



A 5-POINT TEMPLATE

For Writing Online Book Reviews

HOW TO USE

This template can be used to craft 5-7 sentence book reviews on Goodreads, Amazon, and elsewhere.

Each prompt in the template gives three ideas or thought-starters.

The document also contains 3 lists of adjectives to use in positive, neutral, and negative contexts when describing books.

Happy reading—and reviewing!

BY NICOLE M. ROCCAS

Author, writing coach, and book enthusiast

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www.nicoleroccas.com

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I. A HOOK (1 SENTENCE)

- **The 3-adjective hook:** A ____, ____, ____ read.
(E.g. A *timely, gripping, unforgettable* read.)
- It's not every day you read a book that...
- From the moment I started reading this book, I...

II. A BRIEF SUMMARY (1-3 SENTENCES)

- In this [adjective] book, [Author's name] captures/ juxtaposes/ introduces/ explores themes of...
- At its heart/First and foremost/Above all else, this is a novel/book/story/saga about...
- The book paints a picture of...

III. A POSITIVE OR MEMORABLE ASPECT (1-2 SENTENCES)

- I will most remember ...
- This is an inherently ____-driven book that ...
- One point I hope to apply to my life/job/situation is ...

IV. THOUGHTFUL CRITICISM IF WARRANTED (1-2 SENTENCES)

- Although I liked/appreciated/benefitted from ____, one drawback was...
- While the book does an exceptional/sufficient/decent job of ____, it fails to fully consider ____.
- One question that needs to be asked after reading this book is ____.

V. CONCLUSION (1 SENTENCE)

- If I could do it over, I would/would not read this book because ...
- This book will most resonate with ...
- Readers can look forward to ...
- I'm glad I read this book because ...

99 POSITIVE ADJECTIVES

For the good times...

1. absorbing
2. adventurous
3. amusing
4. believable
5. breathtaking
6. charming
7. compact
8. compelling
9. complex
10. comprehensive
11. constructive
12. conversational
13. conversation-starting
14. courageous
15. creative
16. diverting
17. easy
18. elevating
19. encouraging
20. energizing
21. engaging
22. engrossing
23. enjoyable
24. evocative
25. exceptional
26. extraordinary
27. flawless
28. focused
29. fun
30. game-changing
31. granular
32. gripping
33. gritty
34. groundbreaking
35. haunting
36. heartfelt
37. imaginative
38. impressive
39. informative
40. innovative
41. inspiring
42. instructive
43. intricate
44. intriguing
45. inviting
46. light
47. magnetic
48. meditative
49. memorable
50. mind-blowing
51. motivating
52. multifaceted
53. page-turning
54. paradigm-shifting
55. pioneering
56. pleasant
57. poetic
58. poignant
59. potent
60. precious
61. precise
62. quick
63. quiet
64. realistic
65. redemptive
66. refreshing
67. remarkable
68. resonant
69. resourceful
70. rewarding
71. rich
72. riveting
73. satisfying
74. solid
75. spirited
76. stellar
77. straightforward
78. strategic
79. stunning
80. subtle
81. sweeping
82. sweet
83. textured
84. thoughtful
85. thought-provoking
86. timeless
87. timely
88. topical
89. touching
90. triumphant
91. unforgettable
92. vivid
93. well-crafted
94. well-researched
95. well-supported
96. winsome
97. wistful
98. witty
99. worthwhile

99 NEUTRAL ADJECTIVES

For the mediocre (or context-dependent) times...

1. allegorical
2. ambiguous
3. anemic
4. average
5. banal
6. basic
7. bland
8. blasé
9. brisk
10. campy
11. character-driven
12. childish
13. childlike
14. chronological
15. cliff-hanger
16. colorless
17. comedic
18. common
19. commonplace
20. controversial
21. deep
22. detailed
23. dialogue-driven
24. discursive
25. dramatic
26. eccentric
27. edgy
28. elemental
29. emotional
30. emotionally driven
31. epistolary
32. exacting
33. famous
34. fantastical
35. figurative
36. highbrow
37. historical
38. humdrum
39. immense
40. impersonal
41. indistinguishable
42. intense
43. interesting
44. ironic
45. layered
46. literary
47. long
48. magical
49. meandering
50. measured
51. mediocre
52. melancholic
53. mellow
54. metaphorical
55. meticulous
56. multi-perspectival
57. mundane
58. narrative-driven
59. nuanced
60. objective
61. observant
62. original
63. pallid
64. paradoxical
65. passionate
66. pedestrian
67. personal
68. plot-driven
69. prosaic
70. provocative
71. quaint
72. quixotic
73. raw
74. relationship-driven
75. revealing
76. sad
77. sarcastic
78. sentimental
79. serious
80. silly
81. simple
82. sprawling
83. subjective
84. surreal
85. suspenseful
86. symbolic
87. tame
88. technical
89. thematic
90. traditional
91. tragic
92. transparent
93. undefined
94. unexceptional
95. unique
96. utopian
97. volatile
98. voluminous
99. whimsical

99 NEGATIVE ADJECTIVES

For the bad (or rather "constructive") times...

1. airy
2. appalling
3. bleak
4. chaotic
5. cliché
6. coarse
7. conceited
8. confusing
9. contradictory
10. contrived
11. convoluted
12. crude
13. dark
14. deceptive
15. dense
16. depressing
17. derivative
18. desperate
19. deviant
20. disagreeable
21. disappointing
22. disjointed
23. dizzying
24. dogged
25. dreary
26. dubious
27. dull
28. elusive
29. enigmatic
30. erratic
31. esoteric
32. evasive
33. exasperating
34. exhausting
35. flat
36. fluffy
37. frustrating
38. gloomy
39. grating
40. gruesome
41. harsh
42. heady
43. heavy
44. heavy-handed
45. hypocritical
46. impetuous
47. impractical
48. inaccessible
49. irksome
50. irrelevant
51. jarring
52. lightweight
53. limited
54. mechanical
55. mind-numbing
56. obnoxious
57. offensive
58. outdated
59. overdone
60. overwhelming
61. padded
62. plodding
63. ponderous
64. preachy
65. predictable
66. problematic
67. questionable
68. rambling
69. reductive
70. redundant
71. risqué
72. self-indulgent
73. sentimentalized
74. short-sighted
75. simplistic
76. slow-moving
77. sluggish
78. stale
79. stiff
80. tasteless
81. tedious
82. traumatic
83. trite
84. twisted
85. unconvincing
86. under-developed
87. unfounded
88. unimaginative
89. uninspiring
90. unoriginal
91. unremarkable
92. unresolved
93. unsettling
94. vapid
95. verbose
96. vulgar
97. weak
98. wearisome
99. wooden