

<b>Title:</b> Book Review	<b>Grades:</b> 6th-8th Grades
<b>Content:</b> English Language Arts	<b>Duration:</b> 60 minutes

**Standards:**

- **W.6-8.4:** Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
- **W.6-8.5:** With some guidance and support from adults and peers, develop and strengthen writing as needed by planning, revising, editing, rewriting, or trying a new approach, focusing on how well purpose and audience have been addressed.
- **W.6-8.6:** Use technology, including the Internet, to produce and publish writing, and to interact and collaborate with others.

**Objective:** Students will produce a professional book review to persuade an audience of their peers to read the book.

**Resources Needed:** Journal (paper or computer-based)

**Introduction:**

Think about a movie trailer you've watched. What made it effective?

Movie trailers show us what the movie is about (without giving too much away), making us *want* to watch it. That's exactly what your book review should do.

**Steps:**

- **Select a book** you've read that you would give a rating of 4 or 5 stars (out of 5).
- **Write a summary** of the book, remembering your purpose (like the movie trailer) is to persuade your audience to read the book by letting them know what it's about without giving too much away. (*see example below*)
- **Revise your summary**, specifically your *word choice*, *organization*, and *ideas/content*.
  - Does your *word choice* help set the mood you desire for your reader?
  - Are your paragraphs *organized* to take the reader on a journey, possibly from beginning to end?
  - Does the *content* of your summary give enough to inform the reader of the plot without giving away the surprises?
  - Will your book review *persuade* your audience to read the book?
- **Peer revise.** Share your book review with a peer (by computer, phone, paper). Discuss ways to make the summary even better, specifically focusing on word choice, organization, and ideas/content.

- **Type the final copy**, using the format of the example. (Include the headings, book cover picture, paragraph indentations, and rating, as shown in the example). Make sure your review fits on one page and uses the page's space well (to be pleasing to the eye).
- **Edit** your final copy to make sure there are **no errors in conventions** (i.e. spelling, capitalization, punctuation, etc.).
- **Submit** to your teacher, as instructed by him/her.

Example:

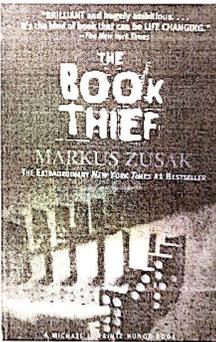
*Book Review for:* The Book Thief, by Markus Zusak

*Written by:* Janet Rehmert

*Novel Summary:*

It's WWII and Death is inundated with his work, as you can imagine. While mankind is busy slaying each other, Death (the unexpected narrator of the story) is busy picking up the pieces (literally). In the midst of the chaos, Death tries to remain focused on his task; he tries to avert his eyes from the living, but he finds himself unable to do so when it comes to one he first calls "the book thief." She captures his attention: not once, not twice, but three times. The third time something is taken: something that will still exist after the bombs stop bursting and the smoke clears.

So, we have the girl: the book thief. We also have a loud-mouthed woman, an accordion-playing man, an unexpected house guest, and a lemon-haired boy (who is also a hopeless romantic). And, we have Death, our narrator, who will tell us a story that will change us forever, or, at least, until we meet him ourselves.



*My Rating:* ★★★★★

**Adaptations:**

If you are unable to use a computer to copy/paste the book's cover, please draw a picture instead.

*Teacher: These are excellent to use in the library to display in frames by the books.*

**Finished Product:** Book review ready for publication.