Write a Book Review: Analyze Book Features

1. Focus (15 minutes)


Turn to the illustration on pages 14 and 15. Say: This illustration is my favorite feature in the book. I like the way the artist drew a close-up picture of the bear. It looks so scary with its sharp teeth and claws! I like what the bear says, too. It rhymes! Now I will write my opinion about my favorite feature. Remember that an opinion is part of a book review.

Write an opinion on chart paper, for example, “I like the picture of the bear.” As you write, model the following:

- Emphasize the concepts about print that students still need to practice.
- Continue to model how to say a word slowly and use letter/sound relationships to write words. For words with higher-level spelling patterns, say: Remember that if you don’t know how to spell a word, you can just write the letters for the sounds you hear.
- Tell how you remember to write those words you see often in print.
- Model rereading after each word by pointing to the words you’ve written so far and then pointing to where the next word should go. Say: We’re ready for the word ______. Then discuss and write the word.
- Model adding end punctuation and checking for the correct beginning and end to your sentence.

Ask students to reread your sentence with you to check it. Then ask: What do I need to write after I write my opinion? (Allow responses.) That’s right. Another important part of a book review is the reason for an opinion. I need to tell why I like this illustration.

Write a reason, for example, “I finally got to see what was in the shed!” Model applying the strategies listed above as you write.

Ask students to help you reread to check your sentence. Then say: Now I want you to think of a different feature in this book to write about. Tell something you like about the feature or something you don’t like about it. Then tell why.
Sample Responsive Conferring Prompts to Support and Scaffold Writers

Goal Oriented
- I like ______ because ______.
- I don’t like ______ because ______.
- When I write an opinion, I give a reason for my opinion.
- I will describe my ______ with the word ______.

Directive and Corrective Feedback
- Which feature will you write about? Why?
- Listen for sounds you know. Write any sounds you can hear.
- Reread your sentences to see if you can make them stronger.

Self-Monitoring and Reflection
- How did talking to your partner help you get ready to write?
- What letter would you expect to see at the beginning? In the middle? At the end?
- How could you fix that?

Validating and Confirming
- You wrote the letter that stands for the ______ sound.
- You wrote about your favorite feature in the book. That’s exactly what book reviewers do!
- You asked yourself questions. That’s something strong writers do to help them decide which features of a book to write about.

Teacher Tip
Continue collecting book reviews from a variety of sources, such as newspapers, magazines, and older students at your school. Use a bulletin board to display the reviews. Include a photocopy of the book cover for each review if possible.