

Seventh Grade: Book Report 3

Assigned: Monday, February 11, 2008

Due: Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Writing a Book Review

Find examples of book reviews and movie reviews in Newsweek, Time, People, Los Angeles Times, New York Times, or Boston Globe. Notice how similar they are as they analyze the characters, plot, conflict, and theme.

Your assignment is to write a book review using the “Elements of Review” (substitute novel for movie) and the characteristics listed below. **No more than one single-spaced typed page.** Your font size for this assignment, however, can be 10 in order for it to fit.

Introduction

Provide bibliographic information including author, title, place of publication, publisher, pages, and date of publication. Oh, and your review needs a catchy title. Include a picture of the book cover as well somewhere and your name as the author of the review.

Summary

Summarize the book in a small paragraph (i.e., about one fifth of the review). Yes, you will give away all plot points, even spoiling the ending. There are no cliffhangers here!

Analysis

Critically evaluate the book (characters, plot, conflict, theme). Identify the author’s point of view and the strengths and weaknesses of the presentation. Use language that we identified as being “positive” and “negative” and come up with your own as well. Offer a comparison to other books by this author if you’ve read them. If not, offer a comparison between this book and other books in a similar genre (e.g. If you’re reading something in the fantasy realm, compare it to Harry Potter.).

Opinion

Consider your reaction to the book. Decide why you had such a reaction. Discuss what you appreciate about the book as well as what you think others will find enjoyable. Do NOT refer to “thumbs up” or “stars” or some other clichéd way of rating something. Do this WITHOUT using “I”.

Marking

Focus—each paragraph stays on the topic

Organization—has logical progression of ideas and uses transitions

Mechanics and Spelling—uses correct conventions of grammar and mechanics

Support—specific details to support your thoughts

Style—vocabulary is mature; uses adverbs and adjectives, specific nouns, active verbs, sentence variety.

You must also include three vocabulary words from this year, three appositives, and three conjunctive adverbs.