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Introduction

You'd never imagine that making a book report could be so exciting. This book will help your children understand the basics of writing book reports, as well as provide creative book-project ideas that they are sure to love. Projects have been separated into categories such as character reports, plot reports, story detail reports, author/illustrator reports, book recommendations, and book presentations. Many of these projects can be completed either in small groups or as entertaining and educational homework assignments. However you choose to use them, the result is sure to be impressive.

This book is divided into the following sections:

Book Report Basics

This section will help your students get started. It introduces the necessary skills and knowledge children need to create effective book reports, from using proper writing skills to summarising material. Two class projects are included to help your children understand the process of book reporting.

Character Reports

Make a pop-up card, write a poem or dress up as a character. This section is filled with creative ideas for reporting about the characters in a book.

Plot Reports

This section contains projects for reporting on the specific sequence of events in a story. These activities result in newsletters, child-created books and more.

Story Detail Reports

Gameboards, word searches, story maps and research are all a part of this section. These activities encourage your children to think about the details of a story, from its events to its vocabulary.

Author/Illustrator Reports

The projects in this section will give your students the opportunity to read and compare books written by different authors. They can also experiment with the artistic styles of popular children's book illustrators.

Book Recommendations

This section encourages children to tell others about the books they have read. Your students will learn how to make a book advertisement and learn how to rate the elements of their books on a scale.

Book Presentations

Presenting books to the class doesn't have to be scary. In fact, these projects make book presentations just plain fun. This section contains ideas for planning oral reports, creating puppet shows, and making a multimedia computer presentation. So, what are you waiting for? Let the fun begin!



So Many Books, So Much Time!

There are many kinds of books. Use this chart to track the books you listen to or read. Each time you read a different kind of book, colour in a square on the chart.

Funny Story	Mystery	Any Kind of Chapter Book	Children's Book Council Award Winner	YABBA Award Winner
Nonfiction Story	Animal Story	Tall Tale	Realistic Fiction Story	Legend
Patricia Wrightson Story	Mem Fox Story	Doug Macleod Story	David & Rhonda Armitage Story	Graeme Base Story
Free Choice	Free Choice	Free Choice	Free Choice	Free Choice



Writing Skills

The basic steps in the writing process include the following:

Prewriting

In this step you brainstorm, think about your topic, create webs and clusters, outline, research, and play around with ideas and words.

First Draft Writing

This is when you simply write all your ideas. Don't worry about anything except saying what you want to say.

Revision

After you write your rough draft, go back over what you wrote. Correct spelling and grammar, look up any words you need to, take some things out and add others, and arrange your paragraphs.

Evaluation

Share your work with someone. This person could be your teacher, a friend or parent, a classmate, or others in a writers' workshop. Collect valuable information about what works and what doesn't work in your report.

Editing and Rewriting

Now that you have some fresh ideas, go over your work again. Correct any spelling or grammatical errors you might have missed before; add any ideas you got from others that you liked. Make a final copy of your writing.

Publishing

When others are able to read your finished product, you have published. Your work may appear on a bulletin board, in a class book, in your own book, in a portfolio, or in a newsletter.

Evaluation

In this stage, your teacher or your classmates will let you know what they think of your report. Your teacher will evaluate your report to make sure you completed it according to the directions given to you.



Writing Skills *(cont.)*

Basic Book Report Writing Essentials

For a Fiction Book

Include the title and author's name. Don't forget your own name as the author of the book report.

Compose a theme statement. This will really impress your teacher. The theme is the main idea of the story. To help you figure out what the theme is in your book, ask yourself these questions:

What does the main character learn by the end of the book? What is the author's purpose in writing the book? If someone asked you to quickly say what the book is about, what would you say?

Summarise the story. This is writing about the plot. The summary is different from the theme because in the summary you tell what happens in the story, especially what happens to the main character. Be sure you have a beginning, a middle and an ending in your summary, just as you would in a story.

Give your opinion. End your book report by saying whether or not you liked the book and whether or not you would recommend it to your friends to read.

For a Nonfiction Book

Include the title, author's name and your name.

Compose a theme statement. For a nonfiction book it might be, 'The author wanted to show that spiders are fascinating and are not to be feared.'

Summarise. Cover the topics as listed in the table of contents. Give a few details for each, perhaps interesting things you learnt.

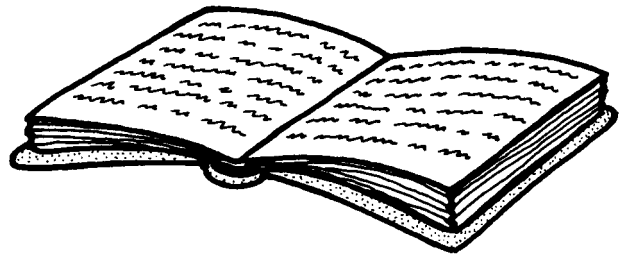
State your opinion. In addition to stating whether or not you liked the book, think about the following: Did the author provide the information you expected to find? Was the writing interesting and easy to understand? Did you learn anything new?



Summarising

Summarising is not always easy to do. If your family told you to pack a small bag with only your favourite and most important things, could you do it in one minute? Summarising is like that. A summary includes only the most important things. You can easily figure out the most important things in a story by asking who, what, where, when, why and how questions. For some books, you may not use all of these. In a summary, you can include:

- *who* the story is about
- *what* happens
- *when* it happens
- *where* it happens
- *why* it happens



Summaries are always short. They can be as short as four or five sentences. Your teacher will tell you how long your summary should be.

Here is a story chart that can help you figure out the most important things in a book you have read. Use the ideas on your completed chart to write your summary.

Summarising Chart

Who was the main character?
Tell about the main character.
Where did the story take place?
What was the character's problem?
How was the problem solved?