



Book reviewing competition for 10-13 year olds in Bury and surrounding areas

You are invited to enter **Bookwormz** - the Hazel Townson Book Review competition, for a chance to get published and win some great prizes.

The competition has been organised by the **Prestwich Book Festival** in partnership with **Bury Libraries** and **Raring2go! Bury**, in memory of Hazel Townson, who was a children's author who wrote many funny books for children. It is open to all children aged 10-13 in Bury and the surrounding areas.

Hazel loved reading and worked for many years as a children's librarian in and around Bury. Reading books taught her how to write books. When she read a book, she always had a good think about whether she liked it or not, and why.

So we want YOU to read a book (or books) and tell us what you think of them.

How to enter:

Write a review between 100–400 words long. It must be written in correct English. The heading must be the title of the book and the name of the author. The book can be any sort of book at all – a children's book, a graphic novel, poetry, a grown-up book, a history book - just pick your favourite! With your entry, you must include your name, age, address, class and school name and include your parents' consent to enter.

Prizes:

There are two categories: 10-11 year olds and 12-13 year olds. In each category there will be a first prize and a runner up. First prize: £30 Book Token. Runner up: £15 Book Token. All winning entries will be published in on the **Raring2go!** website and details included in the magazine.

Who can enter?

Anyone aged 10-13 - in year 6, 7 or 8 at school.

What's the deadline?

All entries must be received before **Friday 1 November**. Entries may be posted to the Prestwich Book Festival, c/o 10 Bannerman Avenue, Prestwich, Manchester M25 1EA, or scanned and emailed to prestwichbookfestival@yahoo.co.uk

Judges:

Entries will be judged by young adult novelist Sherry Ashworth, Hazel Townson's daughter Cath Atherden, and Raring2go! Editor Jayne Deakin. Prizes will be awarded at a special ceremony at Bury Library in December.

Good luck!

HOW TO REVIEW A BOOK

1. Find a book.

It can be a book you've already read, but you will need to read it again if you are going to review it. You could find a new book in your school library or your local library, or you could maybe even buy one! If you're stuck for an idea, ask your teacher or a librarian.

2. Get yourself a notebook or get some paper to write on.

When you are a book reviewer, you must make notes so that you remember all the important bits.

3. Find somewhere comfy to read.

4. Start reading!

If you are going to review a book, you must read it all. It's not fair on the book otherwise.

5. As you read, jot down your thoughts.

Keep a kind of reading diary. You will find this VERY useful later. A book reviewer is a bit like a book detective – you must note down the clues that will help you make up your mind at the end.

6. As you read, here are some important questions to ask yourself:

- a) What was the FIRST PAGE like? Did it make me want to read on? Why?
- b) Who are the main CHARACTERS? What are they like? Do I like them? Would I want to meet them? What do I want to happen to them at the end?
- c) Where is the book SET? Can I see the place vividly, as if I was really there?
- d) What is the STORY? Can I follow it clearly? Am I excited about what will happen next? Do I want to turn over the next page?
- e) What KIND OF BOOK is it? Is it funny, scary, exciting? How does the book make me feel when I read it?
- f) Does the writer use good WORDS? Are there too many words I don't understand? Does the author use words that stick in my mind and make me think about them afterwards?
- g) Did I LEARN anything from this book? Something I didn't know about before?
- h) When I finished the book, did I feel it had a good ending?

7. Well done! You've read a whole book and made notes on it. You are already a real book reviewer. Now all you have to do is **write the review!**

Top Tips for book reviewing

- **DO** start by saying the title and author of the book so people know what you are writing about. But don't just say 'I am going to review THE APPLE by John Pip. Make it more exciting than that. You might want to say, 'THE APPLE by John Pip is the best book I have ever read.' Or 'Whatever you do, don't read THE APPLE by John Pip!'
- **DON'T** give the end away. Giving the end away is called a SPOILER. If you give the end away you put people off reading the book because they feel they won't need to read it now! You've spoiled the book.
- **DO** give the HOOK. A hook is the situation at the beginning of the book. For example: In THE APPLE by John Pip, three children are marooned on a desert island and all they have to eat is one apple. The biggest boy steals it and hides it, but the other two children, a boy and a girl go to find it. When they do, a terrible thing happens.' So the hook is the beginning of a story, and it whets the appetite.
- **DON'T** give your opinion without giving examples of what you mean. Don't just say 'I love this book.' Say 'I love this book **because** it has very believable characters. If you think the writer uses good words, then QUOTE a bit from the book to show us what you mean. Give reasons for your views.
- **DO** be personal. Write your review in the first person (use the word 'I') and say what you liked and didn't like. Tell the truth.
- **DON'T** just hand in your review without showing it to someone. That person might have some good ideas for you – ideas that might make your review even better and deserving of a prize!
- **DO** find out more about the author. Google them and use the extra information you find to make your review more interesting. For example, 'John Pip's father was a greengrocer and his grandmother was called Granny Smith.'
- **DON'T** worry too much. Sometimes when we write something, we keep worrying whether it's good enough, and those worries can stop us writing. Hazel Townson wrote over FIFTY books (!) and she was able to do that because she enjoyed writing and looked forward to it. She would want you to enjoy writing your reviews, and even if they aren't perfect, she'd be jolly pleased you had a go!

If you want to see some examples of book reviews, look on www.amazon.co.uk, search for a book you have read and see what people have to say. But beware! Not all of the reviews are well written. Some are very good, but others can be very short and don't tell you much. Also have a look at www.guardian.co.uk/childrens-book-site. The reviewers here are children of different ages.