*Fitz’s Book Review Rubric*

This is an effective rubric to use when writing a book, movie or game review. It works great for summer reading reviews, homework assignments, or just a great blog entry. Give it a try and see how it works for you.

* + - Use this rubric to write a detailed book review.
    - The rubric is set up as a book review, but with very little tweaking, it can be used for a movie or game review as well.
    - Double space between paragraphs.

1. Formatting:
   * + Whether you are turning this is as a document or as a portfolio posting, it is important to pay attention to how it “looks.”
     + If posting to your blog, be sure to view your posted entry to be sure it posted correctly.

**Title**

***A Quote Helps To Set the Tone***

* + - Choose a quote from the book you are reveiwing:
    - Center the quote below the book title

[Put quote here]

2. First Paragraph:

***A Picture Goes a Long Way***

* + - Insert a picture of your book cover in the top left of the opening paragraph. You can find them online by using Google images. Just search The title name. Having both the picture and the review gives your writing a professional look.

***Introduce the Book***

* Write an opening statement giving essential information about the book, including: book title, author, first copyright date, type of book, general subject matter, and any other factual information that will help your reader know “about” the book.
* Write two or three sentences that try to capture the general plot of the book.
* Write one sentence that states the overall theme of the book.

[Put your text here]

3. Second Paragraph:

***Summarize the Story***

* How is the story told, and what is the point of view of the author?
* Briefly summarize the plot, but don’t want to give away the story.
* Who is the intended audience?
* What is the general field or genre, and how does the book fit into it?
* How did the author keep you interested?
* What is the author's style? Is it effective for the author’s intended audience?

[Put your text here]

4. Third Paragraph (optional)

***Explore the Theme(s)***

If you wish to expand this review and have it read more like an in-depth essay, you may (meaning optional) share the major theme of the piece of literature you are reviewing by using the Literary Analysis Paragraph Rubric that details how to explicate the major theme of the writing piece. (This should always reinforce the major theme you mentioned in the opening paragraph.)

**NOTE: If there are more themes you want to discuss, you can add additional analysis paragraphs.**

[Put your text here]

5. Fourth Paragraph:

***Personal Response***

Remember that in a personal response, you can’t be wrong―as long as you are truthful.

In this paragraph write honestly from the head—and the heart. Below are some ideas for how to approach this paragraph, but please expand the list to suit your response.

* How did the book affect you?
* What emotions did it make you feel?
* Did you change any ideas you held because of it?
* How does it fit in with what you think or did it challenge you to think and feel in a different way?
* Did it your own personal world view?
* Did it bring up memories of other books or authors you have read?

[Put your text here]

6. Fifth Paragraph:

***Elevator Review***

Write a short overall summary (three sentences or less) that gives your reader a brief concluding review. (I call it an elevator review because you should make your point in the same amount of time as it would take you to state your points to a fellow passenger in a short elevator ride!)

* Praise or criticize the quality (or lack of quality!) of the book.
* Give your recommendation as clearly and concisely as possible.

[Put your text here]

7. Your Rating:

***Recommendation***

Give the book a rating out of five stars, with five stars being the best.

* + Put your name, the date of the review and your five star rating in Bold Large Font (see example)

**John Fitzsimmons**

**2/3/2010**

**~ RATING: \*\*\*\* 4/5**

8. Copy and Paste Completed Review Here:

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###### The Potsaid Rule of Three:

**Proofread, Edit, Revise, & Submit**

###### Literature is abandoned, not finished! Go back and re-read what you have written.

###### Find three areas or sentences that you can make better. If you can't or won't do this, then you are light years away from being a writer.

###### **Often you can find a better broad or narrow theme sentence somewhere else in the paragraph**. You can almost always find a more clear and effective way to write a sentence than you wrote on your first try.

###### If the rule of three was too easy (meaning you easily found mistakes) do it again...and again if you have to.

###### \*When you are convinced you have done all you can, submit your final review as required by your teacher or editor.

###### **Here is an example of a well written and formatted review:**

###### ***Old Man and the Sea***

###### ***“Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then when luck comes you are ready.”***

###### **― Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea***

###### 

###### T*he Old Man and the Sea*, by Ernest Hemmingway, was first published in 1952 and is a classic novel about an epic journey. This journey is unlike those in *The Odyssey* or other adventure book, because it is of a mental struggle between an old man down on his luck and an 18-foot marlin, unwilling to give in to the man who has him hooked. One major overall theme to this book is determination; this comes from the old man, the fish, the ocean itself, and many other forces.

###### Hemmingway's book is told from mainly the mind of the old man, as he only talks rarely, and when he does it is only to one boy who helps him fish occasionally. Part of what makes this book so good is that it has such a simple plot: an old man going out fishing one morning alone hooks an 18 foot marlin; however, it takes him a few days to actually catch the great fish, and by the time the old man named Santiago is able to get back to his island home, the book is all but over. This plot could easily be the setup for 100 pages of boredom, but in fact it is just the opposite; while there is not much action that is occurring, what is going on mentally for both Santiago and the fish (whom Santiago calls his brother) is what the real story consists of. A major theme is reflection, and the old man reflects on his well-rounded life as a fisherman: from when he was just a boy working for the men who owned the turtle boats all the way up to this point in his life, working alone and relying on his knowledge and tricks with his failing strength. He also spends a considerable amount of time comparing his life to his "brother" fish's life, and I believe this is what makes this novel so powerful.

###### This is definitely one of the best books I have ever read. It was done in a very clear and concise way, but was still able to get across its powerful messages it has inside. Also, having fished all my life, I found this book very easy to relate to and Hemmingway does a great job conveying how it is to be out on the ocean fishing. This man leads a very different life from mine, but yet I find myself pretty much the same as him when out on the water.

###### This is the perfect book and author for those of you (myself included) who like really good writing given in a very concise manner without ten adjectives describing every noun. Unlike the other book I wrote about (*Tom Sawyer*) I would highly recommend this to anyone looking for a quick, yet really good/meaningful book to read.

###### ~ Cormac Zachar

###### 3/6/13

###### RATING: 5/5

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###### [TheCraftedWord.org](http://TheCraftedWord.org)