

Book Report Guidelines - Fiction and Nonfiction
Fiction Book Report Rules
All of these listed items MUST be included.

1. In your first paragraph, list the title, author, and date published. Describe the setting, including a general idea of the year it takes place, country, and other background information. Example: "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J. K. Rowling was published in 1998. The story takes place in present-day England, in a real-life suburb of London and at an imaginary school called Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry."
2. In your second paragraph, introduce the names of 3-5 Main Characters, including their designation as Main Character, Antagonist, Protagonist, and a brief Background. Example: "Harry Potter is an eleven year old boy: strange things have been happening to him ever since he moved in with the Dursley family after the death of both his parents. They were killed by an evil wizard named Voldemort, but Harry survived the attack with just a zigzag scar on his forehead. He is learning to be a wizard, and attends Hogwarts School with his friends Ron and Hermione. Other protagonists include Albus Dumbledore, the headmaster of Hogwarts, and Professor McGonigal. His main antagonists include Professor Snape, a student named Draco Malfoy, and the dark wizard Voldemort who is still trying to kill him. "
3. In the third paragraph, describe the major conflict of the story in 20-50 words. Do not include the resolution of the story or conflict: save that for the next paragraph. Example: "While trying to find the hidden Philosopher's stone, Harry has many adventures, including fighting a troll, learning to fly a broom, and dealing with many strange and interesting people at his school. Voldemort, hidden inside one of Harry's teachers, continues to attack Harry and try to kill him."
4. In the fourth paragraph of **no more than** 50 words, summarize the story and the **resolution** of the conflict. Example: "Harry finally recovers the stone, and with the help of Ron and Hermione, successfully fights off Voldemort's attack. He and his friends are rewarded by Professor Dumbledore as they return in triumph to Hogwarts."
5. In the closing paragraph, describe your own reaction to the book, and your recommendation on the book to other readers.

One of the main features of this kind of book report is that it requires to the student to be very much to the point and not simply ramble on repeating what happened in the book. It also makes the student decide what is important and not important in the book, to focus on the main

Non Fiction Book Report Rules

1. In your first paragraph, introduce the book by listing author, title, and date published. Provide a general introduction to your writing: a “Hook” that gets the reader interested. Example: “Have you ever wanted to know the names of birds? The Handbook of North American Birds by George Lincoln (2008) is an easy to follow, pocket-sized reference book on bird identification.” This paragraph should do nothing more than introduce the book in general terms to your reader.
2. In your second paragraph, state the topic or overall function of the book, i.e. why it was written and what it is supposed to do. Give it depth and background WITHOUT discussion or solution. For example, “This book provides a series of photographs of birds, listing size, color, habitat, and other information that would be appropriate for someone wanting to correctly identify North American birds.”
3. In the third or main paragraph (or section) discuss the topic as presented by the author, and provide different points of view. You should also add additional data, events, previous decisions, etc. that help to support your discussion.
4. In your second to last paragraph, summarize the information or lessons contained in the book, without criticizing it at this point.
5. In your closing paragraph, describe your own reaction to the book, and your recommendation on the book to other readers. Was the book satisfying? Did it hold your interest? Most importantly, answer the question “did this book actually accomplish what it was supposed to do?”

Reference Book Report Guidelines

This book report is to be written or pasted into your Reader's Notebook. If you are going the "pasting" route, then DO NOT write it on two sides of one piece of paper: use two pieces so that you can glue each one separately.

1. Author, Title, Publisher, Date Published.
2. A one paragraph statement as to the reason for the book. What is the user supposed to gain from using this book? What are the claims of the author/publisher?
3. Describe the book "experience" – what do you see when you open it? How are the sections separated (chapters, subjects, etc.) ? What are the illustrations like (photographs, drawings, diagrams, etc.). What can you learn from the book, approached as if you wanted to learn "all about this subject"?
4. Pick ONE specific item you want to look up or learn about, and describe EXACTLY what you do to find it. This includes table of contents, index, etc. that you would use to look up that item. Then, when you find it, what did you learn about that item. For example, let's say you are looking at a book about States, and you decide you want to learn about Iowa, how it was settled, when it became a state, etc. You go to the index at the front of the book and find the "Iowa" page. You go to the page, and it shows you a picture of a farm field and a general paragraph about where it is. This section is then divided into Early History, Geography, Tourist Attractions, etc. Describe whether or not you found what you were looking for, how complete the information was that you did find, etc. This section should be the longest part of your book report.
5. CRITICIZE the book. Find something that you did not like or that was false or misleading or incomplete. Pictures were not accurate, hard to follow, print too small, etc. If you truly cannot find anything to criticize, say so.

Book Report Guidelines – Comparative Fiction Books
All of these listed items MUST be included.

1. In your first section, list the title, author, and date published for each of the two books you have read, and state your general reason for selecting these two books to compare. Then, in two separate but concise paragraphs, describe the setting, including a general idea of the year it takes place, country, and other background information for each book.

If the books are in sequence in a series and include the same general characters, you should include the relationship of the 2nd book to the first within the description of the second. Example” In Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, we rejoin Harry, Hermione, Ron, and the other students at Hogwarts during Harry’s second year at the school.”

2. In your second section, use the same two-paragraph format to introduce the 3-5 Main Characters from each book, including their designation as Main Character, Antagonist, and Protagonist.

3. In the third section, within ONE PARAGRAPH describe the major conflict of each story in two consecutive sentences. Immediately enter a discussion in which you compare and contrast these two conflicts: how are the protagonists similar or different in the way in which they deal with problems? How do the antagonists create or make worse the problems that the protagonists deal with?

4. In the fourth section (for books from different authors or series), imagine the protagonists and antagonists switched between the two stories. Do they bring any special abilities, attitudes, or issues to the other book? Would the resulting story be more or less interesting, or fascinating, or just plain ridiculous? Could you switch Dorothy from the Wizard of Oz and Fern from Charlotte’s Web and have the same or very different stories?

5. In the closing paragraph, describe your own reaction to the books. Directly compare your own reactions to the books, pick one as one you like better, and describe why.