

Here's a sample for you to use as a guideline if you need one. I also recently read The Liberation of Gabriel King. Never fear; I follow the same advice I give. I'm on my fifth book since school released. I just love reading!

Opening: Include the title and author. Be certain to give insight into the type of book you've chosen. Draw the reader in by giving hints about the novel, but do not totally give away the novel.

The Liberation of Gabriel King by K.L. Going is a fictional book that everyone can identify with. It outlines a summer in the life of an incoming fifth grader who is scared of just about everything. He struggles inwardly, and it affects his decision making. Due to the stress associated with school, he decides to hold himself back in fourth grade. Is that even possible?

Body: Defend what you've written in your opening with several examples from the novel. Be specific and paint a picture for your reader with words. A good body has at least three solid paragraphs. Remember that a paragraph is usually composed of 4-6 sentences.

The action begins at the very start of the book. Picture this. A boy and a girl endure similar experiences at school, but they see them completely differently. It is a time where segregation is waning, but some are still holding on to it tightly. The main characters are from different racial backgrounds. That causes some tension for others but not for them. All they know is that they were destined to be best friends.

On the day of the move-up celebration, bullies get the best of Gabriel King and spoil his good time and force him to break his pinky swear he made to his best friend, Frita Wilson. That just about devastates him, but it doesn't crush their friendship. At that moment, he makes the executive decision to refuse to move up to fifth grade, as that would put him in more peril. The bullies are in sixth grade, and he would have to see them every day at the new school. Who could tolerate that?

Through tedious planning, Frita attempts to help Gabe overcome his anxieties, some real and some imagined. They go on a whirlwind adventure during the summer of the bicentennial, and at the end, the community will never be the same. Many characters grow in ways that we all should. Read the novel to find out if the changes are positive or negative.

Conclusion: Be sure to address the 6 traits of writing: Voice (the author's "personality"), Ideas (the points contained in the novel), Sentence Fluency (the ebb and flow of the writing - how is it put together), Word choice (attention to the vocabulary and descriptions chosen), Organization (is it easy to follow along with?), Convention (is there proper punctuation, capitalization, spelling, and use of grammar?)

Wrap it up with your thoughts of the novel, including what type of reader would enjoy the novel.

K.L. Going's novel is one that will remind adults of their youth and give younger readers a taste of what life used to be like. Going's voice is strong. She is able to tap into the mind of a pre-teen and draws readers into her world quickly. Her ideas are creative and well thought out. It is easy to get lost in the pages of this clever novel about friendship and standing up for what you believe in. The author's sentence fluency is easy to follow and uses a mixture of sentence styles. This makes for a quick read.

The word choice was descriptive and doesn't speak over the heads of readers. Images are created in the minds of readers by the use of vivid verbs and detailed adjectives. The organization is flawless. The novel flows smoothly and has clear transitions. There were a few grammatical errors contained in the novel, but they were primarily due to the use of dialect in the book. The characters are clearly from the southern region, so the usage is appropriate.

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the novel and would recommend it to anyone who enjoys humor and has ever been

afraid of spiders, the spooky house on the deserted lot, or
brussel sprouts. Read the novel so we can learn from the past
and not make the same mistakes that plague our history books.
Read the book and remember to be thankful for the close
friendships and families God has bestowed upon us.