**How to Write a Book Review**

People use book reviews that other people have written all the time. They help to decide which books to read next.

Actually, it doesn’t have to be about a book you really like. Negative reviews are helpful too. Sometimes a book you don’t like is still a great book, just not for you. Another student with other interests might find that book perfect for them. So write your book review anyway.

**There are a few things you must include in your book review, and some that are helpful. Here are the things you must include:**

**1) Book title**

You have to be sure to get the correct title for the book you are reviewing. Be sure to include the whole thing. Sometimes there are series of books, with parts of the title the same, and parts that are different. If you don’t include the whole title, another kid might read your review and get the wrong book to read.

For example, you probably know about [Diary of a Wimpy Kid,](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0810993139?ie=UTF8&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0810993139) by Jeff Kinney. But if you are reviewing one of the later books in the series, you must be sure to include the whole title, like this: Diary of a Wimpy Kid: The Ugly Truth (Book 5.)

**2) Author’s name**

You probably hate it when people say or spell your name wrong. I bet the authors of the books you are reading feel exactly the same way!

Be sure to spell the author’s name correctly. Check and double check it in your report. [Frindle](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0689818769/ref%3Das_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0689818769)and [No Talking](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1416909842/ref%3Das_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=1416909842) were written by [Andrew Clements](http://greatbooksforkids.info/recommended-authors-for-reluctant-readers/), not Andrew Clemens.

(If you don’t know about those two books, you might enjoy reading them also. They are about kids in school who get into some pretty interesting situations.)

**3) What grade or ages you think the book would be good for**

You might read a funny book but know it is too hard for your younger sister to read. So include the ages you think would be able to enjoy the book.

You can say something like, “Recommended for 4th and 5th graders.” Or something like, “I’m 10, but I usually read books that are much harder than what we are supposed to be reading in school. So I think this would be better for sixth or seventh graders.”

**4) Summary of the story**

Give a brief description of the main things that happen in the beginning of the story, or the beginning and middle. But be sure not to give away the ending, especially if there is something really surprising that happens.

Other students will want an idea of what the story is about. If they love stories about dog detectives, but your story is about baseball, they will probably want to know that.

**However, nobody wants you to ruin the story for them. It’s like a really good movie. You don’t want your brother to tell you what happens before you get to watch it. That takes all the fun out of it.**

In addition to those things you must include in your book review,here are **other things that are very helpful**. Here are some suggestions.

**5) Tell them about something you really enjoyed**

If you can figure out exactly what you liked about the book, that helps. If you thought it was funny, say so. If you thought it was exciting or scary, mention that.

You can explain a short scene if it helps. For example, “When Rodrick wakes him up and pretends it’s the first day of school, but it’s not, I was laughing. That is just like what my brother tries to do to me.”

**6) Mention other books that this book resembles**

You can compare the book you are reviewing to other books that are similar. That way, kids can get a better idea if it might be something they would like to read.

For example, you can write, “[Ellie McDoodle: Best Friends Fur-Ever](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1599904268?ie=UTF8&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=1599904268) is kind of like Diary of a Wimpy Kid. But Ellie is a girl, not a boy, and the pictures she draws are a little more detailed. She also gets along better with her brother and sister, but not with her cousin. She calls him ‘Er-ICK!’”

(If this book sounds interesting, you can read a [review of Ellie McDoodle: Best Friends Forever](http://greatbooksforkids.info/book-review-ellie-mcdoodle-best-friends-fur-ever/).)

**7) Say who might enjoy the book**

Other children want to know if they might like the book you are reviewing. So say who you think might like it.

For example, “If you love to read books about spies or adventure, you will enjoy the [Alex Rider](http://www.amazon.com/gp/redirect.html?ie=UTF8&location=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.amazon.com%2Fs%3Fie%3DUTF8%26x%3D0%26ref_%3Dnb_sb_noss%26y%3D0%26field-keywords%3Dalex%2520rider%26url%3Dsearch-alias%253Dstripbooks&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=ur2&camp=1789&creative=390957) book series.” Or, “If you like books about witches that are not too scary, you might enjoy “[Which Witch?](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/0330398008/ref%3Das_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=alinaspencilc-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=0330398008)” by Eva Ibbotson.

**8) Say something you didn’t like about the book**

There is usually something in every book that you don’t like. Maybe the beginning is really good, but the ending is boring. Perhaps the book seemed too scary for kids, or it gave you nightmares.

If there is something you don’t like, you can add that to your book review. Sometimes you might want to use it like a warning. For example, “This is an eerie, mysterious story full of dreams that scare you, and ghosts. If you get nightmares easily, [Coraline](http://greatbooksforkids.info/book-review-coraline/) is not a good book for you.”

**9) Recommend other books or authors**

If you find a book you love, you want to read more books like it. So will other kids. So if you think there are other books they might like, you can mention them.

They can be by the same author, or by a different author. It’s a lot of fun to find a whole bunch of books by another author that you didn’t even know about. And if you read those books and enjoy them, you have a lot more to look forward to.

Think about these tips I’ve shared with you when you write your next book review. Other children want to read kids’ book reviews by kids, because if you like a book, they might like it too. Now that you know how to write a children’s book review, get out there and write one!