

Writing a Series Book Report

Consider using with *Voyages in English 2011*
Grade 4–Chapter 7 Expository Writing
Grade 5–Chapter 5 Book Reports



Teach

Invite students to discuss books that they have particularly enjoyed reading. Ask students to identify any additional titles by the same author. Explain that many readers choose books by the same author because they hope that the characters will appear in new adventures or that the plot will be of a similar style. Guide students to name some of their favorite authors and to tell if their books are part of an ongoing series or individual titles that stand on their own. Then discuss the following elements of a book report:

- Identification of a central theme or message
- A well-organized introduction, body, and conclusion
- A summation of the plot, characters, and setting
- Personal opinions and supporting evidence
- A summarizing conclusion

Practice

Model for students how to organize ideas for a book report. Display a story map and model completing each part based on a series book with which students will be familiar. In addition, discuss these questions:

- How did the main characters change over time?
- What was the author's theme or message? Does this theme carry over to other books in the series? Why or why not?
- How does this book connect to others in the series?

Remind students that they can use their story maps to help guide them as they write their report.

Apply

Have students select a series book for a book report. Have students organize their information by completing a story map. Consider having students meet in small groups according to book series to discuss and share their ideas. Remind them that opinions should be clearly supported through specific references. Have students use these refined ideas to write a one-page report that includes the features outlined on the rubric.

Assess

Use the rubric on the following page to evaluate students on their understanding of a book report.

Listening and Speaking Connection: Point out that many popular book series are made into movies. Ask students to discuss some of these, identifying those series books that also have film versions.

Discuss these ideas:

- Is it better to read the book before seeing the movie?
- In what ways is the movie better than the book?
- Did the movie portray the theme, characters, setting, and major events in the same way as you visualized them in the book?
- Did both the book and the movie have the same ending?
- What part of the book was factual or realistic? Was it portrayed the same way in the movie?

Invite students to make notes as they consider responses to each question. Then lead a discussion in which they can share and discuss their responses with the group.

Series Book Report

POINTS

Ideas	
Report is based on a book from a series	
Clear focus on the book	
Organization	
Beginning that identifies the author, characters, and setting	
Middle that describes a sequence of events and relates how they connect to the theme	
Ending that sums up the writer's opinion of the book	
Voice	
Confident, informed voice	
Word Choice	
Carefully chosen adjectives	
Variety of words	
Sentence Fluency	
Variety in sentence types	
Logical transitions from step to step	
Conventions	
Correct grammar, usage, and spelling	
Correct punctuation and capitalization	
Presentation	
Consistent margins and spacing	
Neatness	
Visual aid appropriate for purpose	