



TEEN SERVICES COMMUNITY SERVICE TEEN BOOK REVIEW

Earn community service by reviewing teen books! The Longwood Public Library is looking for teens who would be willing to read a newly released teen novel and write a brief review. To become a teen reviewer:

1. Stop by True North Teen Services and pick out a book from our “New Fiction” section. **Book Reviews may only be submitted for books published in the current year or immediately preceding year.**
2. **Please note that the books in our “New Fiction” section cover a wide range of ages and vary in content and maturity level.**
3. Draft your review based on the attached guidelines. **Reviews that are not original or not about new teen books will be refused**, so check the publication date and use your own words. Read your review carefully before submitting for spelling mistakes, grammar, and completion of review requirements.
4. Attach the following information to the top of your review:
 - Name
 - Email address – **Longwood School e-mail addresses cannot send e-mails outside of the Longwood School system, so you must use a non-Longwood e-mail address to send us your review**
 - Grade
 - Title of the book
 - Author
 - Number of pages
 - Rating (On A Scale Of 1-5)
5. Submit your review via email to yalongwood@gmail.com. Reviews may be subject to editing.

Reviews will be posted to our website and Facebook pages. Reviewers will receive **3 hours** of community service credit for each submitted review that meets all of the listed requirements. Certificates acknowledging community service credit will be emailed as a PDF or may be picked up in True North Teen Services.

Please allow 5 days for processing of reviews and certificates. After your review is submitted, a librarian will read your review for content, grammar, cohesiveness, word count, and presence of all the review elements. Within 5 days, you will receive an email with your certificate **OR** a list of revisions. Once the revisions are made and received, your review will be reevaluated within 5 days.

If you are submitting a review for a community service requirement – Honors Society, Religion, College Applications, etc. – submit in advance of your deadline. Remember that you may be required to make revisions. Reviews will not be read the night before required hours are due.



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Teen Reviewer Guidelines:

The ideal book review should:

- Summarize the content of the book
- Explain your opinion or response to the book
- Gauge its appeal to a general or specific teen audience

Each review will contain the following major elements:

- **A list of major characters.** This list can be bulleted and should identify each character and their role in the narrative. This list should not exceed 5 characters. If there are more than 5 major characters, pick your 5 favorite characters!
- **A plot summary.** The summary should be the “bones” of the story discussing what the main characters seek to accomplish. To find the “bones” of the story, expand on your character list by defining the challenges those characters face, significant others in the story, and the story’s setting. Then, add details to bring the story to life for someone who has not read the book. Do not give a blow by blow retelling of every fact in the story. Your plot summary should cover the beginning and middle of the story, and include a discussion of the story’s final conflict without giving away the ending. Your plot summary should be written in one single tense.
- **A critical evaluation.** Comment on the writing style, the flow of the plot, and the author’s expertise for the subject. Are there flaws in the story? Does the content of the book outweigh the flaws? Does another book on a similar topic do a better job of presenting the subject than the book you read? **Your plot summary and critical evaluation combined should total at least 250 words.**
- **A discussion of the book’s appeal.** Will teen readers enjoy this book? Who would you recommend this book to?

Reviews should not contain judgmental language when describing a sensitive subject. It is not your task to convey the presence of certain material as a warning to others not to read the book.

Reviews should not need extensive editing for spelling, grammar, content, understanding, or style. Proofread your work!