



HOW TO MAKE YOUR BOOK REVIEW STAND OUT

1. Without telling the whole story, explain clearly at the beginning what the book promises to be about. Remember that the person who reads your review might not have read this book - and your job is to make them want to read it. So don't give too much away!
2. Use context – think of a book/books similar to the one you're reviewing. Does your book belong to a particular genre? (eg horror, romance, historical, comedy etc) Tell us. What expectations does it raise in you?
3. You can talk about characters, plot, setting, style, message – but don't feel you have to cover all of these, because ...
4. The main thing you must try to do is convey your enthusiasm – NOT through superlatives (this book is awesome/amazing) but by EXPLAINING why it has an effect on you. These might be personal reasons (you have been in the same situation as one of the characters) or the author's ability to create a world which feels real to you – one you want to live in. Always be specific.
5. You might like to home in on a section of the book, or even a paragraph, description, or the pace, (slow, fast, a mix) particularly if you want to talk about style.
6. Try to write in an entertaining, interesting way, so people want to read the review.
7. End with a few words to sum up what you feel. Be honest!

HELPFUL LINKS

www.booktrust.org.uk

www.thechildrensbookreview.com

<http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/teenagers/writing-tips/tips-for-writing-book-reviews/>

www.mcbf.org.uk

