

Writing a Book Report – Part 3

Ok everyone, welcome to the third stage of your book report. By now I hope everyone has read their book, or is close to finishing and has completed the first introductory paragraph. If you have not, now you have some catching up to do and I will leave last week's instructions underneath this week's on the website.

Today you are going to write two paragraphs! If you need a reminder about what a paragraph is, you can re-listen to last week's instructions. Once again you are working in your draft books, and if you have pages in between your book report drafts, you can either mark the book report pages by putting a masking tab on them or something like this, or you can carefully cut out the book report drafts as you complete them, and keep them together at the front of your book, ready for editing later. Now, if you are someone who loses things easily I strongly recommend you just mark your draft pages in some way so you can get to them easily and not cut them out. If you lose a page, you'll just have to re-write it.

So what is the first paragraph about?

So the first paragraph today, technically your second paragraph after last week's first introductory one, is going to be about the Conflict or Life Changing Event. To explain what this is... toward the beginning of most stories, there is an event which brings conflict to or changes the life of the main character(s). Another word for conflict might be fight, battle, skirmish or struggle – so your job with this second paragraph is to write about what this conflict or life changing event for your main character is. Conflict may be outer (with another person or with nature) or the conflict can be inner (they may be lonely or afraid). It could be something like a death in the family that means a prince has to run away or become King, or maybe a main character has a something thrown at their eyes which makes them blind – but leads to a friendship with a deaf person that otherwise wouldn't have come about. Think about what your story's conflict or life changing event is and write about what happens in this paragraph. You might need to go back through your book to remind yourself. This does not need to be longer than half a page to a page of writing.

What do I write about in the second paragraph today (the third overall?)

Now you have written about the life changing event or conflict. This has spurred the main character on to embark on the adventure or the events that take up most of the story.

In your third paragraph, you are going to write about what is known as the Rising Action. This section refers the bulk of the story leading up to the climax (near the end of the book). In this paragraph, You will probably cover the adventures the main character goes on, and talk about the other main characters that are met on the way. You will also talk about significant parts of the story that, without having occurred, would mean that the main character wouldn't have reached their goal. Be careful not to get lost in detail when you are writing about this. If you begin a sentence "One day" or if you quote a character (write exactly what a character said), it is a clue that you are being too detailed. Limit this paragraph to no more than one page!

So really, after these two paragraphs have been written, you should have 1 to 2 pages of writing in your draft books. It's not as hard as it seems, they are just new ideas for you and a very new way of writing, and so be patient with yourself, sometimes it takes a few goes to really understand something.

What if I'm still stuck and I don't know how to begin?

Once again, you can use the contact form on the website if you are stuck and have a question. Before asking me a question though, make sure you have re-listened to the instructions, looked at your book

again, tried to write something down and have then formed a question to ask me. I'll give you a call or email in reply!

Keep up the great work!