Characteristics of an Effective Book Review

- Introduce main character and relevant details about his or her life
- Tell about the main character’s problems and emotions
- Summarize plot description without giving away too much information
- Hint at plot resolution but never reveal it
- Tell the genre
- Tell if the book is part of a series
- Use a strong lead that engages reader
- Allude to theme or moral lessons learned from book
- Asks the reader questions
- Include lines from text
- Use rich, accurate adjectives to describe the writing
- Refer to the title and author by name within the review
- Provide relevant information about the author
- Make comparisons to other books by same author or about same topic
- Recommend what kind of reader would enjoy the book
- Tell the range of feelings and response the reviewer had to the book
- Includes strong adjectives and other qualities of good writing
- Conclude purposefully
- Include standard information: title, author, publisher, copyright date, number of pages, price, ISBN number, and the reviewer’s name, grade, school, town, and state