WRITING A BOOK REVIEW

The 39 Clues
Written by Patrick Carman
Reviewed by Dylan A. (age 9)

Dan and Amy are in Cairo. They got a letter from someone, saying to meet a person, named NRR in thirty-six hours or "the room" closes forever. Then, they got a list of places to go to. They both knew they couldn't visit all of the places in thirty-six hours by themselves. So Dan and Amy team up with another clue-hunting team. Will Dan and Amy find NRR and get to "the room" in time?

I really liked this book because it had a mystery. Also, one of the characters, Dan, is like me. Dan is silly, and he's good at solving codes and that is like me. I don't think you could ever find a book like this, unless you're looking at the other nine books in this series. I think this a fun book to read because it is exciting. My favorite part was when they went into the Amber Room and they found a bunch of files about their parents.

I would recommend this book to middle-school readers. I'm only a 4th grader, so I like reading this book with my mom. It's fine for a 3rd grader, but it could just get a little tricky. Well, I hope you read this book.

Alfie All Alone
Written by Holly Webb
Reviewed by Megan W. (age 8)

Do you like dog books? If you do you should read Alfie all Alone. It’s about a dog that gets adopted by a girl named Ella and she names him Alfie. Ella’s mom has a baby and when it comes home Ella doesn’t play with Alfie anymore she only plays with the baby. Ella’s mom and dad are thinking about bringing Alfie back to the adoption center. Will Alfie keep his home or not?

I think Alfie all Alone is a good book. I thought it was funny that Alfie was jealous. Sometimes when dogs are jealous they will do anything until they have you to themselves. This book reminds me of another book Sky the Unwanted Kitten because both animals might get taken away back to the adoption center. The books are by the same author, too. I think Alfie is cute. He is white. That is good camouflage for the winter. That’s why I think it’s a good book.

I would recommend this book for grades 2nd to 4th. I think the book is more of a girl book because it is mainly about a girl, a baby, and a dog. The main reason why I like it is because I’m a fan of dogs. So if you are a dog fan, you will like this book.
1. Look at the sections which are highlighted in different colours. Match the colours with the language function.

- **Yellow**
  - Names of the characters

- **Pink**
  - Sentences which talk about recommendations

- **Green**
  - Title of the books review

- **Turquoise**
  - Words which are linking words

- **Red**
  - Words which describe opinion

- **Blue**
  - Expressions which explain reasons

2. A) Now look at the previous book reviews and order the paragraphs of this new book review by K.C. (age 11) and B) highlight the key words following the code of colours above. C) You have to write which one is:

- Paragraph of introduction about the book
- Paragraph about suggestion
- The title of the book
- Paragraph about anecdotes or opinion

a) **Paragraph number ______**

If you are interested in cauldrons that are mystical, tough princesses, enchantresses, dwarfs, and even talking crows, then this is the book for you. I recommend that 5th graders are probably the perfect age for reading this book. So get up, drive on over to your local library and check out, The Black Cauldron by Lloyd Alexander.

b) **Paragraph number ______**

The one part that made me laugh out loud was when Gurgie, a little strange creature, spoke about "munchings and crunchings". The main character, Taran, finds out that he isn't just a pig-boy, but he is now a warrior. It is unlike any other book I have read because of the topic. I picked the book because not very many other people have heard of it.

c) **Paragraph number ______ The title of the book**

Black Cauldron
Written by Lloyd Alexander
Reviewed by K.C. (age 11)
This book, The Black Cauldron, is about Taran going on a mighty journey to defeat the horn king and save the Black Cauldron. Taran finds many friends and foes on his journey. You will have to read the story to find out all the interesting things that happened to Taran on his journeys.

3. Now, analyze this book review taking into account the following questions, for example, and in groups you have to propose a new, improved version of the book review for *The Clue of the Leaning Chimney* making the necessary changes.

- Does this review follow the appropriate structure?
- Does this review enough linking words?
- Does this review have a justified opinion?
- Does this review have enough justified recommendations?
- How can you improve it?

**The Clue of the Leaning Chimney**

**Written by Carolyn Keene**

**Reviewed by Anne B. (age 8)**

Do you want to learn a little about pottery? Do you like mystery stories? If you do, I recommend this book.

This story is about Chinese pottery, and a family of two disappearing. The story is very interesting. The key to finding the lost pottery is to find the leaning chimney! At the end of this book, there is a very scary part.

The most important characters are: Nancy, George, Bess, Mr. Drew, Dick, Ned, and Mr. Soong.

This book makes you want to keep reading and reading, chapter after chapter. Carolyn Keene is the master of chapter endings. My favorite part is at the end of the book. Of course I can't tell you what my favorite part is exactly, because it will give too much away.

My favorite character is Nancy. She is daring and adventurous and a great detective. She reminds me of me because I also love to solve mysteries and I'm willing to do anything even if it's scary.
I also like Ned. He is just like Nancy and he's always concerned about her. Ned sort of reminds me of my Dad. My Dad is very adventurous!

I recommend this book because it is wonderful.

4. Now look at the first three texts again. Put a tick (✓) next to the elements which are mentioned.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Elements</th>
<th>THE 39 CLUES</th>
<th>ALFIE ALL ALONE</th>
<th>BLACK CAULDRON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mentioned the names of the main characters.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave a brief summary of the plot.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Added a rhetorical question to create some intrigue and make the reader want to read the book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gave at least three justified reasons why the reviewer liked the book.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended the book for a target audience and justified and explained why with some extra or personal information.</td>
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6. It is your turn! You have to find a book that you like a lot. After it, write a **book review** following the previous examples. Remember to:
- Use a paragraph to make the introduction.
- Talk about the main characters of the story.
- Use paragraphs which contain related information.
- Conclude with your recommendation.
- You have to include the use of linking words.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDING</th>
<th>SEQUENCING</th>
<th>ILLUSTRATING</th>
<th>CAUSE AND EFFECT</th>
<th>EMPHASISING</th>
<th>OPINION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>And</td>
<td>First</td>
<td>For example</td>
<td>So</td>
<td>Above all</td>
<td>In my opinion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Also</td>
<td>Second</td>
<td>For instance</td>
<td>Because</td>
<td>Because</td>
<td>I think that</td>
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<td>Too</td>
<td>Finally</td>
<td>Such as</td>
<td>Thus</td>
<td>Especially</td>
<td>I believe</td>
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<td>Furthermore</td>
<td>Next</td>
<td>Illustrated by</td>
<td>Therefore</td>
<td>Significantly</td>
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<td>Moreover</td>
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<td>In the case of</td>
<td>Consequently</td>
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<td>Then</td>
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7. Finally, with the following rubric you have to assess your partner about their book review.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRITERIA</th>
<th>POINTS SYSTEM</th>
<th>COMMENT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You have include the title and other necessary elements.</td>
<td>Beginner</td>
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<tr>
<td>You have structured your review into three main paragraphs.</td>
<td>Intermediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>You have included at least 8 well-chosen and well-used linking words.</td>
<td>Expert</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>You have given reasons for your opinions and explained them convincingly.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You have given reasons for your recommendation and justified why you recommend the book.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>
BIBLIOGRAPHY

Book reviews:


- Alfie all alone http://www.spaghettibookclub.org/review.php?review_id=13019
- Black cauldron http://www.spaghettibookclub.org/review.php?review_id=5653
- The Clue of the Leaning Chimney http://www.spaghettibookclub.org/review.php?review_id=271