

Writing with a Purpose: Book Reviews

Write a book review for *Nothing but Trouble after Midnight* by following these steps:

Step One: Brainstorming

- Jot down a few reasons why you liked the book.
- Write a brief synopsis of the plot.
- Find a favorite quote (optional).

Step Two: Writing

Long Version (3 or more paragraphs)

Introductory Paragraph

- Introduce the book by giving the **title** and **author**. (Always include this in the opening paragraph.)
- State the **genre** of the book: young adult, romance, mystery, historical fiction, adventure, suspense, etc.
- Include a brief sentence or two telling what the book is about.

Body Paragraph(s): Story Elements

- Describe the **setting** (place and time) briefly.
- Name the main **characters** and give a short description of each. (Include age, physical description, and/or personality traits)
- Briefly, state the main character's problem (book's **conflict**) and what he/she is trying to overcome in the novel. (Be careful not give away too much.)
- Give a quick synopsis of the **plot**. Recount how the story begins and the most important events—just remember not to give away the ending.

Concluding Paragraph:

- Include your **favorite aspects** of the book: part of the story, quote, and/or character. Explain why you like this aspect of the book.
- Conclude with your **recommendation**, stating who would like this book and why. (Some online reviews allow you to rate the book with stars. Consider the book's rating as well.)

Short Version (1 paragraph)

Introductory Sentences: Include the **title** and **author** and a very brief “What is this book about?” statement.

Body Sentences: Introduce the **main characters** briefly and give a quick retelling of the **plot**—and never give away the ending.

Concluding Sentences: End with your **recommendation** of the book and suggest who might like the book.

Step Three: Proofreading

- After you have completed your first draft, read your review out loud to see how it sounds. Make any necessary revisions to your paper.
- If possible, ask someone to proofread it for you.
- Make suggested corrections.
- Finally, reread your review again before you submit it for publishing. Sometimes it is best to set your paper aside for a day or two before making your final revisions.

Step Four: Publishing

There are many online sites for book reviews, but the most popular site is Amazon. Most sites require you to have an email address and/or an account. Some are virtual bookshelves where you can list all your favorite books and write reviews for them. Here is a list of some great places to publish your thoughts:

Popular Review Sites

www.amazon.com

www.barnesandnoble.com

Virtual Bookshelves

www.goodreads.com

www.shelfari.com

www.librarything.com