

Book Reviews

In order to encourage students to explore books from various genres and to share those books and their opinions about those books with other students, each student will be required to do three (3) book reviews over the course of the school year. Each book review consists of a written summary and opinion of the book. Each book should be from a different genre. Students will have the opportunity to present their reviews to the class if they wish.

Book Genres:

Realistic Fiction

Historical Fiction

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Biography

Mystery

Guidelines

1. A student should do three written book reviews over the course of the year. One of the reviews must also be presented orally in home base.
2. Each book should be approved by the student's homebase teacher. The teacher will assess whether the book meets requirements 3 and 4.
3. Books should be appropriate for the student's reading ability.
4. The three books should be from three different genres.
5. The summary should be 1 page handwritten or $\frac{1}{2}$ page typed. It should be in paragraph form and should include the genre of the book and information about characters, setting, and important events in the book.
6. The opinion should be 1 page handwritten or $\frac{1}{2}$ page typed. It should include the student's opinion about such things as:
 - a. how interesting the story is;
 - b. how well the conclusion solves the problem in the story;
 - c. whether the characters are interesting and believable;
 - d. whether the book kept the reader interested and eager to continue reading it;
 - e. whether the reader was glad the book ended or wanted more.
7. When a student prepares to present a book review, s/he should choose a date with his/her home base teacher and should bring in the book and a prop/visual aide on that day. The student should have practiced the presentation before that day and should plan to speak for about 3 minutes about the book.

Students will receive a score for each book review based on their adherence to these guidelines.

If a student needs assistance in selecting a book, all four teachers and Sylvia are willing to help. Students who are participating in the Battle of the Books may prepare reviews about books from that list.

Analyzing a Book or Story

Name _____

Title _____

Author _____

When was it written?(look at back of title page) _____

Characters

Main Character(s) _____

Important Characteristics _____

Other Important Characters and Their Relationship with the Main Character(s) _____

Setting

Where Does the Story Take Place? (City, Town, Country)

Where Does the Action Occur? (main 3 or 4 places)

Plot (Describe what happens in the story and what the main character's problem or situation is)

Main Events/Action (List the main things that happened in the story, in order)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

5. _____
6. _____

Conclusion (How is the main character's problem resolved and/or how does the story end?)

Your Opinion

How interesting was the story?

How well did the conclusion solve the problem in the story? Explain.

Were the characters interesting and believable? Explain.

Did the book keep you interested and eager to continue reading it? Explain.

Were you glad the book ended or did you want it to continue?

Would you recommend the book to a friend?
