

GUIDELINES: LONGER TRANSACTIONAL WRITING / NSC ENGLISH / P3

SOURCE:

**CURRICULUM GRADE 10 -12 DIRECTORATE /NCS (CAPS) / EDUCATOR SUPPORT DOCUMENT
ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE / GRADES 10-12 / STEP AHEAD 2 PROGRAMME / FEBRUARY 2022**

THE BOOK REVIEW

The tone of the review may be formal or semi-formal but should include the following:

- **A very honest/frank opinion of the book that is substantiated by references to the text.**
- **A mature and critical approach to the book.**
- **There must be evidence of an understanding and critical analysis of the book.**
- **The story is important but the way the story is developed and narrated is far more important. The emphasis needs to be on the latter.**

Use the following headings to write your book review.

- **Title of Book**
- **Author**
- **Publisher**
- **Genre**
- **Book Type**
- **Date of First Publication**
- **Number of Pages**

SUMMARY OF THE PLOT

- **Do not divulge elements of the story that will ruin the enjoyment of the book by others.**
- **Main characters (Physical description and critical analysis of the personality, using references to specific incidents to support views. Indicate round and flat characters and reasons for labelling them so)**
- **Narrative/Writing Style (Description of what makes the writer different from other writers. Make reference to unique writing styles and why this was entertaining /impressive)**

THEMES

- **(List of themes, how they were developed and relevance to the reader, including life lessons.)**

OVERALL IMPACT OF THE BOOK AND RECOMMENDATION

- **How did the book affect the reviewer? To what kind of reader will the book appeal?**

EXAMPLE OF A BOOK REVIEW

Title : The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
Author : John Boyne
Genre : Historical Fiction
Book type : Fiction
Publisher : David Fickling Books
Publication date: : September 12, 2006
Number of pages : 215

This is a book of historical fiction that can help children connect with the historical events of the Holocaust in a more realistic way. Although the main character is nine years old, the content is more suitable for older children and adults. The book is set in a death camp so emotional violence is a real factor to consider when deciding to read the book.

What is the story about?

When Bruno is forced to move away from his enormous Berlin home with his family, his life changes forever. Besides moving into a smaller house with no "nooks and crannies" to explore, besides having no one to play with except for his older sister, he's surrounded by soldiers that are constantly in and out of his father's downstairs office. He hates everything about "Out-With" and is very lonely until he meets the boy on the other side of the fence.

Writing Style

This powerful book about the Holocaust stands out in part because of the unusual perspective. It's told through the eyes of the 9-year-old son of the commandant at Auschwitz, a boy who has no clue as to what is going on around him.

Main character

Readers will quickly relate to Bruno, who is uprooted from his home and moved somewhere "nasty and cold" where he has no friends.

Recommendation

This book is strongly recommended to those who appreciate history and historical fiction.

NOTE:

- The example serves as a guideline – it may not comply with the recommended word count.