

Book Review - Novels



Preparation

Have a look at the examples and tips to give you variety of approaches in writing a book review

Example Book Reviews:

<https://medium.com/pobble/childrens-book-reviews-written-by-children-4efee0b5790e>

Task: Note 3 things you have learned about writing a book review from reading these examples.

What did they include?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

What language did they use?

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

Tips on writing a book review:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/tips-and-advice/writing-tips/writing-tips-for-teens/how-to-write-a-book-review/>

Task: Note 3 things you have learned about writing a book review from reading these tips.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Introduction

Introduce the novel, the author, and the story.



Example: I Capture the Castle: ‘Dodie Smith's novel I Capture the Castle is a journey through the mind of a young writer as she attempts to chronicle her daily life. Seventeen-year-old Cassandra Mortmain has recently learned to speed-write, and she decides to work on her writing skills by describing the actions and conversations of those around her.’

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/book-review-guide/book-review-writing-examples/>

The story

What happens?

- Summarise what happens in the story.
- Focus on the main events, the most important ones.

Example: I Capture the Castle: 'Cassandra lives in a fourteenth-century English castle with an interesting cast of characters: her beautiful older sister, Rose; her rather unsociable author father and his second wife, artist-model Topaz; Stephen, the garden boy; a cat and a bull terrier; and sometimes her brother Thomas when he is home from school. One fateful day they make the acquaintance of the Cotton family, including the two sons, and a web of tangled relationships ensues.'

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/book-review-guide/book-review-writing-examples/>



Setting

Where and When

- Summarise the setting(s) or the novel.
 - Where and when is it set.
 - Why is this significant?
- What do you think the author is trying to say about this time and place?



Example: Micheal Morpurgo's War Horse: 'The novel is set just before the start of the First World War, and during it. The novel has a number of settings in place. The beginning of the novel is set in rural England, and this is an idyllic setting, where the characters are mostly happy, but the author is saying that this way of life is about to end for the characters. We then move to the battlefields of France. Morpurgo shows us the horror of the trenches, and the terrifying effect it has on the horses and the men...'

Main Character

Characterisation

- Discuss the main character (protagonist).
 - Who are they?
 - What is their background (family, situation)
 - What kind of person are they? (confident, imaginative, rebellious). What incidents in the story highlight this?
 - Does the character grow, learn or change? How? Use a moment from the text to support this.

Example: Katniss Everdeen, The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: 'The protagonist, Katniss Everdeen, lives in District 12, a poor, mining-type area, and is in many ways the head of the house, her father dead and her mother sometimes incapable of coping. She is an incredibly strong character, even at the beginning of the novel, and we see this when she is looking after her sister and indeed her mother; she volunteers to take her sister's place in the Games, knowing that she is the stronger of the two. She is resourceful; she hunts with a bow and arrow for food, which is desperately needed in the area. But she is not without flaws and internal conflicts; she is emotionally hard and closed off; she does not trust people. She does change and grow in the course of the novel. She must trust Haymitch and Peeta in order to survive; she must accept that she needs them; she needs other people; other people do care for her and can be relied upon. We see this in various moments throughout the Games, when she must accept Haymitch's help when he gives her advice (she doesn't know everything); she must accept Peeta's friendship and his offer of cooperation. At the end of the novel she has changed and grown as a character in her ability to allow others to truly know her and to be vulnerable in front of them.'



Favourite part

- What was your favourite part?
- Why did you like it?

Example: Journey To Juno: My favourite parts are the galactic blast game (it is similar to baseball except there are robots playing), recess at Zack's school where everything is 3-D holographic images, the rainbow river in a crystal cave on Juno, and the galaxy gemmite that Zack finds on Juno. I also loved when a life-size holographic image of his Earth friend appears in Zack's room because he calls him on a hyperphone. I give this book one hundred stars! There is a "to be continued" at the end so you have to read the next book see what's in store. I can't wait to find out what happens!!!

