Elementary Template PDF – Detailed Guide

Overview

This template is designed for students in **Grades 3–5** (ages 8–11). The goal is to introduce the basic structure of a book review in a simple, scaffolded way. Emphasis is placed on personal response, clear organization, and building confidence in writing.

Template Structure

1. Introduction (50–75 words)

Purpose: To introduce the book and your overall opinion.

Structure:

- **Sentence 1:** State the title and author.

  Example: "*Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White is a classic children's novel about friendship and life on a farm."

- **Sentence 2:** Give a very brief description.

  Example: "It tells the story of a pig named Wilbur and his clever friend, a spider named Charlotte."

- **Sentence 3:** Share your overall feeling.

  Example: "I really enjoyed this book because it made me care about the characters and their adventures."

Teacher Tip: Encourage students to write the title in italics (or underline if handwritten) and capitalize important words.

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2. Summary (75–100 words)

Purpose: To briefly explain what the book is about without giving away the ending.

Structure:

- **Sentence 1:** Introduce the main character and setting.

  Example: "Wilbur is a young pig who lives on the Zuckerman farm."

- **Sentence 2:** Describe the main problem or goal.

  Example: "He is worried about his future, but Charlotte promises to save him."

- **Sentence 3:** Mention another key character or event.

  Example: "With the help of her web-writing, Charlotte becomes famous and changes

  how people see Wilbur."

Avoid: Spoilers, too many details, or retelling the whole story.

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3. What I Liked (100–150 words)

Purpose: To explain what worked well in the book, using examples.

Structure:

- **Paragraph 1 (50–75 words):** Focus on **characters or relationships**.

  Example: "I liked Charlotte because she was smart and kind. Her friendship with Wilbur

  showed how different animals can help each other."

- **Paragraph 2 (50–75 words):** Focus on **a favorite scene or part**.

  Example: "My favorite part was when Charlotte wrote 'SOME PIG' in her web. It was

  surprising and exciting, and it made me want to keep reading."

Prompts for students:

- What was your favorite part?

- Which character did you like most? Why?

- Did the book make you feel happy, sad, or excited? When?

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4. What Could Be Better (50–75 words)

Purpose: To practice giving respectful, constructive feedback.

Structure:

- **Sentence 1:** Mention one thing that could be improved.

  Example: "I think the beginning was a little slow."

- **Sentence 2:** Explain why.

  Example: "It took a few chapters before Charlotte and Wilbur became friends."

- **Sentence 3:** Suggest an improvement (optional).

  Example: "Maybe the story could start with their first meeting."

Teacher Note: Emphasize kindness—critique the book, not the author.

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5. Recommendation (50–75 words)

Purpose: To share who should read this book and why.

Structure:

- **Sentence 1:** State your recommendation clearly.

  Example: "I recommend *Charlotte's Web* to kids who like animal stories."

- **Sentence 2:** Describe the ideal reader.

  Example: "It's perfect for readers who enjoy stories about friendship and bravery."

- **Sentence 3:** Give a final reason.

  Example: "This book has memorable characters and a touching ending."

Formatting for Elementary Level

- **Font:** Large, clear font like Arial 14pt or Comic Sans 14pt for readability.

- **Spacing:** Double-spaced or 1.5 spacing for easier editing.

- **Margins:** 1 inch.

- **Title:** Centered, bold, with student's name and date below.

- **Book Title:** Italicized in typed work, underlined if handwritten.

Scaffolding & Differentiation

- **For struggling writers:** Provide sentence starters or cloze paragraphs.

- **For advanced writers:** Encourage more detail in the "What I Liked" section or add a second "What Could Be Better" point.

- **Visual learners:** Include a drawing space for a favorite scene.

- **Digital option:** Use a Google Docs template with click-to-fill fields.