

Guidelines for Teen Book Reviews: What to Write

If you follow this template, you can't go wrong. Please include:

- Title of book
- Author of book
- Number of pages
- Genre (fiction or nonfiction, and type: fantasy, science fiction, realistic, etc.)
- Is it part of a series? Yes/No
- Your best guess about reading level (i.e., middle school, high school, grades 7-9, mature, etc.)
- What grade **you** are in
- How you want to be credited (first name, initials, or anonymous)
- Your email address and phone (***this won't be published, we just might need to contact you***)

Write a few sentences describing **what the book is about** (plot, main characters, etc.). Don't give an entire synopsis, as you would in a book report—this is more **like a movie trailer**, a teaser to make people want to read it. Especially **don't** give away the ending, or any significant spoilers!!!

Write a few sentences giving **your opinion of the book**. This part of the review is **not** fulfilled by saying "It was awesome!" What did you like? What did you dislike? Why? What thoughts or feelings did the book inspire? To whom would you recommend the book? Remember, this isn't a school assignment—it's you, talking about a book you chose to read, and recommending it to your friends (or not).

Other things you could choose to comment on:

The cover—did you like it or not, and why? Was it an accurate reflection of the contents?

Indicate if this book is **part of a series** and, if so, whether you have read the rest of the series and would recommend it as well. (Again, **no spoilers!**)

How would you **rate this book**, and why?

- 5 Hard to imagine a better book
- 4 Better than most
- 3 Readable/entertaining
- 2 Needs more work—weak plot, poor writing, whatever
- 1 **HOW** did this book get published?

(continued)

Your book review does need to be complete, but it doesn't need to be long. Use as many or as few words as you need to achieve what you want to say. As a guideline, think **300 to 500 words**. That's about one- to one-and-a-half double-spaced pages of 12-pt. type in Microsoft Word.

Email this review to burbank.teens@gmail.com, either pasted into the body of the email, or as a Word doc attachment.

You can review **anything you are reading for pleasure** (not for school)—fiction, nonfiction, manga.

We will give you **one hour of volunteer (service learning) credit** for every book review, as long as it follows these guidelines and you have done a creditable job. If you have not, we will bounce it back to you and give you a chance to revise it.

Please email us with questions: melliott@ci.burbank.ca.us, or awilliams@ci.burbank.ca.us.