

## Book Review Worksheet & Criteria

*In a review, you express your opinion about the value or worth of a book you have read.* However, simply stating that something was good or bad is not enough. You need to support your feelings with thoughtful explanations and specific references to the book itself. Use the following guidelines to review your novel:

### PREWRITING

1. **Choosing a Subject** – Review a book you have recently read, preferably, one that you have strong feelings about. Write down the book's title, author, and the publishing company.
2. **Gathering Details** – Collect your initial thoughts and feelings about your subject through freewriting. Or, if you want to work more systematically, list in one column the book's strong points and in another column its weak points. Continue exploring and collecting ideas as needed.
3. **Focusing Your Efforts** – Read through your ideas, and put a check next to the details you would like to include in your review. **Remember:** You can't say *everything*. Reviewers usually comment on the important parts of a book without giving away too much of the story. Everyone hates spoilers. ***You don't want to ruin the ending of the story for your audience!***

### WRITING AND REVISING

4. **Connecting Your Ideas** – Develop your first draft according to your planning and prewriting. Make sure to identify the book's title, author and publishing company in one of the opening lines.
5. **Improving Your Writing** – As you read through your first draft, make sure that you have stated your ideas clearly and completely. *Will your audience be able to follow your main points? Will they know how you feel about the book and why?* Revise your review accordingly.

### EDITING AND PROOFREADING

6. **Checking for Style and Accuracy** – Study your revised writing for style. Make sure that all of your sentences read smoothly and that you have used the best words to express your ideas. Then check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors. *A helpful practice is to read your review out loud. You will more easily determine how smoothly it reads and catch grammatical mistakes.*
7. **Preparing a Final Copy** – Write or keyboard a neat final copy of your review; **proofread** the final copy before sharing it.<sup>1</sup>

### FORMATTING

- **SET-UP:** One page, 1-inch margins, typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 pt. Font.
- **NOT ALLOWED:** extra spaces between paragraphs, variations from assigned font, or illustrations of any kind.

<sup>1</sup> Writers INC. Wilmington, Massachusetts: Great Source Education Group, Inc., 2001.