

GUIDELINES FOR REVIEWERS



Books for review are distributed at the regional Book Evaluation meetings. Librarians/media specialists are invited to attend any meeting in their region. Reviews are to be posted to <http://www.njyac.org> one week prior to the next Book Evaluation meeting. In addition to posting your review, please bring a hard copy of your review to the meeting. If you are unable to attend a meeting, please contact your regional coordinator in advance.

Please use the following guidelines when posting your reviews.

The review should explain any outstanding or negative features of the book. Be brief. Limit your review to **150 words**, the space provided on the review form. You may include key phrases that indicate the nature of the review. Your review will be sent to the publisher and posted online.

Ratings:

Highly Recommended: Outstanding! Strongly recommended for most libraries.

Recommended: Above Average. A worthwhile purchase.

Acceptable: Average. Optional purchase.

Marginal: Below Average. May meet some needs.

Not Recommended: Not suitable for most libraries.

Elements to include in the text of your review are:

- **FORMAT:** Print size, layout, paper quality, binding quality, line spacing, oversize. Inclusion or lack of indices, maps, bibliographies, table of contents, graphics, etc. should be noted.
- **WRITING STYLE:** One or two word descriptions (e.g. choppy, poetic, wordy, condescending, patronizing).
- **PLOT:** In one sentence, describe the where, when and why of the theme. A summary is not necessary.
- **ILLUSTRATIONS:** Mention type of illustration in one or two words (e.g. black and white, color, watercolor, pen and ink, photographs, crayon, wash, collage). Quality and appropriateness should be noted.
- **POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL POINTS:** Should be noted, with page numbers. Long descriptions are not necessary.
- **USEFULNESS:** Homework, special collections, reading lists, book talks, story time, read-aloud, hi/lo should be mentioned.
- **CONTENT:** Scope, timeliness of information and accuracy should be noted (e.g. overview, introduction, intermediate, advanced, etc.). Indicate relevant omissions, if any. If the title represents a certain point of view, indicate this.
- **COMPARISON:** Can this information be found elsewhere in a superior source? Are there other titles that do the job better or less expensively? Is this the best book or the only book on the subject for this age level? Are other titles in print?