

Task rubric

Write a review of the book you have read, and describe the character that attracted you the most in the story. Ensure you include a short summary of the book.

B2 level response

"The Book Thief", by the Australian author Markus Zusak, published in 2005, is a historical novel. The story is set in the Nazi Germany a year before the World War II started.

The reader follows the life of a young girl, Liesel, who, after the death of her young brother, goes to live with her new German foster parents, Rosa and Hans Hubermann. Soon, Liesel develops a strong passion for books, and starts reading anything she can, even the books that the Nazi party is looking to destroy.

Liesel is my favourite character in the story. In the beginning, Liesel is traumatised not only by her separation from her mother, but also by the destruction caused by the war. As the story progresses, her love for reading helps her to mature. She develops into a fearless and determined young woman. Despite the danger, she steals books from the Nazi book burnings, and even from the mayor's library.

The "Book Thief" is a wonderful book for all ages. Don't miss to read it.

(Words: 172)

C1 level response

"The Old Man and the Sea" is a classic novella by Ernest Hemingway. The story is set in a Cuban fishing village and it is about human determination and the relationship between man and nature.

The story revolves around Santiago, an elderly fisherman who hasn't caught any fish for 84 days. Despite his bad luck, he sets out alone on his boat, and soon hooks a marlin, but on his way back to shore, sharks attack the fish, leaving only its skeleton. Despite the loss, Santiago's spirit remains unbroken. He returns to the village with the skeleton as a testament to his skill and courage, earning respect and admiration from the villagers.

The character that attracted me the most is Manolin. He is a young boy who has a deep affection and admiration for Santiago, the old fisherman. I admire how deeply Manolin cares about Santiago. He doesn't just abandon him when his parents insist that he takes up a job on a more successful boat. Instead, he continues to bring Santiago food and help him with his fishing gear. Manolin looks up to Santiago as a mentor, and learns valuable life lessons from the old man's experiences and wisdom, which is something all young people should do.

The 'Old man and the Sea' is definitely an amazing book with an interesting story that will fascinate even the most demanding reader.

(Words: 231)

C2 Level response

"The Old Man and the Sea" is a novella written by Ernest Hemingway, published in 1952. The story serves as a testament to the man's skill and determination.

The story revolves around Santiago, an aging Cuban fisherman who has endured a run of bad luck with his fishing trips. He is considered unlucky, and has not caught a fish for 84 days. He sets out on a solo fishing expedition in the Atlantic Ocean. He soon hooks a marlin, a fish of incredible size and strength. After a two-day struggle, Santiago finally manages to land the marlin. He ties the fish to his boat and begins the journey back to shore, triumphant but physically and mentally exhausted. However, his victory is short-lived as sharks are attracted to the marlin's blood and attack Santiago's boat.

The novella only really has three characters: Santiago, Manolin and the marlin. While all three are formidable in some ways, I must say that I've found Santiago particularly inspiring. What really struck me about Santiago is what a humble man he is. His humility and grace in both victory and defeat are admirable. When he finally catches the marlin, Santiago does not boast or revel in his triumph, but instead expresses deep respect and sorrow for the fish. He reminded me about importance of humility and compassion in our own lives.

The "Old Man and the Sea" is truly a great book. Hemingway's style of writing creates a tapestry of emotional complexities that makes the book a must read for all future generations.

(Word limit: 257)

BOOK REVIEW

LAYOUT

Introduction:

- Start with a brief overview of the book, including its title, author, genre, and publication information.
- Introduce the main theme in a sentence or two.

Summary:

- Offer a concise summary of the plot the book.

Respond to the task question:

- Use relevant information from your logbook to respond to the given task question.

Conclusion

- Offer a final recommendation, indicating whether you would recommend the book to others and why.

Article (Book)

Task Rubric: Write an article for a website about the book you have read. Explain why you think people should read books in general. Ensure you include a short summary of the book.

LAYOUT

Introduction:

- Start with a brief overview of the book, including its title, author, genre, and publication information.
- Introduce the main theme in a sentence or two.

Main Body:

- 1st paragraph: Give a short summary of the plot the book.
- 2nd paragraph: Address the task question making specific reference to the book you have read.

Conclusion:

- End with a general comment about the task question.