

Book Review Assignment

Although there is no single correct way to write a book review, please keep in mind that **a book review is *not* a book report**. The reader of your book review wants to know if the book is something he/she would enjoy, and why. A good book review includes the following (see the rubric for additional details):

- The book's title and author, publisher, year published, # of pages, and ISBN # written at the top of the review (see the novel's title page for this information).
- A brief summary of the plot that does not give away too much. Leave the reader in suspense about major conflict resolutions while painting a clear, interesting portrait of the novel's story.
- Character analysis.
- Comparison/contrast to another novel, poem, or movie (character, theme(s), setting, historical relevance, conflict, societal issues/topics, emotion, tone, writing style, or author's personal values, etc...)
- Comment on the book's strengths and weaknesses.
- The reviewer's personal response to the book, with specific examples from the book provided as support.

Here are some other ideas to keep in mind while writing the review:

- When and where does the action in the book take place (setting)? Does the author do a good job of making you feel as if you are there? If so, how does the author accomplish that (writing techniques)?
- Are the main characters believable? Do you know anyone like them? Does the author adequately describe the characters? Does the author do a good job of revealing characters' thoughts and feelings?
- What do you like or dislike about the author's writing style? Do you like the way the author uses words? Be specific – give examples!
- Use concrete examples to back up each of your points, such as describing a scene that really moved you or using some short quotes from the book.
- Does the book fit into a genre (such as science fiction, mystery, coming-of-age, realistic fiction, etc...)?
- Organize your thoughts. Write a topic sentence for each paragraph, and then add supporting detail sentences – be certain to include specific examples from the novel as support!

