The Ultimate Book Review Template

Start crafting amazing reviews for fiction books.

PART ONE: YOUR BRIEF SUMMARY

Introduce the book to its future readers.

❑ 📖 Communicate the book's essential information.

✓ Did you forget to mention the title and author? Oops! 👉 Return to GO.

✓ Which edition did you read (if there were significant revisions between editions)?

✓ What background information about the book or author is important to share?

❑ ⚓ Include a compelling "hook" to keep readers reading your review.

> ***EXAMPLE.*** Ever wanted to see the train wreck that would result if you mashed *My Little Pony* together with *The Sun Also Rises*? Well, you're in luck: this book is it.

❑ 🎬 Set the stage with a quick and dirty synopsis of the book.

✓ Concisely recap the plot points, characters, or themes that will give "big picture" context.

✓ Is the book part of a series? Is it necessary to read other books in the series before this one?

PART TWO: YOUR PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION

Anyone can write a plot summary, but can you present your personal take on the book and back it up with examples?

❑ 🎭 Consider the **genre**.

✓ How does this book compare with other books in the genre?

✓ How does it match up to your expectations of that genre?

❑ 😳 Consider the **characters**.

✓ Did you care for the characters? Hate them?

✓ Were the character arcs believable and satisfying?

❑ 📖 Consider the **plot and theme**.

✓ Did the story grip you? Can you cite specific moments that resonated with you?

✓ What is the theme? Was it effectively expressed throughout the story?

✓ Was the ending satisfying? Were any questions left unanswered?

✓ Were there any plot holes or inconsistencies within the story?

❑ ⏳ Consider the **pacing**.

✓ Was there any point where the story dragged? Did it ever recover?

❑ 🖍️ Consider the **prose**.

✓ How would you describe the author's writing style?

✓ Was the author's voice compelling? Why or why not?

❑ 🎯 Consider the impact that the story made on you.

✓ What was your primary emotion upon finishing the book?

> !! ***SPOILER ALERT!*** As a rule of thumb, try to avoid spoilers in your book review. If you absolutely must discuss a plot point that may ruin another reader's enjoyment of the book, give a spoiler warning ahead of time or use a spoiler tag.

PART THREE: YOUR RECOMMENDATION

It's time to give your thumbs-up or thumbs-down.

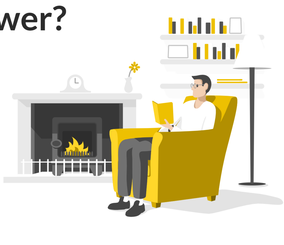
❑ 🏁 Deliver your verdict of the book.

✓ Would you recommend this book to others? Why or not?

> ***BUILD YOUR BRAND.*** Great book reviewers build devoted followings on account of their strong voices and well-put opinions. Don't be afraid to show your own personality in your review! Aim to develop your "reviewer's voice," making sure that all of your reviews are consistent and that you back up your statements with examples from the book.

Ready to become an awesome book reviewer?

Apply to be a book reviewer on **Reedsy Discovery** to start reviewing books and earning tips!



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