

Writing a Formal Book Report

Lower Elementary Format

2nd and 3rd Grade Students

Using the 5 paragraph system of writing, the student should answer the following questions within their book report:

Introduction and Title Page

Title Page

- *Includes Student name
- *Title of Book underlined
- *Author (and illustrator if necessary)

Paragraph 1

- *Title and Author
- *Genre/type-kind of story (fantasy, science fiction, biography, etc.)
- *Give a small, general hint to what the book is about
- *Why student chose book

Body

Paragraph 2

- *Setting-where/when does the story take place?
- *Time passage- how much time passes? (1 day, 20 years, a lifetime?)
- *Mood-is the story scary, happy, sad, crazy? Describe what things generate this/these type(s) of mood(s) within the book.

Paragraph 3

- *Characters
 - Main character
 - Supporting Characters

(Tell as much about the characters as possible. Some examples are: How old are they? What makes them special, unique, exciting, interesting, good, bad, etc. What do these characters do in the story to make the story interesting? Why are the supporting characters important to the story? What do they contribute to the story?)

Paragraph 4

- *Plot-What happens in the story? What is the main event or conflict (problem) in the story? How is it resolved? To help demonstrate your knowledge of the book, please include a full summary of the book's plot and do not invite reader to "read the book to find out" what happens. Please save the cliff hangers for the artistic presentation. Remember that you are not retelling the whole story in detail, but instead telling enough so that the plot is understood by the reader.

Conclusion

Paragraph 5

- *Sum up story and your opinion of book-did you like the way it ended? If so, what parts helped form your opinion of the book? If not, how would you change it?
- *Who would you recommend this book to and why? Include more than just grade level or age. Use examples from the book where possible to explain your recommendation.

PLEASE ALSO ANSWER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WITHIN YOUR CONCLUSION:

- 1) Why do you think the author wrote this book? What was the author's purpose?
- 2) Does this book have a theme or main idea? Tell what you think the theme is and how you know. (Some examples might be the importance of friendship, or how to be courageous in a difficult situation.)
- 3) What were the books strengths? What were its weaknesses? Use examples from the book when possible to validate your ideas.
- 4) What new things did you learn by reading this book? (It can be factual information, something learned about people or places in general, or something you learned about yourself.)

Artistic Presentation

- *Please see separate sheet for ideas.