



## Greater Hartford Academy of the Arts High School Summer Reading

**Directions:** Choose a book to read this summer. Your book can be fiction or non-fiction. We ask that you choose a text that challenges your reading ability. The assignment is to write a book review. Book review requirements are described in detail below. The review will be due within the first week of school and will be submitted to your English teacher.

Looking for a good book? Check out the links below:

[goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com)

[whatshouldireadnext.com](http://whatshouldireadnext.com)

### The Book Review

The book review will consist of four paragraphs:

#### 1. The Introduction

The introduction must include the following:

- Title
- Author
- Genre
- Basic information and background about the book

#### 2. The General Plot Summary

- The reader **DOES NOT** need to hear every detail. Stick to what is important.
- Try not to give away any spoilers.

#### 3. Your Opinions and Analysis

- Your thoughts, feelings and reactions to characters, plot, symbols, themes, conflicts.
- What did you like or dislike?
- Respond to writer's craft (word choice, tone, mood).
- What connections can a reader make to the text?

#### 4. Recommendation

- Do you recommend this book? Why? (You **don't have** to say that someone should read it.)

**(See rubric on back)**

## Book Review Rubric

CATEGORY	7	6	5	4
<b>Introduction</b>	Includes all required elements. Interesting and draws the reader into the review.	Includes all required elements, but could be more interesting and do a better job of pulling the reader in.	Missing one or two elements and/or not thoughtful in regards to drawing in the reader.	Missing several required elements and is unclear for the reader.
<b>General Plot Summary</b>	Writer skillfully explains plot without including unnecessary details. Very interesting and does not spoil the book for the reader.	Writer explains plot without including unnecessary details. Very interesting and does not spoil the book for the reader.	Plot summary is missing important details OR includes unnecessary information. Plot summary is a little boring for the reader.	Plot summary has several holes OR is confusing for the reader.
<b>Opinion and analysis</b>	Excellent job. Writer includes all required elements and does a great job analyzing the book.	Good job. Almost all required elements are present. Interesting and mostly thoughtful.	Missing several of the required elements. Does not do a good analysis of the text.	Not good. Missing several of the required elements and is confusing or unclear for the reader.
<b>Recommendation</b>	Recommendation is extremely well-thought and engaging for the reader. Makes the reader want to either read the book or not read the book because of sound reasoning.	Recommendation is well-thought and mostly engaging for the reader. Makes the reader want to either read the book or not read the book because of solid reasoning.	Recommendation is unclear or not explained. Writer did not make a good argument for the book one way or the other.	Very unclear or not explained. Confusing OR not well-thought.
<b>Flow &amp; Rhythm (Sentence Fluency)</b>	All sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud. Each sentence is clear and has an obvious emphasis.	Almost all sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but 1 or 2 are stiff and awkward or difficult to understand.	Most sentences sound natural and are easy-on-the-ear when read aloud, but several are stiff and awkward or are difficult to understand.	The sentences are difficult to read aloud because they sound awkward, are distractingly repetitive, or difficult to understand.
<b>Grammar &amp; Spelling (Conventions)</b>	Writer makes no errors in grammar or spelling that distracts the reader from the content.	Writer makes 1-2 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes 3-4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.	Writer makes more than 4 errors in grammar or spelling that distract the reader from the content.