

The Book Report

This guide will help you to write a book report. This approach to writing a book report is similar to the one used to create your short story. Here, you will also be recording details and descriptions of characters and events. This time, however, the information will be based on the novel you read.

Practice

This section of the guide is designed to help you collect and organize information for a book report. Read each part of the following exercise and answer all **13** questions.

1. Write the title of the book.

2. Write the author's name.

3. Write one or two sentences that tell what the book is about.

4. Who is the narrator of the story?

5. Where does the story take place?

6. When does the story take place?

7. Provide background information that is relevant to the story in the novel. _____
8. Which of the five forms of conflict are presented in this novel? A novel, unlike a short story, will often have more than one form of conflict. _____
9. For each of the major characters in the novel (limit to four), give the following information:
Name _____
Character's role _____
Description _____
10. Choose at least two scenes that express the major conflict and lead to further complications in the novel. Write the **page number** and the sentence that identifies the beginning of each scene.
Page number _____
Sentence _____
11. Choose a scene that involves the point of greatest tension. Write the **page number** and **sentence** that identifies the beginning of this scene.
Page number _____
Sentence _____
12. Choose a scene that involves the point of greatest tension. Write the **page number** and **sentence** that identifies the beginning of this scene.
Page number _____
Sentence _____
13. What is the author's message in the novel? _____

After you have completed the Practice exercise, go onto the Composition part of this guide.

Composition

This part of the guide will help you to write a book report. Use the material that you have produced in the Practice exercise to write your report. Follow the outline presented here.

Outline

- I. The Introductory Paragraph (**setting**).
 - A. State the title and author of the book.
 - B. Write one or two sentences that summarize what this book is about.
 - C. Who is the narrator of the story?
 - D. Where and when does the story take place? Provide relevant background information.
 - E. Which of the five forms of conflict are presented in this novel?
- II. Paragraphs Two through Five (**characterization**)
 - A. Write a separate paragraph for each major character in the novel (limit to four). Develop each paragraph in the following way:
 1. Introduce the character by name and tell what role he or she plays in the story.
 2. Describe the character.
 3. What important interactions take place between this character and others in the story?
 4. What words spoken in the story help us to understand this character? Explain.

5. In what way, if any, does the character change by the end of the story?
6. How do you feel about this character, and why?

III. Paragraphs Six through Eight (**conflict and plot**)

- A. Write a separate paragraph for each of the three important scenes in the novel.
 1. Describe **two** scenes that express the major conflict in the book, and show how they lead to further complications.
 2. Describe **the scene** that involves the point of greatest tension in the story, and show how it leads to the resolution of the conflict.

IV. Paragraph Nine (**theme**)

- A. Tell how the novel ends.
- B. What is the author's message?
- C. How does the theme apply to people in general?
- D. How does the theme apply to you personally?

V. Paragraph Ten (**your opinion**)

- A. Tell whether or not you liked this book, and why.
- B. How did the book reinforce, or change, any attitudes or opinions you may have had?
- C. Would you recommend this book to others? Why or why not?

Use the Checklist to help you review and revise your writing. Do this for all drafts and your final copy.

Checklist	Yes	No
1. In my introductory paragraph I state the title and author, summarize the story, and indicate the narrator. I describe the setting and the form(s) of conflict presented in this novel.	_____	_____
2. Paragraphs two through five describe a major character in the novel, according to the outline.	_____	_____
3. Paragraphs six and seven describe scenes that express the major conflict in the book.	_____	_____
4. Paragraph eight describes a scene that involves the point of greatest tension in the novel.	_____	_____
5. In paragraph nine, I tell how the novel ends and the author's message. I show how the theme applies to people in general and to me personally.	_____	_____
6. In paragraph ten, I tell how I feel about the book.	_____	_____
7. I used transitions to connect ideas and create unity in my writing.	_____	_____
8. I proofread and edited my report.	_____	_____
9. I wrote a corrected copy of my work.	_____	_____

Submit the completed writing assignment and Practice exercise to your instructor for evaluation.

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