

## Article: a book review

*I can write a book review.*

- 1 **SPEAKING** Work in pairs. What was the last book you read? What was it about? Did you enjoy it? Why? / Why not?

Your teacher has asked you to write a book review for the school magazine. Write your review describing the book and say what you liked and didn't like about it.

- 2 Read the task above and the review. Did the writer enjoy the book? Did he / she have any reservations?

### Writing Strategy 1

- 1 In the first paragraph, attract the reader's attention. You can do this by addressing him / her directly, especially with questions.
- 2 Use an appropriate style and register for the target audience.
- 3 Choose a good title for your article.

- 3 Read the first point in **Writing Strategy 1** and the first paragraph of the review again. Has the writer followed the advice? If so, say how.
- 4 Read the second point in the strategy and the rest of the review again. Did the writer use an appropriate style for his / her audience? How would you describe the style: a) informal and lively or b) formal and serious?
- 5 Read the third point in the strategy. Which title (1–5) do you think would be the best for the review? Why? Use the words and phrases below to help you.

appeal to boring catch your attention main idea  
pun question relate to the topic snappy  
target audience too long

- 1 Book review: *The Hunger Games*
- 2 This is probably one of the best books that I have ever read
- 3 If I were you, I'd read this book
- 4 A book I really enjoyed
- 5 If you are hungry for a good book, read on!

### Writing Strategy 2

- 1 Give your review a logical structure. Divide it into paragraphs, each with its own topic or focus.
- 2 The conclusion should restate the main idea given in the introduction, but using different words. It should also include the writer's opinion and, if appropriate, a recommendation.

- 6 Read **Writing Strategy 2**. In which paragraph (A–D) does the writer ...

- 1 restate his / her opinion of the book?
- 2 describe the plot and characters?
- 3 mention something he / she didn't like?
- 4 give some background information about the book?
- 5 give his / her opinion of the book for the first time?
- 6 say why he / she liked it?



- A** Have you ever read a book that you just couldn't put down? *The Hunger Games* was like that for me. I read it in two days! It's that good! Written by Suzanne Collins in 2006, it's sold millions of copies around the world and has been made into a film.
- B** It's set in the future in a place called Panem and it tells the story of Katniss, a sixteen-year-old girl who has to leave her family and compete in the Hunger Games with eleven other children. Only one child can survive the games, and Katniss is not optimistic about her chances. There are lots of twists and turns along the way. I won't give away the ending, but I guarantee you'll love it.
- C** What I loved about the book was the character of Katniss. She's a really strong person, but she's also very sensitive. I really identified with her. The story is very gripping too. There's quite a lot of violence, which may put some people off, but it's an important part of the story. The one criticism I have is that the games themselves don't start until chapter 10, but this didn't spoil my overall enjoyment.
- D** All in all, this book is a real page-turner. I absolutely loved it and I'd definitely recommend it. So if you haven't read it yet, buy it, borrow it, or steal it (just kidding!) as soon as you can. You won't be disappointed.

- 7 Which tense does the writer use to describe the plot and characters?

- 8 **KEY PHRASES** Complete the useful phrases with the words below. Underline them in the review.

page recommend set tells twists

### Describing stories

It's <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ in (place and / or time).

It <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ the story of (character).

There are lots of <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ and turns.

It's a real <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ -turner.

I would definitely <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ it.

➔ **Vocabulary Builder** Describing stories: page 124

- 9 Do the task in exercise 1. Follow the advice in the strategies, use the structure of the model review (see exercise 6) and use phrases from exercise 8.

### CHECK YOUR WORK

Have you ...

- given your review a title and an interesting introduction?
- used an appropriate style?
- given your article a logical structure?
- used the present tense to describe the plot and characters?
- checked your grammar and spelling?