

What is a Book Review?

A **Book Review** is not a book report.

Book Reviews have at least three paragraphs:

1. **first**, give a taste/hint/little bit about the book;
2. **next**, persuade your readers to read the book;
3. **last**, recommend the book to your readers

When creating your book review:

- don't give away the ending;
- use lots of describing words and sentences;
- write for your audience;
- use lots and lots of details;
- make it exciting and interesting; and
- have a catchy beginning and ending.

Guidelines for Writing a Book Review:

- A book review is both a description and an evaluation of a book.
- Give your reader a taste of the plot, but don't give the surprises away.
- Make sure your review explains how you feel about the book and why.
- Describe the parts that you liked or disliked and tell why.
- If you wish, you can tell how this book fits in with the other books in the series.
- Can you recommend this book?
- Remember, don't tell the ending!

Now you too can write a book review!

Where to Start...

There are many ways to write a book review. To help you, here are some of the questions you could answer.



Plot

Does the story sound exciting and believable? Is it a story you can get involved in?



Characters

Can you believe in the people in the story? Are you interested in finding out about them? Can you picture individuals in your mind? How do they get on with one another?



Good to Read

If you read a bit of the story, does it make you want to read more? How do the characters talk to each other? Does it seem real?



Production

Is it a good cover? Are the pictures inside interesting? Do they make the story better? What is the printing like? Are the words the right size, easy to read?



Opinion

How many marks out of 10 would you give the book? Would you recommend the book? What age of children do you think would enjoy it? Boys and/or girls?

Let's begin...

Let's assume for the moment that you've chosen a work of fiction. We'll start with a description of the story or selection. The description should include such elements as:

1. The main character(s): **who** is the story mostly about? Give a brief description. Often, one character can be singled out as the main character, but some books will have more than one.
2. The setting—**where** does the story take place? Is it a real place or an imaginary one? If the author does not tell you exactly where the story is set, what can you tell about it from the way it is described?
3. The time period— **when** is the story set in the present day or in an earlier time period? Perhaps it is even set in the future! Let your reader know.
4. The plot—**what** happens to the main character and **why or how**? **WARNING!** Be careful here. Do not fall into the boring trap of reporting every single thing that happens in the story. Pick only the most important events. Here are some hints on how to do that. First, explain the situation of the main character as the story opens. Next, identify the basic plot element of the story--is the main character trying to achieve something or overcome a particular problem? Thirdly, describe a few of the more important things that happen to the main character as he/she works toward that goal or solution.
5. Finally, you might hint at the story's conclusion without completely giving away the ending.

Maxi, the Star
By Debra and Sal Barracca

Wouldn't you want to be a star? Well Maxi is and he is the new Doggie Bites Star! Maxi, the Star, by Debra and Sal Barracca is about a taxi driver named Jim and his dog named Maxi. Maxi is famous to all the people in NYC because he had rescued many citizens when they were in danger. When Maxi and Jim were on duty they picked up a famous movie actor. This famous movie actor's name was Mr. Leaf. Mr. Leaf asked Jim if he would like for Maxi to be the new doggie bites star. Jim said yes, but where asked Jim. Mr. Leaf said in Los Angeles and I'll send a limo for you.

I think that this book was swell because it was very exciting and adventurous. My favorite part of the book was when Maxi became the new doggie bites star, because it was funny to see Maxi with his paw on top of a doggie bites box. The characters I liked were Jim and Maxi because they were the main characters. I think the illustrations were great because some parts with action looked real. The way I felt as I read the book was very excited. The reason I felt excited was because of the adventures the characters went on and it was my first time reading it. This story reminds me of when I used to go on exciting adventures with my dad.

I would recommend this book to any kid who likes to read books that have a lot of adventures. I would also recommend this book to anybody who wants or has been on an exciting adventure with somebody. This book is also good for kids who like to read.

Indian in the Cupboard

Lynne Reid Banks,

Indian in the Cupboard Lynne Reid Banks, is about a young boy named Omni who gets a plastic Indian for a present. His older brother gives him a cupboard to store it in. Omni discovers that this cupboard is magical when his Indian comes to life.

His life is now filled with adventures beyond anything he thought possible. One time he brought his Indian out of the cupboard to hide his little horse in a box. The Indian gets a very bad cut and Emery brings a doctor to life so he could cure him. Two other characters you will meet are Patrick and Boone.

This book makes believe that magic is real. It reminds me of the time I hid my report card from my parents so that I wouldn't get in trouble. Omni hid his Indian because he thought that he would get in trouble.

I would recommend this book to kids who like strange and adventurous books. This book will take you through a world of fun like it did for me, and I loved it.

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs

Written by Judy Barrett

Illustrated by Ron Barrett

Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judy Barrett is a book about a grandpa telling a story to his grandchildren at night. It was about a town called Chewandswallow. This town had food raining down for breakfast, lunch and for dinner. Another weird thing about Chewandswallow was that there were no food stores there. All the people ate what they caught. The townspeople liked the food but one day a problem occurred. The sky began to rain bad food. Some of these bad foods were bread honey and soda sandwich, moldy bread, rye bread and plain gorgonzola cheese. Then came the major bad cause. A gigantic pancake came from the sky and....If you would like to know the ending to this funny story told by grandpa you must go get this book and read the rest of the story.

I thought that the book was funny because the illustrations show the food and the people catching the food. My favorite part was when Henry had a pancake that landed on his head. The girl in the book reminded me of one of my closest friends named Lizbeth. The girl was my favorite character

because she told the rest of the story. This was how Lizbeth was, always-telling unusual things and the way that she thinks. I felt anxious when I read the book.

My friend Natasha along with other kids would like this book because the characters are interesting and funny to read.