

How many words can you make?  
1 point for each word !



<b>C</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>O</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>I</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>E</b>

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**LO: Can I write a book review?**

## **Success Criteria**

- I have read the book
- I can recall the main events
- I can analyse the story objectively

# How to write a book review?

What did you think of the novel? Follow the pathway to help you write your review.

## Paragraph One: the plot

What is the story about? Can you summarise it in a couple of sentences? Be careful not to give too much away – you don't want your reader to know how the book ends!

**Keywords:** garage, strange, baby, wings, help, hospital, school.

## Paragraph Two: the characters

Who are the main characters in the book? What did you like about them, and why? Did you dislike any of them? Why?

**Keywords:** Michael, Mina, Skellig, Mum, Dad, Leakey, Coot.

### Paragraph Three: the themes

What are the main themes or ideas in the book? Are there any particular images which the author uses? Do you think these are effective?

**Keywords:** angels, evolution, birds, William Blake, mystery, flight.

### Paragraph Five: your view

Can you summarise your thoughts and feelings about the book? How did it make you feel? Would you want to read it again?

**Keywords:** engaging, enjoyable, interesting, exciting, mysterious, emotional, tense.

### Paragraph Four: the audience

Who do you think would enjoy this book? What sort of age group is it for?

**Keywords:** targeted, references, experience. Leakey, Coot.

## **Book Review – Skellig by David Almond**



In this story, Michael moves to a new house with his family, only to find an unexpected welcome from a mysterious man in their crumbling garage. No one knows about this except Michael and soon his friend Mina. All of this is happening while his baby sister is deeply ill in hospital and his best friends from his school (Coot and Leaky) start to fall out with him. How will he cope?

The book is unusual but joyful to read as I found myself deeply submerged in this book. It starts off at a slow pace, but gradually speeds up when Michael answers all his questions that he had to begin with.

The main characters in this story are: Michael (the narrator), Mina (Michael's friend who he soon meets), Skellig (the unknown stranger who lives in the garage) and his baby sister (who is dangerously close to death and in the need of a heart surgery).

Michael is represented as a caring figure. This is because he tries to take care of Skellig- helping him escape the crumbling garage, feeding him and overall just helping him.

Mina is represented as an unusual but determined character. This is because she does various things that people do differently. For example, she believes that you learn more if you stay at home rather than going to school as they 'inhabit the natural curiosity, creativity and intelligence of children'. She is also determined as when she finds out about Skellig, she doesn't stop helping and assisting Michael.

Skellig is represented as a character who finds it difficult to trust others. An example of his mentality is when Michael asks for his name but he refuses until later on. This is because he didn't know Michael all that well and didn't know what to expect from him or what he will do.

In conclusion, I would recommend this book to others because it is suitable for a wide range of audiences aging from 11-16 years of age.

# Skellig Book Review

Skellig is an amazing novel written by David Almond which was published in 1998. It is about a boy named Michael who has moved house. He doesn't like it there, because everything is destroyed and abandoned. Everything's in the wrong place, including a toilet in the living room! But then, everything changes when he finds out that there's a strange creature named Skellig lurking in his garage... Michael and his best friend Mina try to help Skellig survive, and he has an enormous secret.

Michael would always play a game of football with his best mates Leaky and Coot normally, but now he knows there's a magnificent being in his garage, he doesn't feel like it. Mina is Michael's best friend and shares his huge secret with him. When Michael was back at his old house on Random Street, the unpleasant Skellig lived on a diet of spiders, bugs, rats and other disgusting creatures. But now Michael feeds him chinese and brown ale. Michael's baby sister is very ill, and a doctor that Michael calls "Doctor Death" looks after her.

I think that the most memorable parts are where Michael and Mina become friends and Michael finds out about Skellig because it changes Michael's life forever.

I think that this fiction story can be enjoyed by children 8 and over as there are some words little children won't understand. I think this is a great book and I hope you will enjoy it too.

## Remember to follow the pathway

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Who are the main characters in the book? What did you like about them, and why? Did you dislike any of them? Why?

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Can you summarise your thoughts and feelings about the book? How did it make you feel? Would you want to read it again?

**Keywords:** engaging, enjoyable, interesting, exciting, mysterious, emotional, tense.

- The plot
- The characters
- The themes
- The audience
- Your view

# Activity

Now write your Book Review

- Remember to follow the pathway
- Use the keywords provided
- Remember to write in first person

