



## The Language of Book Reviews and Evaluation

<b>INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH</b>	<b>Author &amp; Title, intended audience and type of text</b> What is the purpose/genre?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ....was written by...</li> <li>• This text is a novel/mystery/horror/non-fiction/fantasy/romance, etc. ...</li> <li>• Written for the ... audience..</li> <li>+ A thrilling tale about good vs. evil</li> <li>+ An action-packed adventure story</li> <li>+ A fast, funny and really satisfying story about ..</li> <li>+ Part fantasy thriller, part teenage love story, this novel..</li> <li>+ A lively mystery, with a healthy dose of humour and angst..</li> <li>+ The dominant theme of this book is..</li> <li>+ A passionate autobiographical/personal/historical account of..</li> <li>+ A classic tale of good vs. evil...</li> <li>+ A joyful celebration of..</li> <li>+ A magnificent tale</li> <li>+ A rip-roaring romp through..</li> <li>+ An exquisitely written, ponderous look into..</li> <li>+ An inspiring tale of..</li> <li>+ An exploration of many themes of modern..</li> <li>+ An interesting tale about..</li> <li>- Disappointing</li> <li>- Ridiculous read</li> <li>- Unbelievable</li> <li>- Clumsy catastrophe</li> </ul>
<b>PLOT SUMMARY</b>	<b>Who, what, where and when</b> (Be succinct and don't give away any spoilers!)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The story, narrated in ...person, is written through the eyes of..</li> <li>• It is set in...</li> <li>• After ....-ing...</li> <li>• The story catapults you into a world of ..</li> <li>• The story weaves between..</li> <li>• The central character..</li> <li>• The character's greatest struggle involves..</li> <li>• The book attempts to explain..</li> <li>• The book offers insight into..</li> <li>• The book features..</li> <li>• Subheadings within the book include..</li> <li>• As the story progresses</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

<b>OPINION</b>	<b>Your favourite parts?</b> A chance to offer your personal opinion about the text	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In my opinion...</li> <li>+ Each chapter is more exciting than the last one, but my personal favourite is..</li> <li>+ My favourite part is the bit when..</li> <li>+ The part I found most interesting/informative/thought-provoking/moving/ entertaining was...</li> <li>+ I found the book slow at first but after a while..</li> <li>+ I couldn't put the book down because..</li> <li>- My least favourite part was...</li> <li>- I did not find the ... appealing</li> <li>- I could not empathise with ...</li> <li>- I couldn't connect with the characters..</li> </ul>	
<b>EVALUATION VOCABULARY</b>	<b>Comments and Evaluation</b> Explain your opinions about the text – in what way was it good or bad?	
		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Addictive</li> <li>+ Artistic</li> <li>+ Breath-taking</li> <li>+ Captivating</li> <li>+ Carefully crafted</li> <li>+ Charming</li> <li>+ Eloquent</li> <li>+ Engrossing</li> <li>+ Fascinating</li> <li>+ Fast-paced</li> <li>+ Gut-wrenching</li> <li>+ Heart-stopping</li> <li>+ Highly satisfying</li> <li>+ Hilarious</li> <li>+ Humorous and wise</li> <li>+ Insightful</li> <li>+ Inspiring</li> <li>+ Intent</li> <li>+ Intoxicating</li> <li>+ Magical</li> <li>+ Plucky, clever</li> <li>+ Poetic</li> <li>+ Polished</li> <li>+ Powerful</li> <li>+ Remarkable</li> <li>+ Sensitive</li> <li>+ Spell-binding</li> <li>+ Thought-provoking</li> <li>+ Thrilling</li> <li>+ Unforgettable</li> <li>+ Uplifting</li> <li>+ Utterly splendid</li> <li>+ Vigorous</li> <li>+ Vivid &amp; realistic</li> <li>+ Well-written</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ambiguous</li> <li>- Artificial</li> <li>- Clumsy</li> <li>- Confusing</li> <li>- Cynical</li> <li>- Disappointing</li> <li>- Dreary</li> <li>- Dull, boring</li> <li>- Forceful</li> <li>- Illogical, incoherent, disjointed</li> <li>- Jerky, awkward</li> <li>- Monotonous</li> <li>- Non-sensical</li> <li>- Opinionated</li> <li>- Ordinary</li> <li>- Pessimistic</li> <li>- Plain</li> <li>- Plodding</li> <li>- Pompous</li> <li>- Poorly illustrated</li> <li>- Rambling</li> <li>- Ridiculous</li> <li>- Shallow, superficial</li> <li>- Tedious</li> <li>- Too complex</li> <li>- Too detailed</li> <li>- Unbelievable</li> <li>- Under-developed characters</li> <li>- Ungrammatical</li> <li>- Unpolished</li> <li>- Unsympathetic characters</li> <li>- Vague</li> <li>- Verbose, wordy</li> <li>- Vulgar</li> </ul>

