

# Writing Workshop A review

In a **review** you give your opinion of a book, film, concert, etc., and say whether or not you recommend it.

**Example task:** Write a review of your favourite book.

## A GET IDEAS

- Think of a book, film, etc. to write about. Choose something you know well.
- Make notes about what you remember about the book, film, etc. Then choose the most essential details.
- Decide whether you generally liked or disliked it. It might help you to choose a rating: ☆☆☆☆☆
- Make notes about what you liked and didn't like, and why.

## B PLAN

Organize your ideas into paragraphs. For example:

- Paragraph 1** Introduction, including the title, author / director etc., characters and setting
- Paragraph 2** Summary of the plot
- Paragraph 3** What you liked and didn't like
- Paragraph 4** Conclusion and a recommendation to others

## C WRITE

Start with a general description

Use a range of extreme adjectives and / or modifying adverbs to emphasize your opinion

Talk about how you / other people felt

Give reasons for your opinion

Sum up your opinion

Give a clear recommendation

My favourite book is *The Maze Runner*, the first book in a futuristic trilogy by James Dashner.

The main character is a brave young boy called Tom, who arrives in the Glade, which is an open area surrounded by huge walls leading to a monster-filled maze. Like the other Glade boys, Thomas can't remember anything before he arrived there. He's determined to become a maze runner in order to find a way to get out of the Glade.

The book is written from Thomas's point of view, which can make things slightly confusing at the beginning as he's lost his memory.

However, this is what I loved about it as it adds to the suspense of the novel and makes you want to keep reading to find out what happens.

In my opinion, it's a very well-written modern classic. Anyone who's a fan of futuristic novels should get a copy of it.

## USEFUL LANGUAGE

### Describing books / films / TV programmes

It's set in ...  
It's based on the (*book, etc. by ...*)  
It's about / It tells the story of ...  
The main character is ...  
(film / TV) It stars ...  
It's written / directed by ...  
It's a (*thriller, comedy, romance, etc.*).  
It's a (*science fiction, fantasy, crime, etc.*)

### Giving opinions

What I loved / hated about ... was ...  
The best thing about ... was ...  
The most memorable part was ...  
The ... could have been better.  
One criticism (*I have*) is ...

### Adjectives

+ action-packed / believable / excellent / exciting / gripping / interesting / realistic  
– average / badly-acted / badly-written / boring / disappointing / dull / predictable

### Making comparisons

... isn't (*quite*) as good as ...  
... is just as good as ...  
... is even better than ...  
... reminds me of ...

### Making a recommendation

This will / won't appeal to ...  
I (*strongly*) recommend that ...  
I certainly wouldn't recommend ...  
Don't bother reading / seeing ...

### Tips for ... reviews

- ✓ Don't include too much factual information about the plot, etc.
- ✓ Don't tell readers what happens at the end!
- ✓ Readers want to know your opinion, not just read a summary!
- ✓ Remember to end with a recommendation to your readers. It can be positive, negative, or mixed.