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/book-review-guide/book-review-writing-examples/>



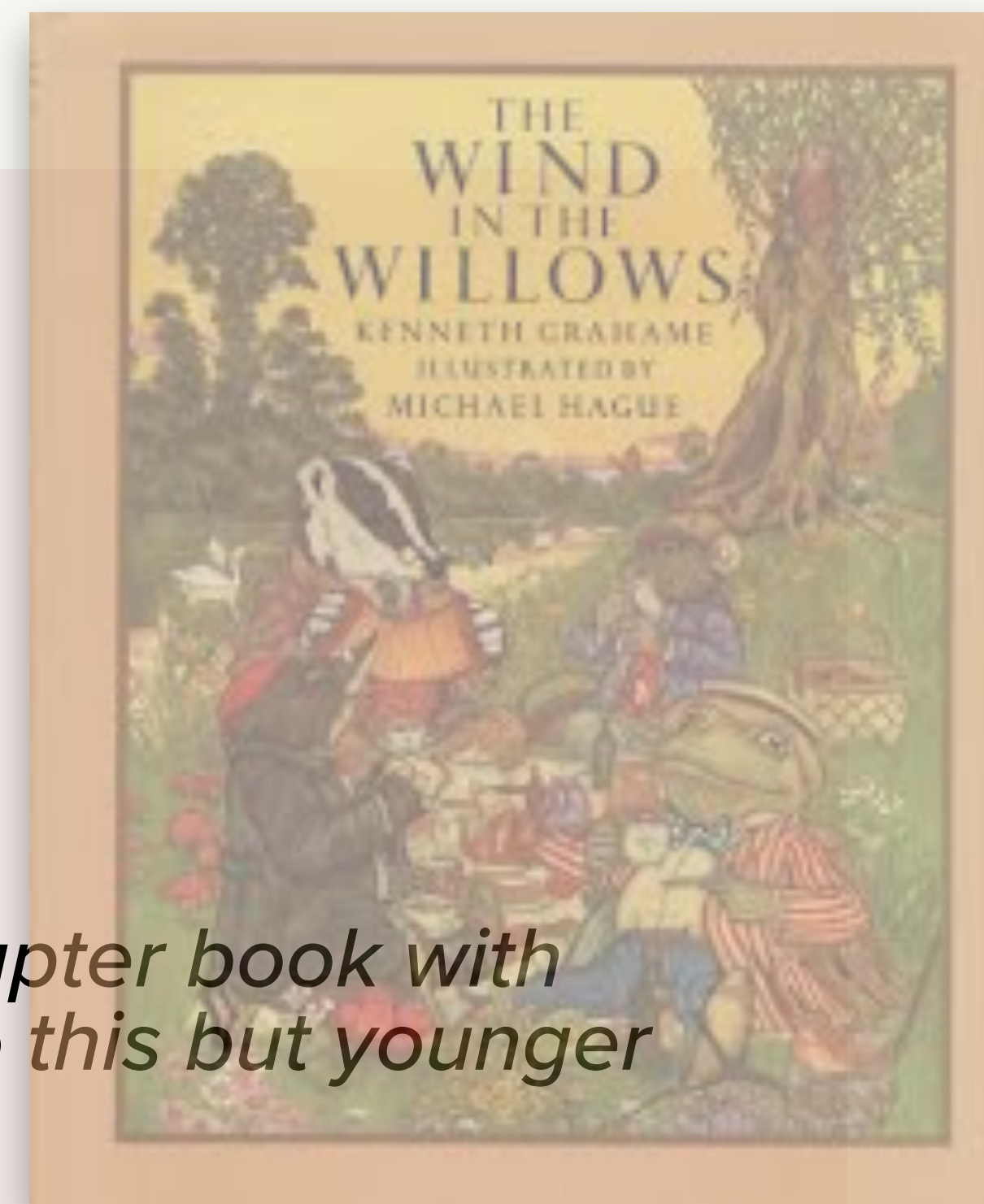
Would you recommend?

Who would like this book?

- Would you recommend the book to anyone?
 - To whom?
 - Why?

Example: Journey To Juno: Boys and girls will both like it. It's an easy chapter book with pictures on every page. I love the illustrations. I think ages 6-8 would like this but younger kids would like the story being read to them.

<https://www.mensaforkids.org/teach/lesson-plans/book-review-guide/book-review-writing-examples/>



Follow on Work

- Create a poster for the book.
- Include all of the techniques you have looked at.
- Include at least 2 quotes from the book that stand out for you.
- Add images.
- Poster making sites:
 - https://www.canva.com/tools/poster-maker-v1/?utm_source=google_sem&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=REV_UK_EN_CanvaPro_Poster_BMM&utm_term=REV_UK_EN_CanvaPro_Poster_BMM&gclid=EAlaIQobChMI5pnR1M2W6wIVhbHtCh3V1gKbEAAYASAAEgJrAPD_BwE&gclid=aw.ds
- Help with making a poster

- <https://classroom.synonym.com/make-dare-poster-school-8500254.html>

