Features of Good Book Reviews

Some possibilities...

Here are some possibilities to consider when you are ready to write your book review for your independent novel:

Use an inviting lead. Think of a catchy way to “hook” in your reader, much like TV commercials do for up-coming shows.

Use a quote from the book to give an example of your point of view.

Summarize the plot and hint at the resolution, but never reveal it!

Use a first-person voice = “I found this book...”

Introduce the main character (or your favourite character) and relevant details about his/her life.

Describe the main character’s problems.

Talk about the main character’s emotions.

Provide a brief background into the relationships among the characters.

Tell the genre of the writing (ie: mystery, action, drama, memoir, narrative, etc.)

Say if the book is part of a prequel, sequel or part of a certain series.

Give your opinions and reactions to the story line.

Tell how you read the book.

Talk about the range of feelings you experienced in reading the book (ie: Shock and horror to utter glee when the good guy gets the bad guy!)
Discuss the *themes* in the book – the overarching idea (ie: respect for others, love, hate, teamwork, etc.)

Make a recommendation about what kind of reader would enjoy the book (ie: age, gender, author preferences, etc.)

Refer to the title and author by name within the review.

Provide relevant biographical information about the author.

Use rich, accurate adjectives to describe the writing. Be specific and use lots of details!

Mention if the author or book has won awards

Include a "pro" versus "con" perspective of the book.

Make comparisons and/or draw parallels to other books and/or authors.

Ask questions of your reader.

Mention the author's style choices (ie: narrative voice, flashbacks, conflicts, fast pace, realistic dialogue, visual imagery, convincing character development, etc.)

Conclude purposefully, often with an emphatic recommendation.

**There is no set length for a good book review. When you are reading about a book, what catches your eye and why? Think about uses some of those ideas, as well as the features above, when writing your book review.**

“How long is a piece of string?” He asked.

“As long as you cut it.” she replied.

**Grading Components:**

Detailed, organized, well thought-out plan

Show evidence of Reading Journal entries and Rough Copy draft.

Clear revisions, editing, proof-reading

Good copy is neatly written or typed, double-spaced.

*See rubric for marking criteria.*