

Clyde Hill
ACADEMIC CHALLENGE

Book Review Examples

4th-5th Grade Examples

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Author – J.K. Rowling

What is this book about?

This story is about a boy named Harry Potter. When he was a baby his parents died and he had to go live in his aunt and uncle's house. For a few years his aunt and uncle treated Harry like dirt, and his cousin Dudley kept trying to hurt him. Harry was getting letters to go to a place called Hogwarts, but his Uncle Vernon would not let Harry read the letters, or let him go to the school. Harry is finally allowed to go when a giant named Hagrid takes Harry away from his uncle. Many adventures then happen, including a bad guy named Lord Voldemort who tries to kill Harry. Harry faces off with his enemies and it is very exciting.

What do I like about the book?

This book is magical. It is a great story because of all the magic and the fun that Harry has with his friends. I recommend this to everyone who likes magical stories and likes to feel as if things in the book are happening to them, because that is how you'll feel when you read it.

What is the book's theme or message?

The book's main theme is good versus evil. Harry (the good side) is really inexperienced but he still has to battle Lord Voldemort (the bad side).

Shipwreck at the Bottom of the World

Author - Jennifer Armstrong

What is this book about?

In 1914, 28 explorers try to cross Antarctica. They never get there. Their ship becomes trapped by ice 100 miles from their destination. The explorers are stranded for almost two years near Antarctica. In Antarctica the temperature can get to minus 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Ernest Shackleton, the group's leader, sails 800 miles in a 20-foot boat to look for help.

What do I like about the book?

I loved reading the details of this adventure. With 40 photos from the actual explorers, I felt like I was there with them. I don't like ice and cold, but I had to keep reading to find out what these explorers did to survive.

What is the book's theme or message?

The author describes how brave these explorers were. As I read this book, I wondered if I could have been that brave. The author shows how different people can work together as a team. She also tells how important being a good leader is. The book is great from start to finish.

Kringle

Author – Tony Abbott

What is this book about?

Kringle is a young boy born into a world of goblins. His mother and father die when he is born. He is forced to live with Merwen for most of his life. Then his house is attacked by goblins. He runs to a Roman city. The city has already been attacked by goblins. Kringle goes to the forest. Elves find him. On Kringle's first try delivering shoes (that's what elves do) pirates invade!

What do I like about the book?

I really enjoyed *Kringle* because it was interesting and exciting. One example was when the reindeer saved him and could have been killed. Another example was when the goblin, Morgo, almost caught him.

What is the book's theme or message?

Kringle is mainly about the Christmas spirit and the importance of doing the right things.

2nd-3rd Grade Examples

The Boxcar Children

Author – Gertrude Chandler Warner

What is this book about?

In this book the kids – Jessie, Benny, Henry, and Violet – don't start off in the boxcar. Instead they start off outside a bakery. Jessie and Henry find out that the lady at the bakery wants to send Benny to a foster home. The kids run away so they can all stay together. They end up in the woods and have lots of adventures. Henry even won a free for all race!

What do I like about the book?

There is a very happy ending. I like *The Boxcar Children* because the things in the story can really happen. My favorite part was when they found Watch, the dog. It was my favorite because I like dogs.

James and the Giant Peach

Author – Roald Dahl

What is this book about?

James' parents got killed when he was a young boy. James had to go live with his two mean aunts. Their names were Aunt Sponge and Aunt Spiker. They were so mean to him that they would hit him and not feed him. One day James was in the garden and got these magical little beans from a little man. He dropped them on the ground by a peach tree and they sank into the dirt. The next day the peach on the tree grew big. James climbed into the peach and found large bugs in there. He saw an earth worm, grasshopper, spider, centipede, and other insects. The peach was so heavy that it fell off the tree and began to roll. That is when the adventure begins. You will need to read this book to find out what happens.

What do I like about the book?

I think that it is an interesting book because I like the trouble that James and the other insects get into and how they get out of it. I think that it's really neat to see that James finally got friends after being so lonely for such a long time.

Frindle

Author – Andrew Clements

What is this book about?

It is about this kid named Nick who always has creative ideas. One time he had an idea that instead of saying pen he would say the word frindle instead. It started with just his English teacher, but then a reporter came and heard about it. She put it in the newspaper. Now everyone in school is saying frindle instead of pen. Will the word frindle make it in to the dictionary? Read the book and find out.

What do I like about the book?

My favorite part in the book is when he thinks of the new word. There are a lot of funny parts, like when the parents get mad at the school's headmaster. Nick reminds me of myself because I think of a lot of stuff.

Kindergarten – 1st Grade Examples

Henry and Mudge and Annie's Perfect Pet

Author – Cynthia Rylant

What do I like about the book?

My favorite part of the story is when Annie bought Snowball because it made Annie happy. Annie is my favorite character because she is sweet and kind.

The Carrot Seed

Author – Ruth Krauss

What do I like about the book?

I like the ending. It was a surprise. I like the cartoon pictures.

Alphabet Mystery

Author – Audrey Wood

What do I like about the book?

The letters from the alphabet go on an adventure. They ride on a pencil ship. It is a very funny book.

Junie B. Jones and the Stupid, Smelly Bus

Author – Barbara Park

What do I like about the book?

My favorite part is when Junie B. gets a bus buddy because now she has a friend. Junie B. makes me laugh. She says very funny things. It is a great book and it cracked me up.