

# BOOK REVIEW

To write a book report, follow the steps below:

- **Choose a book to write about.** You could write about a book in any genre or category: adventure, mystery, fantasy, biography, fiction or nonfiction.
- **Take notes about the book using an idea organizer.**
- **Write an introductory paragraph.** You may want to start with a question to get your reader interested. Be sure to include the title and author of the book and let the reader know what type of story it is: funny, exciting, scary or sad.
- **Write a paragraph summarizing the plot.** Be sure to give the names of the main characters and tell a little about them. You could explain the problem they face in the book and what they are doing to overcome it. Be careful not to give away the ending!
- **Write a paragraph that gives the reader your opinion of the book.** Here you might want to write about your favorite part or what you learned.
- **Write a conclusion that lets the reader know if you recommend this book.** Tell the reader why he or she should or should not read this book.
- **Write a title.** The title could include the name of the book.
- **Once you have finished your paper, be sure to review your writing.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Report Organizer

Use the organizer below to take notes on the book you are writing about.

Title:	Author:
Genre:	
Characters:	
Setting (where the story takes place):	
The conflict or problem in the story:	
Summary of the story:	
An important event in the beginning:	
An important event in the middle:	
An important event in the end:	
My opinion:	

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Book Report Checklist

- I followed the directions for writing a book report.
- I wrote a title for my report.
- I wrote an introduction that engages the reader and lets him or her know the title and author of the book I'm writing about.
- I wrote a paragraph that summarizes the plot.
- I included the names of the characters and a few of their character traits.
- I wrote a paragraph that tells the reader my opinion of the book.
- I wrote a conclusion that lets the reader know whether or not I recommend the book and why.
- I used details from the book to support my writing.
- I checked my writing for misspelled words.
- I checked my writing for errors in punctuation.
- My paper is neat.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Sample Book Report

## *The Bad Beginning: A Terrible Tale*

The writer's title includes the name of the book he or she is reviewing.

The writer engages the reader with a question.

Do you enjoy happy endings? If so, *The Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket is a book you'll want to avoid. This is a story with a bad beginning, a bad middle and a bad ending. Why would anyone want to read such a thoroughly bad book? It's all in good fun!

The writer includes the title and author of the book in the introduction.

The writer provides a brief summary of the plot.

*The Bad Beginning* is a story about the suffering of three orphaned siblings at the hands of their uncle, Count Olaf. Although Violet, Klaus and Sunny are the inheritors of an enormous fortune, they cannot claim the money until they are older. For now, they must live with Olaf and cook and clean for him and his terrible theater friends. Why would such a cruel character take in three orphans? He wants to steal their fortune, of course.

The writer includes details about a problem the characters face.

The writer states his or her opinion about the book.

I can't tell you how the story ends, but I can tell you what I enjoyed most about the book. Snicket makes his readers laugh and want to continue reading, even in the most terrible situations. For example, he constantly warns his reader to put down the book because nothing good could possibly come of the orphans' unfortunate situation. He writes: "It is my sad duty to write down these unpleasant tales, but there is nothing stopping you from putting this book down at once..." Of course, Snicket's warnings only made me even more curious to find out what would become of the siblings in the end.

The writer provides examples from the book to support his or her opinion.

The writer gives reasons to explain why he or she recommends the book.

Will Olaf's evil plot win out? Or will these three crafty kids outwit him? If you're not afraid of a little misery and a whole lot of mischief, then I recommend you read *The Bad Beginning* and find out for yourself.

The writer recommends the book.