Useful phrases		
		
EXAMPLE PHRASES AND SENTENCE STEMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ Beautifully told</li> <li>+ Page-turner</li> <li>+ Action-packed</li> <li>+ Deep exploration</li> <li>+ Stuffed with wonder, peril and bravery</li> <li>+ Brings the sights and sounds of the .. alive</li> <li>+ Takes you to the heart of ..</li> <li>+ Busts the myths wide open..</li> <li>+ A classic tale of..</li> <li>+ Warmth, with and staggering scene setting</li> <li>+ Poetic/elegant journey</li> <li>+ Observant, original, moving and true</li> <li>+ Vivid descriptions</li> <li>+ A charismatic hero</li> <li>+ A novel that never fails to..</li> <li>+ A story that is brave/bold/entertaining/ deep/troublesome..all at once</li> <li>+ A stunning achievement</li> <li>+ The ... will catch your attention and not let go</li> <li>+ The author contemplates..</li> <li>+ The author convincingly/skilfully, accurately..</li> <li>+ The author creates enduring heroes</li> <li>+ The author gives life to</li> <li>+ The author has created a compelling narrative</li> <li>+ The author should be applauded for</li> <li>+ The author paints an exquisite picture of</li> <li>+ At its heart, the novel is a study of..</li> <li>+ ...contains beautiful passages</li> <li>+ Each scene is richly atmospheric</li> <li>+ Every detail has been put into play for a reason</li> <li>+ Filled with wonderfully detailed observations</li> <li>+ He masterfully sets the character/landscape/plot twists within..</li> <li>+ Her execution is impeccable</li> <li>+ Humour permeates throughout..</li> <li>+ The book explores themes of..</li> <li>+ The book has great pace and depth..</li> <li>+ The book offers insight into..</li> <li>+ The book suprisers the reader at every turn</li> <li>+ The book will transport you to..</li> <li>+ The book's well-developed portrait/portrayal..</li> <li>+ The story weaves between</li> <li>+ The strength of the novel lies in the ..</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A little lacking in...</li> <li>- A miserable tale of..</li> <li>- Failed to enlist empathy</li> <li>- It fell short in these areas..</li> <li>- Lacked appeal</li> <li>- Lacked flow</li> <li>- Lacked interest</li> <li>- Lacked pace</li> <li>- Plot was feeble and unpredictable</li> <li>- Poorly illustrated</li> <li>- Poorly structured</li> <li>- Wasn't sure where it was heading</li> <li>- Weak illustrations</li> </ul>



