

# Ye Old Book Report

Remember doing book reports in elementary school. Well, you're not going to do another one. Because you are in high school now. High school students don't report on books – they analyze them. So you are going to write a Book Review. Actually, you're going to do two – one we will do as a class. The second you will do on your own. So find a book related to science. Anything about science. As long as it's a novel. That means fiction. As in a story book (yes a chapter book). After reading the book, you will be responsible for handing in two projects.

The first is a simple book review, using the following template:

The goal is to present a coherent essay with a clear argument. State your general argument (your own thesis) in an introductory paragraph and then use the rest of the essay to support your position.

This review will be graded as follows:

- 10 points for the summary
- 20 points for the analysis
- 10 points for the conclusion
- 10 points for structure, grammar, spelling, neatness, organization, etc.

The second project requires more creativity on your part. Using your program area, design and "build" a project that relates to the book. This part of the project will be graded as follows:

- 30 points for creativity, originality, and product
- 10 points for presenting your project to the class
- 10 points for adequately relating your project to your book

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Book Review \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Science  
Period \_\_\_\_\_

*Title of Book, Author, Year of Publication*

150- 200 word summary of the book. Be sure to include characters, setting, major plot points, important developments in the story and so on. There is an "unspoken rule" that you should not give up the ending and ruin it for a potential reader.

150-200 words opinion/analysis of the book. How much does the book agree or clash with your view of the world, and what you consider right and wrong? How were your views and opinions challenged or changed by this text, if at all? How well does the book address things that you, personally, care about and consider important to the world? Was the author's main point supported in the book? Did they get the facts right? Was the story engaging? Where, if at all, did the author fail? Where, if at all, did the author succeed? Is this book unique or a definitive work? Has someone else written "the better book" on this subject? Reading "critically" does not mean the same thing as "criticizing," in everyday language (complaining or griping, fault-finding, nit-picking). Your "critique" can and should be positive and praise the book as much as possible, as well as pointing out any possible problems, disagreements and shortcomings. Being critical means that you point out both the strengths and weaknesses of the book. Don't be afraid to praise the work when it's worthy and to dismiss it when it is poorly done.

50 – 100 word conclusion. Your overall opinion of the book. Would you recommend the book? Who should or shouldn't read the book. Sum up the principles, relationships, and generalizations shown in the body of the paper. Remember, DISCUSS, never REPEAT, what the paper says. Point out any remaining unanswered questions or unsettled points. Reaffirm your own thesis statement in different words. State your final conclusions as clearly as possible and mention your evidence for each conclusion. This is your farewell statement, so leave readers with something to think about! A ringing sendoff that will stick in readers' minds is sometimes the best closing.