

Book Review Blog Guide

(50 points total)

Please use the following guide in developing your book review blog. You may use any book that you wish that is at or about your Accelerated Reader ZPD. Bonus points will be awarded to students who write a review based on the book chosen during the Book Scavenger Hunt. The final published blog will be worth 20 points. Points will be awarded based on the attached rubric. For this assignment you **will** be graded for grammar, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

The pre-publishing steps (story map, rough draft, peer revision rubric, revised draft, and edited draft) will be worth an additional 20 points. Points will be awarded based on completeness and timeliness. Please see the revised Language Arts Study Guide for Weeks 7-9 for more information.

You will receive an additional 10 points for commenting on two published reviews. Each comment should be at least 2 complete sentences and use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

❖ Introduce the book (1 short paragraph)

This paragraph should contain **at least** the title, author, theme, and one other piece of information about the book. Other information might include the genre, ATOS Book Level, AR Points, where you found the book, the publisher, the number of pages in the book, and/or the year it was written. Tip: make this paragraph interesting to hook your readers. Just because it's filled with a bunch of "dull" info doesn't mean it has to be boring.

❖ Tell about the book, but don't give away the ending! (1 paragraph)

Use your story map to give a brief overview of the plot, but don't tell us the climax or resolution. This is a book **review** so you want to keep the reader guessing and make them want to read the book.

❖ Writing Style (1 paragraph)

Describe the author's writing style. (Descriptive? Simple? Humorous?) Identify at least one device that the author used in the book (suspense, irony, dialect, etc.) to make the book more interesting. How did the author use that element and was it successful? Tip: use quotes from the book to provide examples.

❖ Your opinion and Recommendation (1-2 paragraphs)

Give your opinion about the story. Some questions you might answer in this paragraph include:

- Did you like the book? Why or why not?
- What was your favorite part of the book?
- What was your least favorite part of the book?
- If you could change something in the book, what would it be? (If you wish you could change the *ending*, remember **not** to tell the ending to the story you read!)

Give a recommendation for this book. Would you recommend this book to another person? What type of person would like this book? Optional: create a "rating system" to rate the book. (ex. 4 out of 5 stars)

Book report format obtained from <http://www.rapides.k12.la.us/phs/bookreviewformat.htm>.

Book Review Blog Rubric

Element	Exemplary 4	Proficient 3	Needs Work 2	Unsatisfactory 1	Points
Introduction	Introduction is attention-getting and provides information other than title and author	Introduction contains title, author, theme, and at least one other piece of information.	Introduction contains title, author and theme, but no other information.	Introduction does not contain title, author or theme.	_____/4.0
	The theme listed for the book seems plausible based upon the other information provided about the book.	The theme listed is a theme, but it does not seem to be the best fit for the book.	The theme listed is a theme, but it does not fit the book.	The “theme” listed is not a theme, a life lesson the reader could apply OR no theme is listed.	
Plot	The plot description is brief, does not seem to give away too much, and is clear and easy to follow. After reading the description, the reader feels curious about the plot.	The plot description is brief and easy to follow. A bit more information should have been given or too much has been provided. The description lacks interest.	The plot description is overly complicated, overly simple, or overly boring. Events may also be disorganized.	The plot description is very minimal, way too detailed, or confusing due to disorganization.	_____/4.0
Writing Style	The review provides clear and detailed description of the author’s writing style and provides examples, when possible, with quotes.	The review provides clear description of the author’s writing style. Examples are provided, but the connection between examples and description is not clear.	The review gives a few points about the author’s writing style. However, the style information is general and not unique. Examples are not provided.	The review gives very minimal information about writing style.	_____/4.0
Opinion and Recommendation	The author gives a detailed opinion of the book, including a description of a favorite (or least favorite) part of the book.	The author gives a clear opinion of the book, but a specific element of the book is not described to support the opinion.	The author is wishy-washy about his or her opinion of the book, for example, “This book way okay.”	The author does not give an opinion on the book.	_____/4.0
	The review provides a clear recommendation statement. The book is recommended to specific types of readers.	The review provides a clear recommendation statement. It is assumed that every reader would feel the same about the book.	The review provides a recommendation statement. However, it is general such as “this is a good book.”	The review does not include a recommendation statement.	
Grammar and Spelling	2 or less minor errors are detected	3-4 minor errors are detected or 1 major error is detected.	5-6 minor errors or 2-3 major errors are detected.	More than 6 minor errors or more than 3 major errors are detected.	_____/4.0

Story Map

Setting

Where:

When:

Major Characters:

Minor Characters:

Conflict/Problem:

↓
Event 1

↓
Event 2

↓
Event 3

↓ ↓ ↓
Resolution/Outcome: