



## Kidblog Book Review FAQs

### When will I read the books?

- Most of the reading will be done in your 20 minutes of nightly reading.

### Which books may I choose?

- Choose books at your independent reading level that you want to read! It's that simple!
- Do not choose books that were used in instruction during a previous grade (e.g., *By the Great Horned Spoon*, *Tiger Rising*, *Number the Stars*).
- Sorry, but no graphic novels or books in which 1/3 or more of the content is drawings.
- Books need to be at least 100 pages in length.
- Try something new! Check out a variety of genres - realistic fiction, historical fiction, biography, science fiction, nonfiction, etc. You might find a new genre that you love!
- If you are addicted to a series of books, go for it! Read and review them all!
- A great place to find new ideas for books is by reading other students' reviews on our Kidblog.
- Check out a book from the local library or view online (epic!, MyOn)

### When will I write the Kidblog reviews?

- Most of the writing will be done at home as homework.

### **How many books should I read per month?**

- You should be reading one chapter book per month. We will write book reviews throughout the year. I will give you the exact due dates in advance. But... most students exceed the minimum number! Many students from the Class of 2017 read and reviewed 12-15 books during the year, and 3 students actually reviewed 28 books each! Shoot for the stars!

### **Do the book reviews affect my report card grades?**

- Yes. By reading books, you are strengthening your reading comprehension skills. I will assess whether your reviews show that you are meeting the 5<sup>th</sup> grade expectations for understanding characters, settings, themes, and plots. I will also assess whether you are meeting 5<sup>th</sup> grade writing standards.

### **Is it hard to write a Kidblog book review?**

- At first, writing the reviews will be challenging. You will find them easier and faster to do as the year goes along. The more reviews that you write, the easier it will be!
- There are several things you can do to make Kidblogs easier to write.
  - As you read, take notes on the **Note-taking Sheet\*** about the main characters, the setting, and the theme.
  - Use the **Writing Graphic Organizer\*** to outline your review.
  - Review the **Kidblog sample\*** and these **instructions** BEFORE you start to write. Double-check that you have included everything required.
  - Remember that you are writing the review for someone who has NOT read the book. Give enough information so they will understand the gist of the book.
  - Don't be tempted to "paraphrase" the blurb on the back of the book, or an on-line review, or another student's review of your book. It will be obvious to me, and you will have to start over. Do your OWN thinking! I

want to read YOUR ideas.

- Don't simply "retell" the events of the story. Use higher-level thinking skills to draw conclusions about the setting, characters, plot, and theme.
- Reread your review after you write it. Revise the sentences so they f-l-o-w in a logical order and tell a story. Fix errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar, and capitalization.
- Learn from your mistakes. Take my comments on your first book reviews and don't make the same mistakes twice.

**Can I write a review on a book that someone else has already reviewed?**

- Of course! Make sure, however, that your review reflects your ideas and writing. It should not be similar in words or ideas to someone else's review.

**Can I select my own background, header, and fonts on Kidblog!**

- Yes! Be creative and have fun!

***\* Instructions, the Note-Taking Sheets, and the Writing Graphic Organizer can also be found on my classroom website and in your Reading Google Class.***