

Book Review

Definition

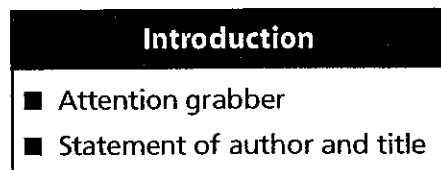
A book review is an essay that lets one person share his or her opinion about a book. It tells readers what a book is about and whether the reviewer liked or disliked it.

1. Choose an age appropriate book to read this summer. You may use the list provided as a guide.
2. Follow the framework required for the book review.
3. The book review is to be typed in Times New Roman Font, size 12. It is to be double spaced. The left and right margins are to be set at 1.25 and there is to be a 1 inch margin on top and bottom. This is usually a default setting for Microsoft word documents so you shouldn't have to do anything. The book title must be typed in italics – please don't underline it. (I know the sample shows it underlined).
4. The heading must be typed in MLA style as I have shown you on the sample book review. You must title your review (something other than the book title). It is not to be in bold type, underlined or in larger font.
5. You are to complete the Analytical Scale for the book review which is attached.
6. The typed book review and analytical scale stapled in the upper left hand corner (no book covers of any kind) is to be turned in on the first day of school. A late assignment will result in the loss of 10 points per day. No book review will be accepted after three days.

Framework

Directions and Explanations

Paragraph 1



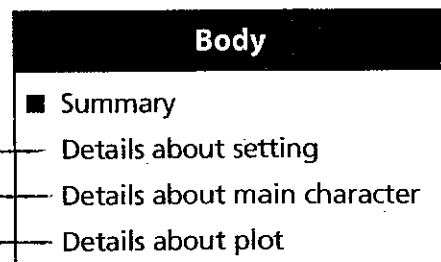
Get your readers' attention Introduce the topic of the book in an interesting way. You might use a quotation, a question, or a bit of action or dialogue to capture your readers' interest.

Clearly identify the author and the title of the book You also may want to tell readers what type of book you are reviewing.

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

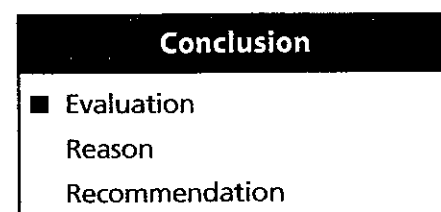
Paragraph 4



Identify the main character and the setting of the book Provide details about the main character and let readers know where and when the story takes place.

Summarize the book's plot Use chronological, or time, order to tell readers about important events in the story. Use transition words to make your review flow logically.

Paragraph 5



Write your evaluation Tell readers why you like or dislike the book. Then, make a recommendation. Should they read the book?

Book Review

Note – Day Month Year
There are no commas.

Attention grabber

Statement of author
and title

Summary: Details
about main character

Details about setting

Details about plot

Each paragraph is indented
five spaces – use the space bar.

More details about
plot

Suzy Student

Mrs. Jandreau

Language Arts

15 August 2009

Note – the title of paper
It isn't bold or
underlined or
large font size.

The book title should be
In italics, not underlined!

Carlota, A Woman of Courage

Have you ever dived for sunken treasure? Ridden in a horse race? Faced a hostile army? The main character of *Carlota*, an exciting adventure novel by Scott O'Dell, does all these things and more. Along the way, she also discovers an important lesson about personal courage.

Carlota is about a young, headstrong woman named Carlota de Zubarán, who lives with her grandmother and her father on a large ranch in California. The novel is set in the last part of the 1848 war between the United States and Mexico. At that time, California was still a part of Mexico. Carlota's family, whose Spanish ancestors settled in Mexico, is on the side of Mexico.

When the novel begins, fifteen-year-old Carlota is listening to her grandmother, Doña Dolores, talk about the war. Soon, however, Doña Dolores begins to scold Carlota for riding her horse out on the ranch with her father. Doña Dolores expects Carlota to dress and behave more like a young lady.

Carlota's father, Don Saturnino, has very different expectations of her. He is the one who taught her to ride horses and to fight with lances. He even named her for his son, Carlos, who was killed by members of the Piute tribe when Carlota was very young. When Don Saturnino learns that a group of U.S. soldiers is on its way to California, he gathers other ranchers to help him attack the group. Of course, he also expects Carlota to fight along with him, just as he would have expected his son to fight.

Continued on back.

Book Review *continued*

More details about plot

During the battle, Carlota wounds a young soldier. Later, after the defeated U.S. troops have retreated, she learns that her father also has been wounded. Even though Carlota knows how much her father hates the Americans, she insists on taking the soldier she wounded back to her father's ranch. There, she cares for both wounded men. When Don Saturnino learns that his daughter has brought an enemy into his house, he orders Carlota to send the man away. She has always obeyed her father's wishes, but now she refuses. As Carlota says, "I was ashamed, now, of what I had tried to do. The shame gave me courage." She is finally able to stand up to her father and show compassion as well as bravery.

Evaluation and reason

Carlota is very suspenseful; it holds the reader's interest. Carlota has many adventures and many close calls on her way to becoming her own person. To share in these adventures and to enjoy a good book, read Carlota.

Recommendation

Analytic Scale: A Book Review

Rate how well the book review meets the following criteria on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the lowest rating and 5 being the highest. When you are finished, add the numbers to calculate a total score. The lowest possible score is 12, the highest, 60.

Writer's name _____ Title of paper _____

Criteria for Evaluation:

Rating (1 to 5):

1. The introduction grabs the audience's attention. _____
2. The introduction gives the title and author of the book. _____
3. The summary includes information about the book's setting and main character. _____
4. The summary gives plot details in chronological order. _____
5. The summary uses transitions to show how the major events are connected. _____
6. The conclusion includes a clear evaluation of the book, with at least two reasons for the writer's opinion. _____
7. The writer avoids the use of "good", "great", "bad" (and other boring adjectives) to describe the book. _____
8. The writer's tone is appropriate for the purpose and audience. _____
9. The analysis is free of clichés. _____
10. The analysis is relatively free of grammar and usage problems. _____
11. The analysis is relatively free of spelling and mechanics errors. _____
12. The paper is set up in MLA style. _____

Total Points: _____