

Name _____
Date _____
Teacher _____

BOOK REVIEW FORMAT

A book review should not merely retell the story in your own words. Rather, a book review should be a critical analysis of the book, using incidents from the book to be given as evidence to support your opinions. The following is a general outline you may use to write the review. All reviews, however, should be two to three pages, neatly printed or typed in ink. It should address the following topics: theme, setting, characterization, character development, conflict, how the author's life or times may have affected the book, and finally, reasons for liking or disliking the novel.

FIRST SECTION: State the name of the book, author, time written, and the theme of the novel. The theme is the main idea of the story, not a retelling of the story.

SECOND SECTION: Where does the novel take place; what is the setting? How does the setting help or hurt the author in developing the theme?

THIRD SECTION: Choose one or two of the main characters and describe the author's characterizations of them. Characterization is how the author shows how a character looks, talks, or acts. The describe character development. How does the character change through the story? What incidents cause these changes?

FOURTH SECTION: Most novels contain conflict. A story may contain more than one conflict. There may be conflict between characters, between a character and nature, society, religion, or an inner conflict inside the mind of the character. Describe the various conflicts in the novel. State briefly some major incidents that describe this conflict and the character's success in resolving the conflict.

FIFTH SECTION: How did the author's life or the times he / she lived in affect the writing? (Example, tragedies in the author's life, time period was during the World Wars, etc.)

SIXTH SECTION: How did you like to book? Was the writing style good, interesting, fast or slow pace, realistic? Would you recommend it to others?