

Your Name Biff Bandermyer Period 8 Date Aug. 31, 2011

This fill-in-the-blank form is not a book review. A book review is a piece of writing that includes many of the issues here, but it does so in the format of an essay and in much greater detail. Formal book reviews address all of the Six Traits of Writing: Content/Ideas, Organization, Voice, Word Choice, Fluency, and Conventions. This form will only help you develop the Content/Ideas. Formal reviews are submitted in essay form on separate pages.

Book Review Content Outline

Title of Book: Mockingjay

Author: Suzanne Collins Number of Pages: _____

Setting (Where and when does the book take place?): Panem - a future America gone haywire, controlled by a totalitarian government

Description of Main Characters: Katniss - teenaged girl at the heart of revolution; Peeta - her partner in the games; President Snow - the villain; Haymitch - Katniss's mentor

Narrative Point of View (Who is telling the story? First person? Third person? Past Tense? Present Tense? Omniscient? Limited?)

Katniss is the narrator - first person (present tense)

Plot Summary (Without giving away the whole story, summarize what happens.)

From the wreckage of District 12 (her home), Katniss goes to the supposedly abandoned District 13, where the residents look to her to be the poster child for the revolution. Snow has Peeta, and Katniss is (still) debating about her feelings for the boy. There is much war and destruction, and Katniss not only battles the government, but also her own humanity.

What things did you like about the book? It was action-packed, and the story moved along quickly. "I couldn't put it down."

Two quotes from the book that illustrate something you liked (include page numbers):

"Instead I watch myself get shot on television." (p. 217)

"Without hesitation, I shoot her through the heart." (p. 34)

"... President Coin collapses over the side of the balcony and plunges to the ground. Dead. (p. 372)

(Example: If you think it was funny, find two examples of funny things and quote them. Use EXACT quotes and quotation marks.)

all chapters end with cliffhangers like these.

What things did you NOT like about the book? 1) The main characters are bitter + hateful 2) The ending seems rushed, out of character with the story.

Two quotes from the book that illustrate something you didn't like (include page numbers):

Katniss

"I no longer feel like crying. In fact, I can only manage to hold onto one simple thought: Snow's face accompanied by the whisper in my head. I will kill you." (p. 183)

"Gale has no interest in preserving the lives of those in the Nat. No interest in caging the prey for later use. This is one of his death traps."

Theme: A theme is not a moral or a lesson. It is a statement about the way things are that the book illustrates. A theme does not express right or wrong, and it does not include the word *should/shouldn't*. A theme does not cast judgment; it just says how things are. Also, the theme is a universal idea that applies to everyone, not just to the characters in the book, so don't name specifics from the book when you state the theme. Example of a theme from *Jurassic Park*: Those who mess with nature are often destroyed by it. (This is illustrated by the story because in *Jurassic Park*, many of the scientists who bring back the dinosaurs get eaten by the dinosaurs. But the theme statement doesn't actually mention specific characters or events, and it could apply to many situations besides those in the book. Get it?)

(p. 203)

State one theme of the book: Strong people who overcome difficult and painful obstacles often lose some of their humanity in the process.

The following items (along with the title and the author's name) should be part of the introduction of a book review. That, however, does not mean these items are the *only* things in the introduction; as with any good writing, you also need an attention getter and a clear thesis/purpose, as well as any background information the reader might need. A good book review is engaging and entertaining to read. Your writing skill is as important as the reading you have done.

Who is the intended audience of this book? Young adults

What is the main issue or problem the book addresses? Children at war; tyrannical governments; mass media culture ("reality TV")

Is there anything unique about the book, something that sets it apart? How is it different than most other books?

This book is narrated in the first-person (by Katniss), but it is the present tense, so the reader gets the impression that even she doesn't know how it turns out.

Do you recommend the book? (Circle one.)

Yes

No

This creates suspense