...' (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: Imagine the author has asked for your advice on a sequel. Write a persuasive paragraph explaining one plot twist you would include to make the story even more gripping, and justify why this would improve the narrative arc. If you were the editor, what changes would you make to the pacing of the climax?