

Novel: Book Report Guidelines

- Get book approved by teacher
- 400-700+ words in blue or black ink on one side of the page, typed preferred
- **Double-Space**
- Include a word count under your name
- Use the five paragraph (P) method as follows:

P1: Include an *attention-getter* (quote, fact, anecdote, etc.), *introduction of book's title and author followed by a short summary of the story*, and a *thesis statement that identifies the quality of the book through its portrayals of characters, plot and setting, and theme of your book*. Example Thesis Statement: Book X is a great book because of its realistic characters, suspenseful plot and setting, and its emotional themes about teen angst.

P2: Identify and discuss the *main character* by discussing the character's physical and mental **strengths, weaknesses**, and **how** the character interacts with other characters in the book.

P3: Explain **how** the *plot* flows (do things happen logically or do they skip around or make you guess too much?). Explain **how** the plot changes any of the characters by the end of the book. Also *identify and explain how the setting of this book* (the **time** and **place** of the book) affects the story.

P4: Identify **two** of the book's *themes* (the central idea or "message" the author is telling the reader) and discuss **how** they are shown. Identify what "life lesson" the author reveals and discuss **how** this lesson about life is shown. **Note:** *this is the most important paragraph of the paper—do not skimp on it!*

P5: Evaluate the book in your *conclusion* by explaining **why** the book is good or bad, **why** you would or would not recommend it to others, and **what** were your expectations and **how** were they met.

*****DO NOT RETELL THE BOOK*****

Word Count -Minimum of 700 words for the book report to be accepted

Book Report Worksheet

Use the information from this worksheet to write your Book Report Essay. If necessary, go back and add quotations or other details and/or examples to your discussions to increase your word count.

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General Guidelines

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- > Include a word count beneath your name and period

Answer the prompts below to help you write your Book Report Essay, then use this worksheet as a rough draft to type it.

Paragraph 1: Introduction

1. *Attention Getter: Write a quote from the book that tells something important about the story and then explain what it tells.*

2. *Introduction: Identify the title and the author of the book then, in three sentences, summarize the story.*

3. *Thesis Statement: Tell if the book is good or bad and then say one thing about the characters, the plot, and the theme.
Example: Book X is a great book because of its crazy characters, thrilling plot, and themes about love.*

Paragraph 2: Character

1. *Character Strengths: Identify the main character of the book and then discuss his/her physical and mental strengths.*

2. *Character Weaknesses: Discuss the main character's physical/mental weaknesses*

3. *Character Interactions: Discuss how the main character interacts or gets along with other characters in the book.*

Paragraph 3: Plot and Setting

1. *Plot: Discuss how the story flows—does it make sense, skip around too much, go in chronological (time) order, use flashbacks, etc.*
2. *Character Changes: Discuss how one character changes from the beginning of the book to the end.*
3. *Setting: Identify the time and/or place in which the story takes place and explain how that affects the story.*

Paragraph 4: Theme = the messages the author is trying to make

1. *Theme1: Identify one theme of the book and discuss how it is shown.*
2. *Theme2: Identify a second theme of the book and discuss how it is shown.*
3. *Life Lesson: Identify what lesson about life the author is trying to prove and discuss how it is shown.*

Paragraph 5: Conclusion

1. *Evaluation: Explain why this is a good or bad book.*
2. *Recommendations: Explain why you would or would not recommend this book to others. If you do recommend it, who should read it (age, gender, ethnicity, etc.).*
3. *Expectations: Identify three specific actions you thought would happen in the book and then explain whether or not they happened. Then explain if the book met the overall expectations you had before you began to read it.*