

Are You Ready to Write a Review?

Take this quiz found on Scholastic's Writing with Writers page:



1. Before you begin writing, did you make a few notes about the points you want to get across? ____
2. While you were writing, did you try thinking of your reader as a friend to whom you're telling a story? ____
3. Did you mention the name of the author and the book title in the first paragraph? — There's nothing more frustrating than reading a review of a great book but not knowing who wrote it and what the title is! ____
4. If possible, did you use one paragraph for each point you want to make about the book? It's a good way to emphasize the importance of the point. You might want to list the main points in your notes before you begin. ____
5. Did you get the main theme of the book across in the beginning of your review? Your reader should know right away what he or she is getting into should they choose to read the book! ____
6. Think about whether the book is part of a genre. Does the book fit into a type like mystery, adventure, or romance? Did you mention this in your review? ____
7. Did you share what you like or dislike about the book's writing style? Is it funny? Does it give you a sense of the place it's set? What is the author's/narrator's "voice" like? ____
8. Did you try using a few short quotes from the book to illustrate your points? This is not absolutely necessary, but it's a good way to give your reader a sense of the author's writing style. ____
9. Did you make sure your review explains how you feel about the book and why, not just what the book is about? A good review should express the reviewer's opinion and persuade the reader to share it, to read the book, or to avoid reading it. ____
10. Did you research about the author and incorporate what you learned into the review? Biographical information can help you formulate your opinion about the book, and gives your review "depth." ____

How Ready Are You? Based on the number of questions you answered "yes" for:

0-4- You may want to take some more time reviewing other reviews available.

5-7- You are on your way to writing a great review. With a little bit of love and care, it will be ready in no time!

8-9- Sounds like you are ready to publish. Way to go!

10- Wow. Are you interested in a job in the writing field?