

Kidblog Book Review Instructions:

Our Kidblog Book Review is a place where you can review and recommend the books you are reading to your classmates!



Steps for Fiction Books or True Narratives:

1. **Read** your book! Enjoy it! Then go to our Kidblog Book Review page (linked in Google Classroom). Some students like to take notes on the Note-Taking Sheet * as they read to help them remember the book and to make the review easier.
2. In your "blog," **write a multi-paragraph review:**
 - a. Start by introducing the **book's title**, **author's name**, **problem/dilemma** facing the main character(s), and **author's message (theme)** of the book.
 - b. Describe important information about the **main character(s)** and **setting**. Include conclusions about the main character's family, everyday life, personality, wants/hopes/fears/inner struggles, and character traits. Give relevant details about the setting- where and when the story takes place and the atmosphere of that place and time.
 - c. Describe how the main **problem** in the story begins or develops and how the main character responds to the problem. **DON'T** give away the climax or ending! This section typically ends with a question or two.
 - d. Describe your **opinion** of the book, supported by **3 specific reasons** why you liked or didn't like the book. *Really think about this.* At the end, you can rank the book on a scale of 1-10 and make a recommendation.
 - e. Look at the *Shiloh* book review on our class website as an example. Color-code each of your sections as seen in the *Shiloh* Kidblog .
3. As you **revise** your paragraphs, evaluate whether you have written persuasively. Could you choose more exciting words to convince the reader?
4. **Edit** your post to fix incorrect sentences, misspelled words, and errors in punctuation or capitalization.
5. On the side and bottom of your blog, you will use your **depth and complexity** icons to push your thinking.
6. One of your sections must discuss the **theme**, or author's message about life. Use the Big Idea icon for this section of your blog.



Steps for Nonfiction (Informational) or Biographies:



1. **Read** your book! Enjoy it! Then go to our Kidblog Book Review page (linked in Google Classroom).
2. In your "blog," **write a review** that includes:
 - a. the **title and author's name**.
 - b. the **subject** of the book and some **interesting details** you learned.
 - c. things that **surprised** you when you read the book.
 - d. your **opinion** of the book– give **3 specific reasons** explaining why you liked (or didn't like) the book, rate your book on a scale of 1-10, and make a recommendation.
 - e. Look at the *Basketball Superstar* review (below) as an example.
3. As you **revise** your paragraph, evaluate whether you have written persuasively. Could you have used more exciting words to convince the reader?
4. **Edit** your post to fix incorrect sentences, misspelled words, and errors in punctuation or capitalization.

Here's an example for a biography:

Michael Jordan, Basketball Superstar, by Sean Dolan is an intriguing biography about one of basketball's most famous stars. It is easy to imagine that someone who is known as one of the most skilled players in the history of the sport was born with natural ability and didn't need to work that hard. I had also assumed that basketball had been his favorite sport from the time he took his first steps. But neither assumption turned out to be true. Jordan's father described his son as "probably the laziest kid" he had! He actually paid his brothers and sisters to do his chores for him. And as for his early passion for basketball, it turns out that *baseball* was Michael Jordan's first love! In fact, despite all of his championship rings and his place in the Basketball Hall of Fame, Michael Jordan says this about baseball: "My favorite memory, my greatest accomplishment was when I got the Most Valuable Player award when my team won the state baseball championship. That was the first thing I accomplished in my life, and you always remember the first." Basketball came later, and it didn't come easily. Even though Michael wanted very much to play basketball for his high school, he didn't even make the varsity team on his first try. There is much more to learn about Michael Jordan in this fact filled biography, and Sean Dolan does a wonderful job of describing the basketball star's life before, during, and after the NBA.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who is interested in a good story. The author makes Michael Jordan seem like a superstar and an ordinary human all in the same book. He lets us see the human Jordan, describing how he suddenly left the sport after a family emergency and tried to take up a different sport, and goes on to describe how he began his big "comeback" basketball game against the Indiana Pacers, looking rusty and missing more than 60 percent of his shots. Then he goes on to describe the superstar Jordan who flew into the air to dunk shot after shot against the New York Knicks, scoring 35 points in the first quarter alone! Somehow, Dolan makes Michael Jordan feel completely relatable to me. Dolan let his readers see into Jordan's failures, successes, hopes, and dreams. I give this book an 8/10. It could have used some more engaging graphics to help organize all of the statistics and timeline information. Instead, the information is just presented in a boring, list format. The writing is strong and interesting though, so I would still recommend that anyone with a love of basketball take the time to read this book and learn about one of the best players of all time, Michael Jordan.