

# A BOOK REVIEW

- **What's a book review?**

It is really an expression of the reader's opinion of the work, or of specific aspects of the work. The review includes factual content but it is the reader's personal opinions that are most important.

- **How can I start?**

You have read your book. Your next step will be to organize what you are going to say about it in your report. Writing the basic elements down in an outline format will help you to organize your thoughts.

- **How shall I organize the information?** Normally a book review is divided into four parts: introduction, summary, opinion and conclusion.

♣ **Introduction:** It should contain the book title, and the name of the author. Then, include a sentence that describes the book's genre (such as mystery, fantasy, biography, essay, comedy or adventure). Finish the introduction writing why you chose this book (the cover looked cool, you've read other books by the same author or you enjoy mystery books).

♣ **Summary:** It is a short retelling of **the plot** (what happens in the book and introduce the main characters) mentioning **the setting** (where and when the story takes place) and the overall theme of the book is also good to include. Be careful not to re-tell the whole story in detail as you want room in your report to write about other things

♣ **Opinion:** Now it's time to give a review of the book. You should include sentences about how you liked the book, which characters you liked and disliked and how the ending made you feel. Other good opinions to express are what you felt was the best part of the story and any lessons you learned.

♣ **Conclusion:** It consists of the overall feelings and opinions on the story and whether or not you would encourage others to read it and why. It might be appropriate to rate the book to others written by the same author if the child has read them.

## Useful expressions/phrases/ vocabulary

### Background

- The story is set ....
- The story takes place...

### Main points of the plot

- The book tells the story of...
- The book/novel was written by...
- The story begins/ is about...
- The plot is absolutely thrilling/ boring/clever/ exciting..
- The character I like best is

### General comments and opinion

- It is beautifully /poorly written
- It has a tragic/dramatic /surprising end

### Recommendations

- Don't miss it
- I would/wouldn't recommend it because..
- It is at the top of my list
- It's a highly entertaining read
- Don't bother with this one