



Catch's Guide to Book Reviews



Start out with a question, a surprising fact, or some other way of drawing your listener in.

- "Have you ever wanted to test a dog's colour blindness? Then *Dog Science Unleashed* could be the book for you!"
- "Hands up if you're a bit scared of long chapter books! Me too. But you won't be bored with *Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief*, even though it's as thick as an old fashioned phone book."

Remember to cover the basics!

No spoilers! No summaries! Just one or two sentences to explain what the book is about.

- "Percy Jackson is half human boy, half Greek God. He discovers the second part when he's at school, and vapourises his maths teacher —and then goes on to have lots of adventures."
- "The author has come up with 20 fun science activities for dog-crazy kids like me to discover more about dog behavior."

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- Author and title
 - Genre of the book (adventure, fantasy, non-fiction)
 - Style of the book (chapter, picture book, graphic novel)
 - Topic (non-fiction)
 - Setting (for fiction)

Explain what's great about the book, and what (if anything) didn't work for you. A review is not an advertisement!

- "The characters in *Harry Potter* are hilarious and believable—but I wish the slightly annoying, hard-working student character wasn't a girl. That feels like a bit of a stereotype."
- "I loved doing all the experiments with my Labrador, but the book would be disappointing for kids who didn't have their own dog."



How to record your podcast:



Listen to some of the book reviews already on the Squiz Kids website. Listen carefully to the reviewers':

- tone
- speed
- voice clarity

Practice your review a couple of times, so that it's smooth.

Ask to use a phone or tablet.

Open (or download) a simple, free, voice recording app.

Find a quiet place that doesn't echo. The bathroom is not good! Under your doona is surprisingly good, but keep still!

Do a test recording of your first three sentences. Keep the device still, and don't cover the microphone! Listen back. Do you need to hold the microphone closer? Slow down?

Once you're happy with your sound, record! If you make a mistake, just go back to the beginning of that sentence and start again. We can edit out the mistake!

Email your sound file to: squizkids@thesquiz.com.au. We'll reply to let you know we have it.



One more thing....



You may have noticed that our reviewers always introduce themselves on the podcast. Please send us a separate recording that follows this general outline. We'll use different parts from it each time you review a book!

Hi! My name is _____.
(first name only)

I'm ___ years old, and I live in _____
(city, or just state)

My favourite place to read is: _____

because _____

My favourite author is: _____ because

If I could only take two books to a desert island, I would

choose _____ and _____

Let me tell you why: _____

If I was going to write a book, I would make it about

_____ because
