

Book Report Format Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

_____ (5) Title of book _____

_____ (5) **Author of book** _____

_____ (15) **Plot.** Write down a summary of the book in ***no more than 150 words***. Do not write more than what you can fit in the space provided. Make sure that you tell *what happened* in order from beginning to end. Do not give your opinions of the book or analyze it in anyway. Save that information for the “theme” part of the book report. Thus, do not begin with such statements as “This book is about the affection of a girl for her pet pig,” or “E.B. White’s story of the Arable farm is interesting.” Begin the summary by immediately telling the story, as if you yourself were the author: “Wilbur is a small, weak pig—the runt of the litter. Fern protests, however, that this is not reason enough to have him killed...” If you read a collection of stories, write about *one story*. **Be sure to write the summary in the present tense.**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

_____ (5) **Genre. Is your book fiction or non-fiction? (Circle one)** Also, indicate the specific genre of your book (Check one of the following.)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> historical fiction | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific history (astronomy, sociology, etc.) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> biography | <input type="checkbox"/> fantasy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> autobiography | <input type="checkbox"/> adventure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> general history | <input type="checkbox"/> historical |
| <input type="checkbox"/> mystery/detective | <input type="checkbox"/> other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> novel | |

_____ (15) **Character Development.** Who is the main character in this story? In complete sentences, write down what the character looks like. Also, write down the character's personality (friendly, gloomy, etc.) and character (brave, shy, etc.) Remember to use a quotation from the book to support what you say. An example the character's personality description follows. Notice that the main idea of the paragraph is printed in bold. The main idea is followed by supporting detail and a quotation. Look at the following example:

Wilbur is a young and innocent pig. He does not know the ways of the world, and must be told about the facts of life, especially the cruel facts of life. In one amusing scene of the book, Wilbur thinks that he can make a web. With some string tied to his tail, he runs around, thinking he can artfully spin like a spider. But his spider friend Charlotte chides him, "You can't spin a web, Wilbur..." Later, when Charlotte talks about her egg sac, she sounds sad. Wilbur not does immediately understand his friend's sorrow; he does not know that she will not be alive to see her babies. When she finally tells him about her coming death, Wilbur makes a scene...

(15) _____ **Conflict**

Check off the type of conflict contained in the work and give one sentence explanation. A conflict is the difficulty or obstacle that a protagonist (the main character) must struggle with. Often the three fundamental conflicts are summarized as *man vs. man*, *man vs. himself*, and *man vs. his environment*. A conflict that is *man vs. man* involves opposition from an enemy; that enemy (called an antagonist) could be one person or an entire society (Example: A knight tries to rescue his king from an enemy kingdom). A conflict that is *man vs. himself* involves an inner struggle, such as in the mind or spirit (Example: a child who must decide whether to follow his friends or his conscience). Lastly, a conflict that is *man vs. environment* involves adverse circumstances or a struggle with the elements of “nature” (Examples: climbing a mountain, dealing with poverty, etc.) The book may have more than one conflict.

man vs. man

man vs. himself

man vs. environment

_____ (15) **Setting.** In a few sentences write down where and when the action of the book takes place.

_____ (20) **Theme.** Did the story or the characters change the way you think about things? What did you learn from reading the book? What is the author trying to say through his story? How does the author's plot, characters or symbols tell his meaning? Answer one or more of these questions in a paragraph of about three to five sentences. An example follows.

In his children's book *Charlotte's Web*, E.B. White writes about the pangs of growing up. Both the pig Wilbur and Fern, the little girl on the farm, are young and innocent, but soon must face the difficulties and pain of getting older and more aware of the world and its unpleasant aspects. They learn the bitter facts of life, like the fact that all people and living things must die.

_____ (5) **Bibliography.** Write down the author's name, title of the book, place of publication, publisher, and date of publication.

If the book is a re-print or new edition of a classic, follow the second example.

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*. New York: Harper Collins, 1952.

Browning, Robert. *The Ring and the Book*. 1868-69; New Ed. New York: Heritage Press, 1949.
