

HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW: FICTION



Use these questions and prompts to prepare for your written book review.

- ◆ Was the book a page-turner? Why, or why not?
 - Briefly, give an example of how the events, or what happened in the book, created excitement and kept you interested.
 - Or, discuss why a conflict or problem the character faced held your interest.
- ◆ Was it hard to concentrate on the story? Why or why not?
- ◆ Was it boring? Explain why.
 - Discuss one or more of these issues: the story contained little or no action; the events or plot did not make sense to you; you could not connect with the main character's problems, friends, or family.
- ◆ Did you personally connect with one character, event, or conflict? Explain why.
 - Explain how you and the character are alike. Do you have the same feelings? Worries? Problems? Hopes? Dreams? Thoughts?
 - Have you lived through similar events? Explain how your reaction to a similar event was the same as the main character's reaction.
- ◆ What about this book made you enjoy or dislike the genre?
 - Think about why you enjoy and usually choose a specific genre. Explain how this book or magazine selection met or failed to meet your standards.
 - Were there surprises in the story that held your interest? Explain one.
 - Show how the plot or the events contained twists and turns you did not expect. Was the author good at leading you along one path, then suddenly changing?
 - Explain how a character solved a problem or reacted to a conflict in a way that was different from what you thought this character would do.
 - Did any chapters end with cliff-hangers? Briefly discuss one.
 - Think about how each chapter left you wanting to go right on to the next chapter to find out what happened.
 - Explain why you do or do not enjoy cliff-hangers, using the one you chose to discuss.
 - Was the plot believable or unbelievable?
 - Give one or two examples that show that the plot, or the events that happened, was realistic and could have happened to you or your friends.
 - Give one or two examples that show that the plot was not believable and explain why you feel this way.
 - What new understanding about life, people, or a historical period did you develop?
 - Think about what the author was trying to tell you about how people, such as parents, friends, brothers, sisters, teachers, or relatives, behave and feel.

- Show what life was like for children, soldiers, the rich, the poor, or adults during a specific historical period or in an imagined world.
- Did you enjoy the fantasy and magic? Discuss one example.
- Describe one example of magic or fantasy that made the piece exciting for you.
- Explain why it was exciting.
- Show how the fantasy was part of a reality that helped you connect with the fantasy and magic elements.

Robb, Laura (2006). *Writing Advantage, Level F*. Wilmington, MA: Great Source.