

Name  
Date  
English  
Garrett/Sarachman

**BOOK REVIEW**  
**Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade**  
**Summer Reading Assignment**

**Step One:** Choose a book from the list provided to read over the summer. If you have read all the choices, please see Mrs. Garrett or Mrs. Sarachman for an alternate book.

- Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
- Holes* by Louis Sachar
- The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman
- The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- Kira-Kira* by Cynthia Kadohata
- Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH* by Robert C. O'Brien

**Step Two:** Upon completion of your book, fill in the outline below. This will serve as the rough draft of your book review.

**Your goals are:**

- ✓ To inform other students about the book's plot (without giving away the ending!)
- ✓ To be critical, giving an honest evaluation of the story

**PARAGRAPH ONE: What is the book about?**

Begin with a topic sentence (also called a thesis statement) to introduce the title, author, and the book's main theme (remember to italicize or underline the title of a novel).

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Follow with approximately **SIX** supporting sentences summarizing the key people and events in the story. Do not give away the ending!

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

**PARAGRAPH TWO: What did you think of the book?**

Begin with a transition sentence to move into a critical review of the book. This should offer your overall opinion of the book.

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Follow with at least **SIX** supporting sentences that explain your opinion of the story.

**Be specific about the following:**

- ✓ What made the book interesting/scary/sad/great/horrible/memorable?
- ✓ What did you like/dislike about the author’s writing style? That is, do you like how the author used words?
- ✓ Does the author do a good job of making you feel like you are “right there” in the story?
- ✓ What really stands out about the book (mood, characters, a particular scene, the setting)?

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_

6 \_\_\_\_\_

**Most importantly --** Finish with two sentences that bring CLOSURE to your paragraph (What kind of readers might like (or not like) this book and why? Do you recommend the book? Why or why not?).

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**Things to avoid:**

- ✓ No statements of “my book” or “the book I have read”. Avoid using “the book” altogether!
- ✓ No YOU’s, THEY’s, PEOPLE’s! Be specific.
- ✓ Minimal use of the word “I” (maybe TWO times is fine...)

**Things to include:**

- ✓ TRANSITIONS!
- ✓ A variety of sentence beginnings
- ✓ Good vocabulary
- ✓ Precise spelling and grammar
- ✓ Consistent verb tense throughout
- ✓ Your best effort!

**Step Three:** Combine the sentences above into your two-paragraph book review. Be sure to add transition words/phrases to help the sentences flow together. The final draft should be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 with the proper heading (see the example on first page). You will turn in your rough draft and your final draft to your English teacher on Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. There will be an in-class assessment the following week. You will be allowed to use both your book and completed assignment on the test. You will be given more information regarding the assessment when school resumes.