Reviews: How do I **write** about what I've **read**?

Points to consider:

- To write a good review you need to think about the book while you are reading it!

  What do you **notice**…   What do you **wonder**…   What do you take to **heart**…

  (It is possible to write a good review about a book even if you did not enjoy it!)

- A good review includes your **personal reflections** & why you liked or didn't like the book.

  (Did this book **touch** you or **change your thinking**? If so how?)

- You do not need to retell the story in your review. A good review can point out the **highlights** and the **themes**, without giving *spoilers*!

Examples of pupils' reviews / personal reflections:

"At the very beginning I wasn't very sure whether I would enjoy this kind of story. But as we get further into the story I find myself liking it more. The ending is where this book shines however, as the boy realizes what has happened to him and reflects on the events of that past 6 years."

" I think it had quite a good concept, however the pacing was horribly off. You would have to wait until the very end just to read the exciting parts. Overall a good concept but not as good as the other War books available."

"The book was very gripping & exciting to read, although I felt that at places it dragged, and had a slow start."

"Great conclusion to the series, would have given it more stars if the ending was a bit more clear as I found it was a bit confusing, but series overall was very good and you can see how Tom and Hester's relationship changes over time and how Shrike is the only one to survive to tell the tale."

"The setting of this book is really what made it for me. Although I didn't enjoy the story of this as much as the others, I still liked. But the final scene when Alex is skiing down a snowy hill is one of my favorites in the entire series."

"The way that we see the Second World War and the Holocaust through a Jew's eyes is just stunning. It's also quite depressing at times, as it deals with a lot of death and suffering. I recommend this book to anyone who likes to read a book that really makes them think."

"Whilst reading this novel, I experienced a rollercoaster of emotions: anger, incredulity, sadness but mainly a burning empathy with the two protagonists. Unsettling parallels between present day surface throughout the book, which should make readers question racism in today's society."

"Sets a nice basis for the start of the series as it explains everything clearly."

"My only slight criticism of this book was that it was almost too fast moving- it felt slightly unrealistic in that it all happened in such a flash."

"This book told the story of a teenager living a perfect life, before he makes a poor decision and things all go wrong for him. I enjoyed how it highlighted how big changes in your life can change your views and opinions on things. All all the characters felt extremely realistic, and each way the characters changed felt believable. The book gave a great perspective on friendship, and what a real friend is, and who in life can be turned to when we need them most."

"I do feel that it took a bit of time to get to the action but when it did it was very interesting."

"After watching the BBC series based on the first book it inspired me to read more and I even started writing a fantasy/ adventure story of my own."

"So complex yet so simple when it comes to the end...It's similar yet so different to the first book. This storyline is so jagged and winding, I had no idea how it'd end."

"The reason for the three stars given is due to odd changes in character at certain times, I felt the characters weren't that believable."

BHH Reading

WHEN YOU READ, THINK ABOUT WHAT IS...

• IN THE BOOK

— What's this about?
— Who's telling the story?
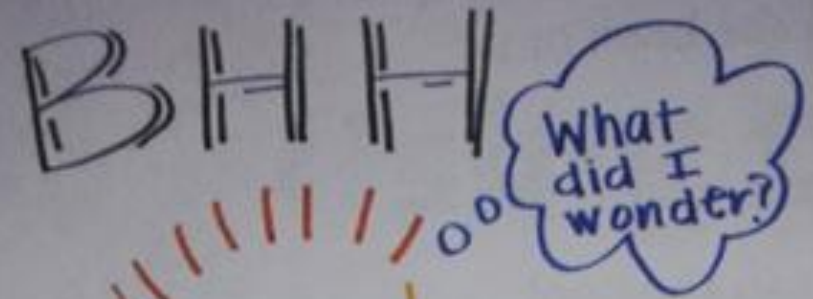— What does the author want me to know?

• IN YOUR HEAD

— What surprised me?
— What does the author think I already know?
— What changed, challenged or confirmed my thinking?
— What did I notice?

• IN YOUR HEART

— What did I learn about me?
— How will this help me to be better?

BHH

What did I wonder?

What did I take to heart?

what did I notice?

Use some of these ideas in your **Reading List** *Personal Reflections* as you read and / or when you have finished each book

My Reading List

When you finish each book, record the approximate dates you started and finished,

assign the book a star & difficulty rating and **record your thoughts:**

Title	Author	Date started	Date finished	Star rating:
				☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ **Hard / just right / easy?**
Review / personal reflection:				

Title	Author	Date started	Date finished	Star rating:
				☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ **Hard / just right / easy?**
Review / personal reflection:				