



Book Reviews

Better than a book report!

Book Report vs. Book Review

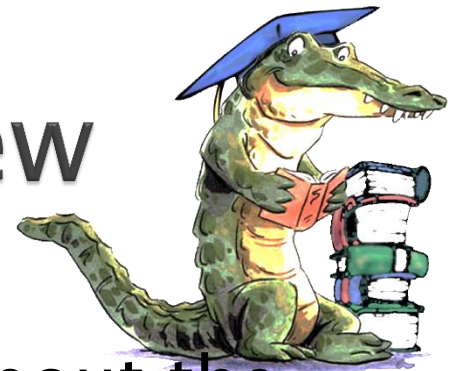
- ▶ What's the difference?

A **book report** is just a summary and analysis of a book's story and characters.

A **book review** is a person's opinion about a book and an explanation of their opinion.



Elements of a book review



- ▶ A statement giving essential info about the book without giving major spoilers about the plot away.
- ▶ An explanation of the author's purpose behind writing the book.
- ▶ An account of the theme/thesis of the book.
- ▶ The reviewer's opinion about how well the theme/thesis is supported in the text.
- ▶ Judgment of the writer's skills and ability to keep the reader interested.

Persuasive Writing

- ▶ A book review is a type of persuasive writing: you are trying to convince the reader to read the book.
- ▶ You need to support your opinion and back up your persuasive writing with evidence/facts from the text.



Inserting Quotes



- ▶ A good way to show evidence/facts from the text is to insert quotes into your review.
- ▶ You should lead into a quote, followed by a colon or comma.
- ▶ Example:

I'm a big fan [of Crazy Lady!] [...] This is best exemplified in the following passage between the main protagonist, Jerry, and his tutor, Miss Annie, who gives him an assignment he may not have been ready for:

"I've got something more important for you to do," she said.

"What?"

"The police picked Maxine up a couple of nights ago. They've got her in the lockup at Central—she's been sentenced to ten days for D&D. Do you know what that is?"

"Drunk and disorderly."

She nodded. She paused for a minute, to let it sink in. "I want you to go down there today," she said. "I have a message for her. I'd go myself, but my arthritis is too bad." I just stood there.

How to write in a quote

- ▶ The previous example was how to quote a passage. To quote a smaller excerpt (only 1 sentence or part of a passage), here is how to properly write in a quote:
- ▶ Example 1: The connection between the two characters, Skiff and Cymry, is obvious when Skiff thinks to himself: “[He felt] that he belonged, at last, to something he’d been searching for without ever realizing that he’d been looking. And there was an emotion connected with Cymry in there that, if he had put to put a name to it, he might have said (with some embarrassment) was love.”



Holy cow, another way to write a quote!

- ▶ You can use a comma as well:

The author uses a lot of great figurative language. My favorite line is when she wrote, “All you could see were his tears, falling like rain upon the paper, smearing the ink into pools of broken promises as he wrote.”



Creative Writing II: Final Project

- ▶ You final project (and final assessment), is a book review and presentation.
- ▶ Requirements:
 - 1 typed page in 12 point font (Arial or Times New Roman) briefly explaining your book and why you did or did not enjoy it.
 - A visual presentation: can be a book ad poster, a Prezi, a video of you “pitching” your book to potential readers, etc.
- ▶ Due the day of your final exam period.

Brainstorm

INTRODUCTION

- Remember a “hook” sentence and a thesis statement

PLOT SUMMARY

- Briefly explain what your book is about

EXPLANATION OF YOUR OPINION

- Why do you like this book? How did the way the author wrote the book influence your opinion?

CONCLUSION

- Restate your thesis in a different way and end with why you think others should read this book

Copy this down:

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Do Book Reviewers Hear?

The Author's Voice – Analyzing the *Sound* of the Story

Text	Excerpts From the Text	The Author's Intention

Some words to describe intent:

- ▶ Excitement
- ▶ Funny
- ▶ Empathy
- ▶ Suspense
- ▶ Identify with ...
- ▶ Sarcastic
- ▶ To think about ...

