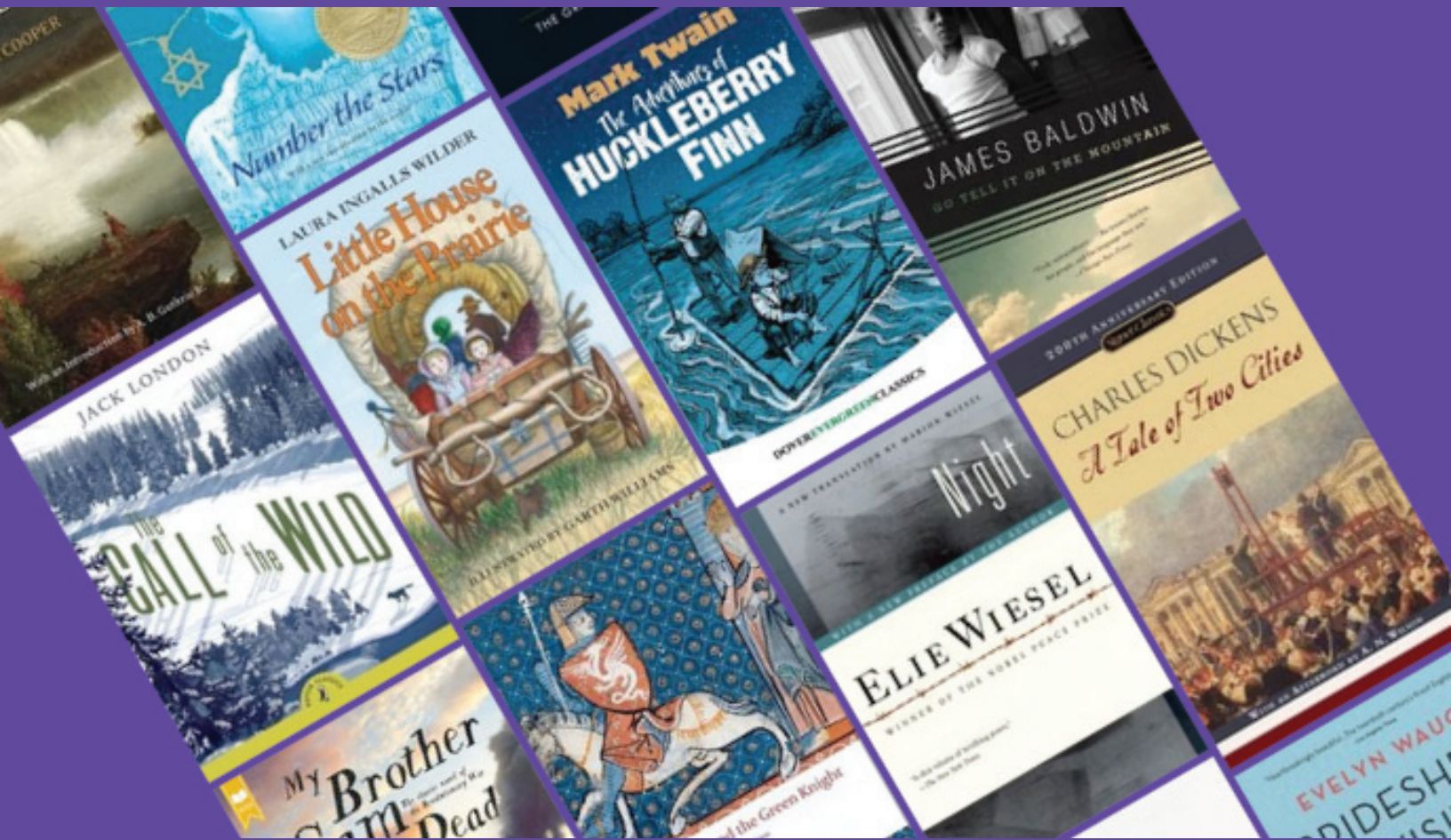


# How to Write a Book Review

and where to post them



**HISTORIC  
BOOKS**  
FOR KIDS

## How to Write a Book Review

If you like a book or you like a particular author, the most helpful thing you can do for them is to leave a review. A Book Review is not the same thing as a Book Report. A Book Report demonstrates for your teacher that you read a book. A Book Review helps the author sell more books. After all, that is the business they're in.

It's important to review only the story, not the print quality, package condition, arrival date or other elements that the author cannot control. The review is for the author, not the bookstore.

Do not leave a bad review if you read a story that simply didn't fit your taste in books. For example, you're given a fantasy novel but you prefer magic realism. That doesn't mean it's a poorly written book. It just means it wasn't your taste. Don't feel obligated to leave a review.

Here's how to craft a good book review:

### Step 1: Decide how many stars you want to award the book:

The stars from all the reviewers are averaged for a quick overall score. Follow these guidelines to determine how many stars you would give the book:

**5 stars:** This is a good book. You want to tell your friends to read it.

**4 stars:** You like the book very much but one thing bugged you – like maybe there is a plot hole that wasn't answered.

**3 stars:** The book was a good idea, but there were too many problems with the story that made it hard to follow or stay with it.

**2 stars:** The author of this book had a good idea but didn't have good writing skills.

**1 star:** Just a really bad book. Nothing good about it.

### Step 2: Write your review as a paragraph

Your review should help others decide if they would enjoy the book. Consider what people would like best about the book so they know whether this is the book for them. Be careful not to give away the ending.

Can't think of a paragraph to write? Here are some prompts to help structure your paragraph. You don't have to use them all. Remember back to when you were reading the book and answer the ones that seemed important at the time.

1. What was the story about?
2. How long was the book? Was it challenging to read? Easy to read?
3. Was there anything striking or different about the book from books you usually read?
4. Who was your favorite character and why?
5. What was your favorite part of the story and why?
6. Did you learn anything that surprised you?
7. Did the story remind you of another book? What book and why?
8. What kind of reader do you think would enjoy the book?

### Step 3: Give your review a title

This can be a summary of your review in one statement, or perhaps what you think is the most important thing to mention. In most book review forms, the title is placed above the paragraph, but I like to write the review first and then come back and write a title based on my most important thought.

#### Strong titles are specific:

“Greg Heffly is just like me!”  
 “I stayed up all night to finish it.”  
 “The ending was a real surprise.”  
 “I love animals, so this was the perfect book for me.”

#### Weak titles are too general:

“Really good book”  
 “Three stars”  
 “Pretty good”  
 “Quick read”

### Step 4: Post your review where readers will see them

*Some sites require you to be 13 to have an account. Ask a parent for help.*



Purchase the book through Amazon.



Create an account and log in. Goodreads isn't a store, so you don't have to buy the book to add it to your read list and leave a review.

### BARNES & NOBLE

Must be age 13 to have a B&N account, but you don't have to purchase the book through B&N.



Find the book in Apple Books and tap the More button (•••) beneath it. Then click Rate and Review.

### Rakuten kobo

You'll need to create a Kobo account and sign in, but you don't have to purchase the item on Kobo to leave a review.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title \_\_\_\_\_

Author Name \_\_\_\_\_

# Stars (circle)



Review Title \_\_\_\_\_

Review Paragraph \_\_\_\_\_

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