



REVIEWS

pp68–69 (Unit 6) and 102–103 (Unit 9)

EXAMPLE QUESTION You see the following announcement on a website.

Reviews wanted

We are compiling a list of the best books and films of the 21st century. Write a review of a book or film, saying who it would appeal to, and why you think it deserves to be included on the list.

Write your review.

Give a summary of the plot without including too many details.

Use expressions to evaluate the book/film, and describe your reactions.

Use a range of adjectives to make your review vivid.

Make it clear who you would/wouldn't recommend reads the book/sees the film.

MODEL TEXT

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective is Christopher Boone, a teenager with an extraordinary talent for academic studies, but who suffers from Asperger's Syndrome. Christopher knows a great deal about maths but very little about human beings. He hates the colours yellow and brown and has never ventured further than the end of the road on his own. Yet when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out to discover the truth about what happened, an experience which changes both his life and that of his family.

On the surface, **this second novel** by Mark Haddon is a simple tale. **What makes it stand out is** that the narrator is Christopher himself. The story is written as though he were making notes in a diary, so we gain a direct insight into how he experiences the world, and into the lives of the people around him. It also deals with sophisticated problems and situations. For example, Christopher has been taught to tell nothing but the truth, but learns that he has been lied to by his own father, raising the question of trust.

The novel is **not without flaws**. At times, the maths puzzles that appear on the pages are boring and threaten to distract from the plot, but the story is **fast-moving** and has enough twists and turns to keep the reader interested. What's more, Christopher's compulsive noting of mundane facts is often hilarious. **What I particularly like** though, is that the novel is not only entertaining but also thought-provoking, and it effectively portrays the experience of growing up. As Christopher pieces together the puzzle of the dog's death, he learns to come to terms with the way he is, and to accept the reality of the people in his life.

Without doubt, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* is one of the best books of the 21st century. In my view, it would appeal to readers of all ages. **I would highly recommend it to** anyone who is interested in reading something innovative and inspiring.

Include some background information about the author/director.

Include both positive and negative aspects of the book/film.

Use expressions to give your personal opinion.

Useful vocabulary

Nouns

adaptation • box office • flashbacks • flaws • narrator • portrayal • reception • screenplay

Adjectives

amazing • amusing • appealing • awful • brilliant • clever • (un)convincing • credible • disappointing • disjointed • epic • far-fetched • fascinating • fast-moving • flawed • gripping • hilarious • incredible • (un)inspiring • intricate • intriguing • light-hearted • lively • memorable • mesmerising • mind-blowing • moving • mysterious • perceptive • realistic • risqué • scary • sensitive • spectacular • stunning • terrible • thought-provoking • thrilling • vivid

Suggested paragraph plan

- Paragraph 1: Basic information about what you are reviewing.
- Paragraph 2: More detailed information, and evaluation of the book/film.
- Paragraph 3: Your opinion and justification(s) for it.
- Paragraph 4: Your recommendation.