Discover Book Reviews

by Steve W. Dunn and Carrie Smith
Genre: Book Reviews

How to Use This Book with Children

1. Read about book reviews (pages 2-3).
2. Read what to include in a book review (pages 4-5).
3. Read aloud the story “Where’s Molly?” (pages 6-11) and invite children to respond and retell the characters, setting, and plot.
4. Read aloud and discuss the mentor book reviews (pages 12-15).
5. Review the steps for writing a book review and the writer’s checklist (page 16).
6. Use the write-on/wipe-off book review frame on the inside back cover of the book to model writing your own review of “Where’s Molly?”
7. Model writing reviews of other books before children are asked to write their own book reviews.
8. Support students as they write their own book reviews.

Genre Features
- title
- author
- your opinion
- reason for your opinion
- recommendation

Oral Genre Vocabulary
- book review
- characters
- illustrations
- opinion
- recommendation
- story events

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What Is a Book Review?


A book review tells what the writer thinks about a book. This is an opinion.

Who Reads Book Reviews?

Many people read book reviews.

Some people read reviews to help them choose a book.
What Should You Include in a Book Review?

Give the title and author. Tell your opinion. Give a reason for your opinion. Give your recommendation, too.

I read *The Enormous Watermelon* by Brenda Parkes. I like the fairy tale characters. They help each other. You should read this book!

What Parts of a Book Can You Review?

You can review many parts of a book.

Characters

- Like
- Don’t Like

Story events

- Like
- Don’t Like

Illustrations

- Like
- Don’t Like
How Do You Write a Book Review?

First, read a book.

Where’s Molly?
by Carrie Smith

Sam had a cat named Molly. Sam loved Molly. He played with Molly every day.

But one day, Sam could not find his cat.
Sam looked under his bed. He looked in his closet.

He looked in the living room and the kitchen. He looked in the dining room, too.
Then Sam had an idea. He went outside. He looked up.

“Oh, Molly, what are you doing up there?” he asked. Molly ran down and jumped in Sam’s arms.
Where's Molly? is by Carrie Smith.

Sam is a good boy.

He loves Molly.

You should meet this character!

I read Where's Molly? by Carrie Smith.

This story was interesting!

I wanted Sam to find Molly.

Read to find out where Molly is!
Where's Molly? is a story by Carrie Smith. I like the illustrations. They helped me see all the places Sam looked for his cat. You will enjoy this story!
First, Write Your Own Book Review

1. Read the book.
2. Tell the title and author.
4. Give a reason for your opinion.

Next, Review Your Checklist

I remembered to . . .

☐ Tell author and title.
☐ Give my opinion.
☐ Give a reason for my opinion.
Discover Book Reviews

Learn the features of a book review. Discover how writers share their ideas and opinions about books. You’ll learn how to write your own book reviews, too!

Enjoy all of these My First Readers’ & Writers’ Genre Workshop titles!

Steve W. Dunn
is a former teacher and principal. He now works with teachers and principals across the country on how to help their students become better readers and writers.

Carrie Smith
is an award-winning novelist and author of short stories who has also written and edited hundreds of books for children. She lives in New York City.