



How to write a book review

What do you need to know?



Why would we write book reviews?

- To share our opinion of books
- To recommend a book that we liked
- To encourage others to read



Look at some
reviews on this
site

<http://www.spaghettibookclub.org/>

- What do you think?
- Could you write your own book review?
- What features do you like best?

- **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows- JK Rowling**
- This is the last book in the Harry Potter series. The ministry of magic has fallen and Dumbledore is dead. Harry, Ron and Hermione are on the run from the death eaters. But no matter where they run they always get caught and have to flee. When they get caught by the Malfoys' and Voldemort comes, it is an epic battle between death eaters and Hogwarts wizards.
- It was a thrilling end to the Harry Potter series. I love how well developed the characters are. They're more interesting than they were in the beginning of the series. The writing makes you feel like you're there. This was one of the best books I've read because it concludes the saga of Harry Potter.
- I think that anyone who likes fantasy books would like this book. I believe many people should read it. It's the best book I've ever read. It has got action, drama and suspense. I think that an incredible amount of people should read this. This book will entertain you.

A stylized illustration of a bright yellow sun with rays, partially obscured by light blue and white clouds, set against a blue sky background.

Holes


Written by Louis Sachar

Reviewed by Phoebe C. (age 11)

Stanley Yelnats has never been very lucky. That's because he is under a curse, a curse that started with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing great-great-grandfather. Stanley is unjustly accused of stealing! He is sent to Camp Green Lake, where there is a dried up lake, and a myriad of holes. Stanley is forced to dig holes to build character. The holes must be five feet wide, and five feet deep.

Soon, Stanley realizes that he is not digging holes to improve his character. Someone is looking for something, hidden somewhere in the dry expanse that was once a sea-green lake. Then, something happens to his best friend, and Stanley ends up on the most dangerous and amazing journey of his life.

I loved this book. It had adventure, romance, and comedy. I think that both boys and girls would like it, because it's about a lot of different characters.

A decorative header at the top of the page features a large, bright yellow sun with a blue circular center, partially obscured by several light blue, stylized clouds. The background is a solid, medium blue color.

My favorite characters were Kate Barlow and Zero Zeroni. Kate Barlow was a brave woman with opinions of her own and the love of Onion Sam to keep her dreams alive. Zero was one of the boys at Camp Green Lake. He hardly ever spoke, so everyone thought he was stupid. He was really very smart, and turned out to be a great friend.

When I read this book, I felt many different emotions. Sometimes I laughed, and other times I cried, and every once in a while I squeaked like a mouse, scared or excited for the characters as if I were right there with them.

When I started reading it, I couldn't stop, and my mom had to pry it out of my hands. It really made me think. I realized how lucky I was, to have a mother and father, to have warm water, to have clean clothes, and especially to have the freedom to be friends with any person, regardless of their color, religion or gender. Wouldn't you be upset if you weren't allowed to fall in love with someone, just because of the way they looked, or the religion they were, or the things they believed.

A decorative header featuring a bright yellow sun with a small blue circle in the center, partially obscured by stylized blue and white clouds. The background is a solid blue color.

Some of the words in this book will never come out of my mind as long as I live. That's why "Holes" is such a good book.

I recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure, friendship and superstition. It has a curse, an unusual group of friends, and some fantastic characters. I think that fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh graders would like it. Holes is a great book!



What do we include in the review?

- **Author**
- **Title**
- **Pages**
- **Date published**
- This information is easy to find out. Just read the first page to find the facts.



Your bit!

- This information can only be written if you have read the book.
- Some of it is fact but your opinion is very important too.
- The story
- The characters
- Highlights
- Any weak bits?
- Unputdownable?



The story

- This is **WHAT** happens. To help you think about the main events, first draw a time line with the beginning scene of the book at the top of a piece of paper and the final scene at the bottom.
- E.g. Write "Harry starts at Hogwarts" at the top and "Harry defeats Voldemort" at the bottom.
- You can also write a sentence about **WHERE** and **WHEN** the story takes place. E.g. At Hogwarts school of wizardry in the present day.



The characters

Or WHO is in the book. To help you describe the characters, first jot down these details:

- Name of character
- Role
- Adjective to describe them

For example:

- Harry Potter
- Schoolboy wizard
- Brave



Highlights

- This is where you describe your favourite part of the book. Was there a particular piece of action, description or characters' speech you really enjoyed?

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Any weak bits?

- Were there any chapters where you found yourself wishing for some action to liven up the plot? Any unrealistic characters? Any descriptions or chapters that you felt were rubbish?



Unputdownable?

- Did you grab the book whenever you had a spare moment? Did you read it rather than playing computer games or watching TV? Or did you read the first chapter before letting it gather dust on your bookshelf?