Assessment Rubric

How to Write a Book Report

Student's Name: _____ Assignment: _____ Level: _____

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Introduction	No attempt.	1st paragraph: no title, very little description, too much plot.	1st paragraph: includes the book title with a brief description.	1st paragraph: includes title of book, clearly stated main idea including who/what the story is about.
Main Characters	No attempt.	Characters are named.	Main characters are mentioned with plot elements.	Main characters are clearly named and a brief character description is included for each main character.
Setting	No attempt.	Setting is briefly mentioned, either where or when it takes place, but not both.	Setting, when and where is mentioned with little details.	Setting is clearly described with the time the story takes place and where it takes place clearly described.
Problem/Conflict	No attempt.	Problem and solution are described with minimal details. Difficulty providing information regarding the problem and solution.	Problem is briefly described with 3 major events not specifically listed. Solution is present.	Problem is clearly stated and summarized. 3 specific major events are clearly listed and described. Solution to the problem is described concisely.
Final Outcome/Conclusion	No attempt.	Ending is unclear. No specific details.	Continuation of plot. Somewhat of an ending to the book is present.	How the book ends is clearly stated with details. Clear conclusion of the book with details.
Grammar/Mechanics	No attempt. Book report is difficult to read and doesn't appear to be proofread very carefully or not at all.	Book report contains between 10-15 errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar. More effort could have been put into proofreading.	Book report contains 5-10 errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar.	Book report has been edited and the final copy contains very few errors in punctuation, spelling, and grammar.

SAMPLE

STRENGTHS:

WEAKNESSES:

NEXT STEPS:

Graphic Organizers for Fiction Book Reports

You know that a **fiction book** is a novel or story that describes **imaginary** people and events made up by the **author**, or the person who wrote the book. All fiction books have **characters** (who the story is about), a **setting** (the time and place the story happens), and **plot** (what happens in the book or story).

There are many good **graphic organizers** for fiction book reports. Each one includes some or all of the elements of a fiction book. Sometimes, your teacher will tell you which kind of graphic organizer to use when you present your fiction book report, but you will often have the chance to choose your own organizer for your report. When you do get to choose, make sure that the organizer gives you the opportunity to discuss some or all of the elements of fiction.

One very good graphic organizer for fiction books is the **Characterization Organizer**. The reader is asked to "describe one change in the main character's personality from the beginning of the novel to the end of the novel" and "how is the setting important to the development of the plot?" The emphasis on the characters in a book is an excellent way to let others know how much you like or dislike it and whether or not you would recommend it to others.

Another good graphic organizer for a fiction book is the **Comparing Myself to a Character**. The reader is asked to compare three of the main character's traits to three of the reader's own traits. Doing this gives the reader a chance to identify his/her own and the character's likenesses and differences.

The **Story Frame Summary** graphic organizer gives the reader an opportunity to summarize the plot of a fiction book. In it, the reader identifies the problem that must be solved in the story and all the steps the characters took to solve it. It concludes with an explanation of how the story ends.

These are just some of the excellent graphic organizers that can help you present a good fiction book report. Remember, graphic organizers tell you exactly what they do – **organize your ideas**. Use them whenever you can to make sure that you include everything that's important in your report or essay.
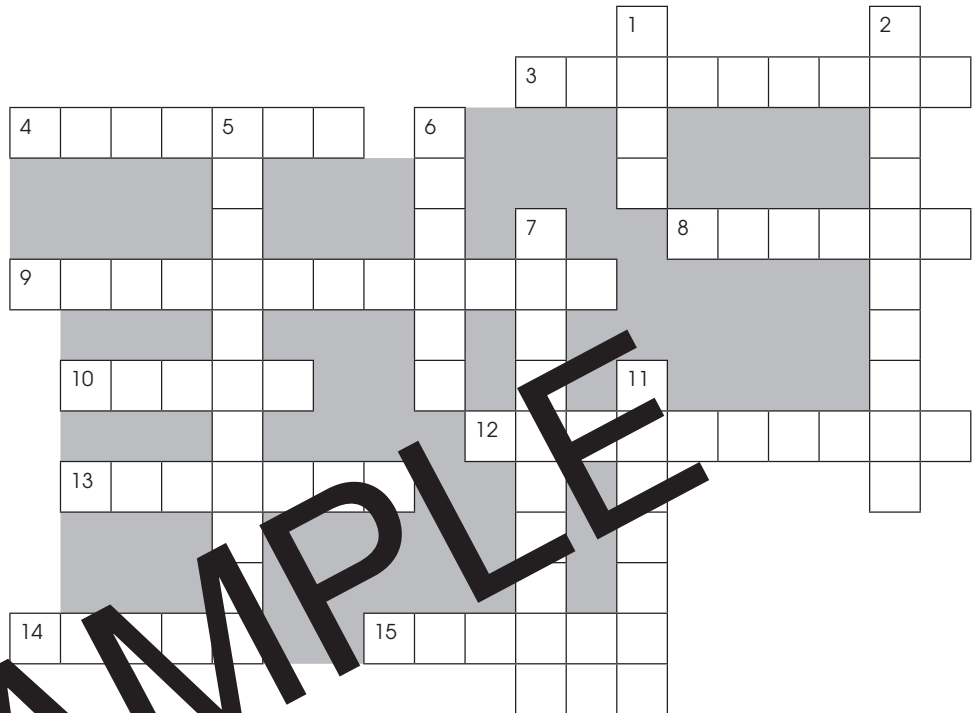
The Writing Watch Dog says,
"Knowing the elements of a story will help you understand what is taking place in your book or novel."

NAME: _____

Crossword

Word List

biography	organizer
body	quotes
book report	setting
characters	theme
fantasy	title
genres	visual
informative	
introduction	
mystery	

Across

3. A true story about a real person's life that is written by another person
4. The time and place of a story or book
8. _____ Aids are often used in oral book reports
9. The first section of a book report
10. The main idea of a story or book
12. Graphic _____
13. A story about a crime, or an investigation
14. The name of a book
15. Kinds or types of books or stories

Down

1. The middle section of a book report
2. Who the book or story is about
5. One type of nonfiction book
6. Actual words spoken by a character in a book or story
7. An essay which gives a brief summary of a book
11. A story about imaginary characters or places

Fiction Book Characterization Organizer

This is a graphic organizer that is designed to be used during the research phase of a student's book report project. If you want to encourage your students to pay special attention to the author's methods of characterization in their books, give each one of them a copy of this organizer. It gives just enough direction to enable them to recognize the importance of characterization and setting in a good fiction novel.

First and Last name: _____

Date: _____

Title of Book: _____

Author: _____

Describe one change in the main character's personality from the beginning of the novel to the end of the novel; *include examples of what the character says and does to demonstrate the change*: _____
_____
_____
_____

What has the main character learned about him/herself or others from his/her experiences in the novel? *Include details from the novel to support your response.* _____
_____
_____

Describe the setting in detail and include examples from the text to support your response. How is the setting important to the development of the plot? Describe a challenge faced by a character in the novel and compare it to a similar challenge you faced or someone you know faced. How are the challenges alike and different?

_____
_____
_____

SAMPLE