

# How to structure a book review (for an 11-year-old)

Writing a book review is like telling a friend about a book and explaining if they should read it. Follow these easy steps to make a clear and interesting review.

## Quick structure (what to include)

1. **Heading:** Put the book title, author, and your name. Example: *Charlotte's Web* by E. B. White — review by Jamie.
2. **Opening sentence (hook):** One sentence that says whether you liked the book and why. Make it interesting.
3. **Short summary:** 2–4 sentences about the main idea or story — no big spoilers.
4. **Characters and setting:** Name one or two important characters and where the story happens.
5. **Your opinion (likes and dislikes):** Give 2–3 reasons you liked or didn't like the book and show short examples from the story.
6. **Who should read it:** Say what kind of reader would enjoy the book (age, interests, fans of similar books).
7. **Rating and recommendation:** Give a simple score (stars or 1–10) and say if you recommend it.
8. **Short conclusion:** One final sentence that wraps up your thoughts.

## Step-by-step example

1. **Heading:** *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis — review by Alex.
2. **Opening sentence:** I loved this magical story because it feels like stepping into a winter world full of adventure.
3. **Short summary:** Four siblings find a wardrobe that leads to Narnia, a land ruled by an evil White Witch. They join Aslan the lion to help save Narnia and bring back spring.
4. **Characters and setting:** The main characters are Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy. The story mostly takes place in Narnia, a magical snowy kingdom.
5. **Your opinion:** I liked the imagination and the exciting battles. For example, Lucy's first visit to Narnia felt wonderful when she met Mr. Tumnus. I didn't like how some parts felt scary, but that made the story more thrilling.
6. **Who should read it:** Kids who enjoy fantasy and talking animals will love it. Good for ages 8–12.
7. **Rating:** 4 out of 5 stars — I would recommend it to my friends at school.
8. **Conclusion:** Overall, it's a magical, exciting book that kept me reading until the end.

## Helpful tips and sentence starters

- Keep it short: 3–6 paragraphs or 150–300 words is great for a school review.
- Don't spoil the ending: Use phrases like "without giving away the ending" if you need to explain a plot point.
- Use evidence: Always give a short example from the book to support your opinion.
- Be polite but honest: You can say you didn't like something, but explain why.

Sentence starters:

- "I liked this book because..."
- "My favorite part was..."

- "The story is about..."
- "I would recommend this to readers who..."
- "One thing I didn't like was..."

## Quick proofreading checklist

- Did I include the title and author?
- Is my summary short and spoiler-free?
- Did I give reasons for my opinion with an example?
- Is my review the right length for my assignment?
- Did I check spelling and punctuation?

## One-line template you can use

Heading: [Book title] by [Author] — review by [Your name]

Opening: I [liked/did not like] this book because...

Summary: The book is about...

Opinion: I liked/did not like... (give 2 reasons + short example)

Who should read it: ...

Rating: ...

Conclusion: ...

Now try writing your own review using this structure. Pick a favorite book, follow the steps, and use the checklist before you finish. Have fun!