EXAMPLE PHRASES AND SENTENCE STEMS

- + Written with a depth of understanding..
- + The book is expertly researched..
- + It is a fascinating story of..
- + It is a sad but well-written tale
- + The text is both hilarious and educational
- + ..is packed with warmth and gentle humour
- + Curiosity is aroused through the smart use of dilemma/irony/flashbacks/foreshadowing
- + The main conflict,..., is intelligently solved in an unexpected end
- + The setting is presented with photographic detail/through a few suggestive details/indirectly through thoughts and actions
- + The quirky humour and enigmatic ending will probably leave some readers confused but others delighted
- + The language is very imaginative
- + The dialogues are realistic and this makes it easy to 'be inside' the story
- + It's a great story with lots of pace, lots of familiar situations and a little bit of magic.
- + It's a mysterious, strange and, at one point, worrying tale
- + The author is (*witty, humorous, serious, pragmatic, ironic, sarcastic, pessimistic, cynical, compassionate, moralising, nostalgic, critical, etc.*) in her attitude towards..
- + The illustrations are suitably expressive
- + The illustrator has brought the words to life through..
- + The illustrations are as hilarious as the text
- + The illustrations are every bit as insightful as the text
- + The comic style will impress/appeal to..
- + The illustrator's talented representations...
- + The illustrations are particularly amusing/charming/appealing
- + The text is supported by dramatic/well-chosen illustrations
- + The witty illustrations capture the ...perfectly
- + ..with great, vibrant illustrations
- + The illustrations are bursting with life
- + Very expressive drawings illustrate the changing moods of...
- + Written in various fonts with humorous black and white/colourful cartoons throughout..

<b>Summarise your view of the text and recommendations</b>		
Would you recommend this book? Who to? Why?		
<b>CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>+ I would highly recommend this book for ... because..</li> <li>+ This book would be a fantastic read for anybody who loves..</li> <li>+ I would gladly recommend this book to..</li> <li>+ Most children would be delighted/thrilled to read this book</li> <li>+ It will leave readers a great deal to think about</li> <li>+ It will greatly improve readers' knowledge and understanding of..</li> <li>+ You won't be able to put the book down</li> <li>+ A terrific read</li> <li>+ You will love it from beginning to end</li> <li>+ You will laugh out loud from beginning to end</li> <li>+ A book to be read again and again</li> <li>+ Wholeheartedly recommend</li> <li>+ Elevates your spirit</li> <li>+ I was sorry to see the book end</li> <li>+ This book is amazing, down to the last line</li> <li>+ A great book and a fast read</li> <li>+ It is easy to read and difficult to forget</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- I do not think this book is suitable for... because</li> <li>- I cannot recommend this book unless..</li> </ul>

\*Remember that some words and phrases may be used for different purposes.

## Technical/Academic 'Book' Vocabulary

<b>Genre</b>	<b>Form</b>	<b>Layout/structure</b>
<i>Narrative/fiction</i>	Book	Front cover
Autobiography/biography	Textbook	Book sleeve
Adventure	Guidebook	Blurb
Mystery	Handbook	Drop
Science Fiction	Album	Ending
Fantasy	Pamphlet	Prologue
Historical fiction	Poster	Epilogue
Horror	Flyer	Introduction
Contemporary fiction	Advert	Review
Dilemma Stories	Novel	Chapter
Dialogue, Play scripts, film narratives	Picture book	Back cover
Fairy tales	Comic	Inside over
Romance	Formal letter	Copyright
Traditional tale	Personal letter	Index
Thriller	Postcard	Contents
Legend	Note	Heading
Fable	Text message	Sub-heading
Myth	Email	Text box
Correspondence	Film/book review	Artwork
Short story	Essay	Page
	Recipe	Landscape
	Instructions	Portrait
<i>Non-fiction</i>	Manual	Margin
Discussion text	Story	Paragraph
Explanatory text	Tale	Sentence
Instructional text		Word
Persuasive text	<b>Literary features</b>	Phrase
Non-chronological report	Character/protagonist	Illustration
Recounts	Hero/heroine	Figure
	Moral	Table
<i>Poetry</i>	Theme	Graph
ABC	Impact	Summary
Acrostic	Atmosphere	Synopsis
Cinquains	Theme	Strip
Concrete/shape	Argument	Panel
Diamante	Plot	Pop-up
Emotion	Setting	Speech bubble
Free verse	Description	Stanza
Haiku	Problem	Rhyme
Limerick	Resolution	Line
Narrative	Ending	Title
Pantoum		Author
Sonnet		Illustrator
Tanka		Editor
Villanelle		Publisher
		Conclusion