

A Guide to Writing Book/Film Reviews

A book or film review should give the reader your opinion of a book or film. It should summarise the main events in the story (without giving away all the plot) and highlight the best things and the worst things about the plot/characters/setting etc.

You should tell the reader whether or not you would recommend the book/film to them.

Book/Film Reviews should include:

- ✓ The title of the book or film and the author/director.
- ✓ Your opinion. Within the first couple of sentences it should be clear whether or not you are going to recommend the book/film.
- ✓ Information about the film/book. Tell the reader what the story is about. Where is it set? Who are the main characters? (But remember not to give it all away -you don't want to ruin the story for other people.)
- ✓ Main paragraphs
 - What did you enjoy most about reading this book/watching this film?
 - Why do you think it was so enjoyable to read/watch?
 - Which is your favourite moment or quotation from the book/film and why?
 - Who do you think would enjoy reading this book and why?
 - What was not very good about this book/film? What could be improved?
- ✓ Summary. Remind the reader whether or not you are recommending the book/film. You may be able to compare it to something else. For example 'If you like Harry Potter stories then you will love The Adventures of Mister Magic' or give a warning 'If you can forgive the poor acting then you may still enjoy the strong storyline.'