

# Writing A Book Review



## Part 1 - The Blurb

In this section, the author writes a short preview or summary of the book. It must include the following:

- ✓ the title (written with upper case letters and underlined!)
- ✓ the author
- ✓ the main character (if it's a non-fiction book, the topic)
- ✓ a short explanation of the problem (if it's non-fiction, explain the topic)
- ✓ describe at least one key event from the story (if it's non-fiction, an important fact of detail)
- ✓ **It does NOT tell what happens at the end, and should keep the reader wondering about what happens next!**

## Part 2 - The Opinion Paragraph

This is the paragraph where the author expresses his or her opinion of the book. It should contain the following:

- ✓ an opinion statement written in the topic sentence
- ✓ 3 reasons that support the opinion statement (Each reason should be followed by an explanation that uses details from the book.)
- ✓ a closing sentence
- ✓ convincing describing words
- ✓ transition words
- ✓ a convincing closing sentence that persuades the reader to agree



Ms. Diano

## Blurb

Teacher  
example

2/26/15

The Clementine series, by Sara Pennypacker, is an excellent series to read aloud to kids of all ages. The first reason ~~is~~ why is because of all the great connections kids can make. We all know that making connections helps to build reading muscles, and it's super easy to do with Clementine.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Planning a Paragraph

### Topic Sentence

I would definitely recommend

- the silly picture book, Snowmen At Night to my fellow second graders.

### 1st Reason or detail with explanation:

Imagination - all kids wonder what happens to S.M. at night

### 2nd Reason or detail with explanation:

funny illustrations - describe a funny picture

### 3rd Reason or detail with explanation:

just right

### Closing Sentence

This imaginative, funny, just

right story is "just right" for all second grade children.

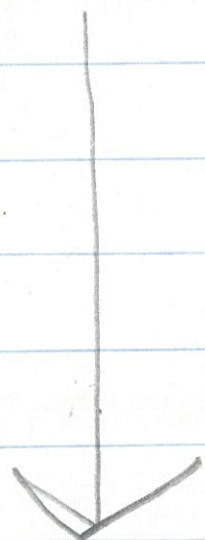
Kate Boyce

3/24/15

indent

— skip 1 line — blurb

→ The picture book Lilly and the Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes is about a mouse



opinion paragraph



indent — skip A line —

→ In my opinion, kids in 1st through 5<sup>th</sup> grades would enjoy reading Lilly and the Purple Plastic Purse.



summary  
→ The picture book, Chrysanthemum, by Kevin Henkes is about a mouse named Chrysanthemum who is sad because the kids in her class make fun of her name. They tease her and say that, "her name scarcely fits on her name tag." Every time she goes to school the kids make her feel worse and worse until one day, the kids change their minds. ← Does not tell the ending

TS - opinion  
In my opinion, all children will enjoy reading Chrysanthemum. The first reason is because I think most kids can relate to the main character. At some point in their lives, everyone's been teased about something. We all know how terrible it feels, so it's easy to make connections to how the main character in the story is feeling. Another reason I think kids should read it is because it teaches an important lesson. Someone who reads this book will learn that teasing someone, even if you think it's just a meaningless joke, really hurts. Chrysanthemum was sad and didn't like going to school anymore because she was being teased. The final reason why I think people would enjoy Chrysanthemum is its colorful illustrations. All of the characters are cute little mice and the sweet expressions on their tiny faces will make anyone smile. Everyone who reads Chrysanthemum is certainly sure to smile and like it so much that they'll want to read and enjoy the other adorable picture books by the talented Kevin Henkes.

summary

TS - opinion

explanation

title  
author  
main character  
problem

1st reason

2nd reason

3rd reason

explain

explain

Name PLA

## Planning a Paragraph

Topic Sentence

1st Reason or detail with explanation:

2nd Reason or detail with explanation:

3rd Reason or detail with explanation:

Closing Sentence

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